

Subject: *Motivation of the Man of God, Part 2*

Scripture: *1 Timothy 6:13-21*

These are Paul's last instructions to the young pastor named Timothy. Paul reminded his protégé of the things that would motivate him and keep him faithful in his life and ministry. He mentioned four mighty motivations in these final verses:

1. THE MAN OF GOD IS MOTIVATED BY THE LORD'S APPEARING (vs. 14)

2. THE MAN OF GOD IS MOTIVATED BY THE LORD'S ATTRIBUTES (vs. 15-16)

3. THE MAN OF GOD IS MOTIVATED BY THE LORD'S ASSIGNMENT (vs. 20-21)

In these closing words Paul wrote of a duty to fulfill and a danger to avoid. He gives one final warning to God's man. It is not a warning about women, not about the love of money, not about drinking or worldly entertainment, but it is a warning about what he believes and teaches. For the committed Christian, the danger is not so much falling into sin, but staying faithful to the truth.

One of my seminary professors, Dr. Roy Beaman, said this in May 1985: "I am more concerned about liberalism creeping into my students than I am about rattlesnakes creeping into their yards."

The devil can't defeat us unless he can first influence our thinking. Satan would rather get a person to think a wrong thought than to do a wrong deed because he knows that our thoughts influence our actions. Tim LaHaye wrote a best-selling book called, *The Battle for Your Mind*.

- The man of God has a duty to fulfill

He is to keep (protect, guard) the truth. The word keep was used to describe a prison guard who was responsible for keeping prisoners and also used of shepherds who kept watch over their flocks. To guard the truth we must see it as something precious entrusted to us.

The truth is a sacred trust

This is the language of a banker and the money on deposit in a bank. It means guard the deposit. Paul wrote about handling money properly (6:17-19) and then about handling truth, which is far more valuable than money. He began this letter with a reference to the Gospel as a precious treasure entrusted to him, **1 Timothy 1:11** *According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.* He used the same language in **1 Corinthians 4:1-2** ¹ *Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.* ² *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.* **2 Corinthians 4:7** *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

The truth is a spiritual trust

2 Timothy 1:14 *That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.* The truth is something within us. The Bible is not just a sourcebook for preaching; it is a guidebook for living. That's why Paul told Timothy in **1 Timothy 4:16** *Take*

heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

The truth is a shared trust

2 Timothy 2:2 *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

We must treasure the truth, but we must not keep it to ourselves. God's plan is for faithful men to handle the truth carefully and also to hand it on to other faithful men who do the same thing again.

- The man of God has a danger to avoid

When we keep the truth, we're only half done. We must also avoid error. To avoid means to turn away from. He mentions two kinds of error (vs. 20): profane and vain babblings and oppositions of science (knowledge). What are profane and vain babblings? One translation says "godless chatter." This refers to discussions that are empty and do not build up believers in the faith. **2 Timothy 2:14-16** ¹⁴ *Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.* ¹⁵ *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* ¹⁶ *But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.*

The second kind of error to avoid is called oppositions of science (knowledge) falsely so called. These are things that masquerade as knowledge. Paul was referring in that day to a false system called "Gnosticism." The word comes from the Greek word for knowledge and it taught that only insiders could have this special knowledge from God. It denied the perfect deity of and the actual humanity of Christ, teaching that Jesus was one of many intermediate spirits between God and man. In our day we have things like evolution and Christian Science which is neither Christian nor science. We live in a society where science is glorified and the Word of God is minimized. Evolution is presented as a fact proven by science. It's not. It is a false system that contradicts the Bible and undermines the Christian faith. If you can't trust the first chapters of Genesis then why pay attention to anything else it teaches? We don't have to be afraid of truth or science; we just need to make sure it is truth. If something is true science or true knowledge it will square with the Word of God. If not, it isn't truth at all. We need to be so well grounded that we know the truth and we are also able to defend it.

4. THE MAN OF GOD IS MOTIVATED BY THE LORD'S ASSURANCE (vs. 21)

We have the assurance that God's grace is with us and His grace is enough. Paul usually began his letters with, "Grace to you" and he often ended with, "Grace be with you." Grace covers it all. It saves us, keeps us, and enables us. Oh, to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home." **1 Corinthians 15:10** *But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.* You may be thinking, that's fine for Paul to say, but what about the average Christian like me? The Lord has you covered, **2 Corinthians 9:8** *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.*