

Four Pillars for Faithfulness In Perilous Times

II Timothy 3:12 “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

- I. **God's Word:** The **Scriptures** must be **pre-eminent**.
- II. **God's Will:** The **sovereignty** of God must be **personalized**
- III. **God's Work:** The **salvation** of sinners by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone for the glory of God alone must be **proclaimed**.
- IV. **God's Workmanship:** The **sanctification** that **prepares** us to reflect Christ is a work of God's on-going grace.

I. God's Word: The **Scriptures** must be **pre-eminent**.

A. The Scriptures are pre-eminent when we choose to **PRIZE** them through **personal study**.

1. Jeremiah 15:16
2. Psalm 119:111
3. II Timothy 2:15

B. The Scriptures are pre-eminent when we choose to **PREACH** them, and not paraphrase them to justify a carnal life-style. II Timothy 4:1-4

C. The Scriptures are pre-eminent when we choose to **PRACTICE** them.

1. Ralph Waldo Emerson, wrote, "Your actions speak so loudly that I cannot hear what you say."
2. James 1:22 "Be **doers** of the Word...."
3. I John 3:7 "He who **practices** righteousness...."
4. The **imputed** righteousness of Christ must be reflected in the **practical** righteousness of living out the gospel.

II. God's Will: The **sovereignty** of God must be **personalized**.

A. God is sovereign over the time of **your birth** and **your death**.

1. Job 14:5 "...You have appointed his limits..."
2. Psalm 139:16 "...the days fashioned for me..."

B. God is sovereign over **your salvation**.

1. John 17:1-2 "...as many as You have given Him..."
2. John 10:26-29 He gives eternal life to His sheep.
3. Study for yourself Ephesians 1 and 2; Romans 8

C. God is sovereign over the **details of your life**.

1. Your **personal** characteristics. Exodus 4:10-11
2. Your **pathway** in life. Psalm 37:23-24
3. Your **plans**: Proverbs 19:21

D. God is sovereign over **your trials.**

1. I Peter 4:19
2. Philippians 1:29
3. I Peter 2:20-21 He is our Example

If we merely endure suffering without seeing it as **God's instrument** to **demonstrate the reality** of our faith, to **develop the resolve** of our faith and to **delight in the rewards** our faith, we will not become more like Christ.

E. God is sovereign over **your country's leadership.**

1. Proverbs 21:1
2. Daniel 2:21
3. Daniel 4:17

III. God's Work: The **salvation of sinners by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone for the glory of God alone must be **proclaimed**.**

- A. "Another gospel"-- a health and wealth counterfeit
- B. Example: The Power of I Am by Joel Osteen
- C. Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands Paul David Tripp
- D. I Peter 3:15-16

IV. God's Workmanship: The **sanctification that **prepares** us to reflect Christ is a work of God's on-going grace.**

- A. Ephesians 2:8-10 **G-R-A-C-E**
Salvation: God's Righteousness At Christ's Expense
Sanctification: God's Resources And Christ's Enabling
Glorification: God's Riches At Christ's Exaltation
- B. Romans 8:28-30 Conformed to Christ's image....
- C. Philippians 1:6 From salvation to glorification....

- I. **God's Word**: The **Scriptures** must be **pre-eminent**.
- II. **God's Will**: The **sovereignty** of God must be **personalized**
- III. **God's Work**: The **salvation** of sinners by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone for the glory of God alone must be **proclaimed**.
- IV. **God's Workmanship**: The **sanctification** that **prepares** us to reflect Christ is a work of God's on-going grace.