

A SOLEMN CHARGE TO CHRISTIAN DUTY

1 Timothy 6:13-16

INTRODUCTION

- Many people in this world are without convictions to guide them
- They will change their allegiances as often as their garments
- Sadly, many who profess Christianity are no different
- What will help us to remain faithful to our profession?
- We must the means God has given us to grow in our faith
- But also, as our text shows us, hearing solemn exhortations preached from the word of God will encourage us to stay true
- Paul, as he brings his letter to a close, gives Timothy a solemn and powerful “charge” to keep the faith that he had professed
- We all need these “charges” from the word of God to refocus our hearts and minds on what truly matters in life
- The substance of the charge is that Timothy “keep this commandment”
- It refers to the whole truth of the Christian faith

Around this charge to keep the commandment, Paul gives the fourfold manner in which he is to keep it

I. WITH AWARENESS OF GOD’S OBSERVATION (13)

A. God’s eyes are over all

1. It is good to be reminded that all we do is in the sight of God
2. We must give account to Him for every thought, word and deed

B. God gives life to all things (1 Samuel 2:6)

1. All life comes from God
2. That God is infinitely greater and mightier than all else in His creation should be an encouragement to those who are His servants

C. Before Christ Jesus

1. His presence is with the believer (Matthew 28:20; 2 Timothy 4:17)
2. He witnessed a good confession before Pilate
 - a. Note that “good confession” is exactly the same in Greek as “good profession” in v.12
 - b. Christ testified of His kingdom, His Deity, and His bearing witness of the truth (John 18:37)
 - c. Three times Pilate said he found no fault in Christ (John 18:38; 19:4,6)
 - d. He is “the faithful and true witness” (Revelation 3:14)

II. WITH ADHERENCE TO GOD’S COMMANDMENT (14)

A. The commandment is to be kept without spot

1. A spot is any blemish, even a small one (1 Peter 1:19; 2 Peter 3:14; James 1:27)
2. We are expected to adhere to every commandment the Scripture requires of us, not merely the “major” things

B. The commandment is to be kept unrebukable

1. This refers to a testimony and lifestyle that is beyond reproach (Philippians 2:15)

III. WITH ANTICIPATION OF CHRIST’S COMING (14)

A. This word means “a glorious manifestation”

1. The Greek word is *epiphaneias*
 2. It is used of both the first and second advents of Christ (2 Timothy 1:10; 2 Timothy 4:1,8)
 3. Note that Christ's return will be visible (Acts 1:11; Rev 1:7)
- B. This verse supports the imminence of Christ's return
1. Timothy was not charged to continue until his "death", but until the appearing of Christ
 2. This shows us that the apostle Paul, and all Christians in apostolic times lived in the expectation that the Lord Jesus could return at any moment (1 Thessalonians 4:15)
- C. It also shows that the doctrines of the New Testament remain binding and unchanged unto this day, and until the Lord's return
- D. Anticipation of the Lord's return is a motivation to faithful service
1. It promotes godly living (Titus 2:12-13; 1 John 3:2-3)
 2. We hope to be confident, not ashamed, at His coming (1 John 2:28)

IV. WITH ADORATION OF THE KING (15-16)

- A. The charge ends with a doxology
1. Doxology – literally "glory word"; a hymn or saying expressive of praise to God
 2. The letter opens with a doxology and closes with one (1 Timothy 1:17)
 3. How we view God will affect how we live
- B. He is the only Lord
1. He is "blessed" and the source of every blessing
 2. God is the sovereign and absolute ruler over all the creation (Daniel 4:32,34-35; Psalm 2)

3. He is King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 17:14; 19:16)

C. He is the only Life

1. The Greek word means “exemption from death”
2. Only God possesses immortality as an essential part of His nature.
3. Christ shares this immortality with the Father (John 5:21; 5:26; Revelation 1:18)
4. Those who believe in Him will share His immortality (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)

D. He is the unapproachable Light

1. God is light (Psalm 104:2; 1 John 1:5)
2. This light represents His glory, purity, and holiness (1 John 1:6-7)
3. God’s glorious essence cannot be seen or approached unto (Exodus 33:20)
4. God’s glory has been revealed through Christ (John 1:14,18; Hebrews 1:3)

E. Eternal honour and power belong unto God

CONCLUSION

1. We have been given a charge to keep
2. The enemy is doing everything he can to divert us from it
3. These exhortations will help us remain steadfast and faithful until the coming of the Lord
4. By keeping our eyes fixed on the Lord, His glorious attributes and his gracious works, will help us to run the race and win the prize (Hebrews 12:1-3)