

Being a Minister for Christ

Lesson 5

2 Timothy 1:13-18

April 25, 2021

The Best Offense is a Good Defense

Introduction

Some people believe that they and God have an understanding when it comes to certain sins. They might say, “yes, I know the bible says to remain pure, but God understands that we’re getting married in the future, so it’s ok for us to live together.” Or “I don’t have a problem watching movies with explicit graphic content. It’s artistic, and God understands that.” In reality, they are excusing their sin, making God palatable to the ever-changing culture.

Holding fast to sound doctrine is a vital part of our faith. The world is actively trying to tell us that what we believe is false, bigoted, and hateful. Now, more than ever, we need to know what we believe and be prepared to answer those who question it. The world is loud. God’s voice can seem quiet. It takes humility, pursuit, and constant self-reflection to understand the will of God.

Memory verse: “Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.” -2 Timothy 1:14

Pray and read 2 Timothy 1:13-18. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. What is Timothy to do with what he has heard?
(2 Timothy 1:13)

2. Who is the help in guarding the good deposit that was entrusted? (2 Timothy 1:14)

3. What was it that Phygelus and Hermogenes and everyone in the province of Asia did to Paul? (2 Timothy 1:15)

4. What was it Onesiphorus and his household did for Paul? (2 Timothy 1:16-17)

5. What was it Paul hoped for Onesiphorus and his family? (2 Timothy 1:18)

What does the passage mean?

1. When our passage says to keep as the “pattern” of sound teaching, this denotes that there is a certain pattern to God’s Word that must be conveyed and repeated to others. Why is it important not to change anything in the Bible? (Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 30:5-6; Hebrews 4:12)

2. Keep or hold fast to the pattern of sound teaching makes it seem as though Timothy is facing some who would seek to sway his thinking. What do you learn from Ephesians 4:14 and Romans 12:2 that could help you keep your guard against those who would oppose you?

3. Paul says to temper God's words with faith and love. How were the Pharisees' examples of living life according to the Bible but lacking faith and love? What can you learn from their example? (Matthew 7:21-23, 23:1-5)

4. Faithfulness and love are two of the qualities that come from the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). How can we get more of these qualities in our time of need? (Mark 11:24; John 15:7; James 4:2-3)

Applying the passage

1. How have you seen the world try to sway you away from God? Why do you think they do this?
2. What is the importance of sound teaching and not adding or taking anything away from the Bible?
3. Would you characterize your life as “holding to the pattern of sound doctrine” or “swayed to and fro by the culture?” What do you think needs to change in your thinking or your knowledge of God’s Word to hold fast when confronted with the culture?