

## INTRODUCTION

We are grateful to God for adopting us, unworthy sinners, into His household through faith in His own Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We now want to know how we ought to conduct ourselves in this great household. The first thing we learn about that in this letter from Paul to Timothy is that the good news about forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ must be kept pure, against strong tendencies for it to be corrupted. Those who would teach corrupt versions of the gospel and the law must be charged not to teach such things; those who would listen to such corruptions must be charged not to listen to them.

Faithfully making that charge, charging people not to teach doctrine other than what has been laid down by our Lord Jesus through His apostles, is a matter so serious that the bible likens it to waging war, which we considered together last time.

Today we read that waging that good warfare, fighting that good fight, to maintain the sound doctrine of Jesus Christ pure in the church, requires that we have two essential items: faith and a good conscience. You'll see that Paul is addressing the problem that some in the churches are not keeping or holding to faith or a good conscience, and that is proving disastrous for themselves and for others in the churches.

Before we go on to the next matters in this letter, be sure you understand from how the apostle adds to the serious language of warfare the dire warning of shipwreck, that sound doctrine must be maintained in the church. To do that, God helping us, we must have two essential items: faith and a good conscience, and hold to them, lest we suffer shipwreck concerning the faith.

## TEXT

1 Timothy 1:18-20 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, (19) having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, (20) of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

## BODY

To maintain sound doctrine in the church by faithfully charging certain men not to teach false doctrine or listen to it, requires that we have two essential items, and that we hold to them.

### I. The Two Essential Items Identified: Faith and a Good Conscience

#### A. See what is meant by the same concept expressed in different words

- 1 Timothy 3:8-9 Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, (9) **holding [G2192] the mystery of the faith [G4102] with a pure conscience [G4893].**
- 2 Timothy 1:13 **Hold fast [ESV follow] [G2192] the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith [G4102] and love which are in Christ Jesus.**

#### B. by faith, he means

- the mystery now revealed through the apostles and prophets
  - a) Ephesians 3:3-6 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, (4) by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in **the mystery of Christ**), (5) which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: (6) that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,
- the pattern of sound words which we have learned from the apostles

#### C. by a good conscience or pure conscience he means love

- for God and
- for your fellow man
- thus all matters of doing right, as taught us in God's law

#### D. Both truth and love; both believing and loving

E. Let's look a little more into "good conscience"

1. Acts 24:16 This being so, I myself always strive to have a **conscience** without offense toward God and men.
2. 2 Corinthians 1:12 For our boasting is this: the testimony of our **conscience** that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.
3. Hebrews 13:18 Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a **good [G2570 kalos]** conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably.
4. 1 Peter 3:15-16 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; (16) **having [G2192] a good conscience**, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

II. What We Must Do With These Two Essential Items: We Must Have & Hold Them

- A. **holding** G2192 *echo* 1. to have; i.e. to hold 2. to have; i.e. to own, possess
1. “having” was the Wycliffe, BB, and Geneva; now NKJV, NASBRE, HCSB/CSB
  2. the old wedding formula is “to have and to hold”
  3. So, let’s use both connotations: 1. have hold of - don’t let go; 2. have possession of - don’t lose
- B. See what he means by having/holding faith from examples of the opposite
1. 1 Timothy 1:3-6 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia--remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no **other doctrine**, (4) nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in **faith**. (5) Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from **sincere faith**, (6) from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk,
  2. 1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will **depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons**,
  3. 1 Timothy 6:20-21 O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of **what is falsely called knowledge-- (21) by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith**. Grace be with you. Amen.
- C. From those passages, what does it mean to have and to hold faith and a good conscience?
1. not to listen to other doctrine and give heed to fables, and so stray and turn aside
  2. not to give heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons and so depart from the faith
  3. not to listen to what is falsely called knowledge and so stray concerning the faith
  4. not to reject or put them away
- D. illus: You have two hands, and there are two things essential to have and hold. If you get interested in something else, and let yourself begin to long for it, you will let go with one hand to reach for that
- E. knowing what is true, and believing it; knowing what is right, and doing it
- F. holding both truth and love

### III. What It Will Be Like If We Do Not Have and Hold These Essential Items

A. It will be like a shipwreck 1 Tim 1:19

B. Consider that the neglect of one of these leads to the ruin of the other, also, so that both are lost

1. 1. It seems that not keeping a good conscience has led to people straying from the faith. 1 Timothy 6:8-10 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. (9) But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. (10) For the love of **money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness**, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
2. 2. It seems to work the other way, also! Departing from the faith has led to people not having a good conscience. 1 Timothy 4:1-3 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will **depart from the faith**, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, (2) speaking lies in hypocrisy, **having their own conscience seared with a hot iron**, (3) forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

### CONCLUSION

There is good news from heaven!

Let all your ideas about our Savior be formed from what the bible actually says about Him.

You have the bible, our confession, your pastors, the bible studies held in the church, the catechisms---make use of these things.

Call to Worship: Psalm 146:1-2 - Jeremiah

Scripture Reading: Joshua 1:1-9 - Roel

Sermon: "Faith and a Good Conscience" 1 Timothy 1:19-20

Benediction: Psalm 146:10

Prelude: Trinity 269 "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" - Dorita

Trinity 133 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" - Dorita

Trinity 53 "Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah" - Camille

Grace 21 "Beyond Measure" - Anna

Grace 6 "All Glory Be Forever" - Anna

- I. knowing what is true, and believing it; knowing what is right, and doing it
  - A. holding both truth and love
  - B.
- II. APPLICATION
  1. realize the happiness of a soldier, and a household that must hold to the very things our heart delights in!

You'll see that Paul is addressing the problem that some in the churches are not keeping or holding to faith or a good conscience, and that is proving disastrous for themselves and for others in the churches.

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### **a good conscience**

The judgment within ourselves that we sincerely are doing what is right toward God and toward men; which we have only when we actually, constantly strive to know what is right and to do it.

See this expressed in the scriptures

Acts 23:1 Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all **good conscience** before God until this day."

Acts 24:16 This being so, I myself always strive to have a **conscience** without offense toward God and men.

2 Corinthians 1:12 For our boasting is this: the testimony of our **conscience** that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.

Hebrews 13:18 Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a **good [G2570 kalos]** conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably.

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**APPLICATION:** Consider the neglect of one of these leads to the ruin of the other.

1 Timothy 1:19 holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this [a good conscience], some have made shipwreck of their faith,

1. It seems that not keeping a good conscience has led to people straying from the faith.

1 Timothy 6:8-10 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. (9) But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. (10) For the love of **money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness**, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

2. It seems to work the other way, also! Departing from the faith has led to people not having a good conscience.

1 Timothy 4:1-3 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will **depart from the faith**, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, (2) speaking lies in hypocrisy, **having their own conscience seared with a hot iron**, (3) forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

- III. In Timothy's case, according to the prophecies made concerning him (verse 18)
- A. 1 Timothy 4:13-14 Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. (14) Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.
  - B. 2 Timothy 1:6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.