

INTRODUCTION

The ancient city of Ephesus was a large city, and was central to a large region of the Roman Empire, something like what Dallas is to us. Many people lived there; but the city was also influential culturally to many smaller cities and towns and to the whole countryside.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was doing a great work of grace in that city and that region, with the gospel preached far and wide, many people converted from paganism to faith in God, and several churches established, including a large one in Ephesus itself.

But just as soon as the wonderful doctrine of forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ was preached and taught, some men tried to set up as teachers in the church, but taught things other than the truth as delivered by the apostles. Others gave heed to them, listening to their man-made doctrines.

This letter we are studying, 1 Timothy, was from Paul to Timothy when Timothy was working as a leader in that church. Paul would have stayed there himself, but was needed in many places, and was intent on continuing his preaching mission always further westward, where it had not yet been preached. So when Paul had to leave Ephesus, he left Timothy there to supervise the church, and especially to do one certain thing: to command or charge certain men with something. (Remember we worked on this together weeks ago.) Paul comes right out with it at the beginning of this letter, verses 3 and 4

charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies

That is, charge those who would like to be teachers, that they not teach anything other than the truth of the gospel as the apostles of the Lord Jesus have taught us, nor listen to anyone teaching anything that is not God law or God's gospel, but a mere invention of men.

Paul then went on to write about some related things, testifying to the longsuffering and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in saving Paul from his sins when he was ignorant and unbelieving. This led Paul into the wonderful doxology, the word of praise that we have been blessed to consider together these past two weeks.

Before going on to the next subject, which will be prayer, the apostle knew, by the Holy Spirit at work in him, that Timothy, the church in Ephesus, and we here today, need to hear about this charge again, and to hear a sobering description of how serious a matter it is.

TEXT

1 Timothy 1:18-19a 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...

BODY

- I. Before We Go On to the Next Section, We Must Be Reminded of the Important Charge
 - A. In this section, Paul is getting back to what he was writing at the beginning, before he digressed (his digressions are well known and of the Holy Spirit)
 - B. Note again “charge/commandment” and “son/child” and “conscience” and “faith” from the beginning
 - C. 1 Timothy 1:2-5 To Timothy, a true **son [ESV child]** in the **faith**: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. (3) 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 [charge]** is love from a pure heart, from a **good conscience**, and from sincere **faith**,
 1. charge/commandment vv. 3,5, 18
 2. son/child vv. 2, 18
 3. good conscience 5, 19
 4. faith 2, 5, 19
 - D. The charge
 1. Paul started out talking about the charge he was giving Timothy to give to certain members of the church
 - a) verse 3 that you charge certain persons not to other-teach
 2. Now, returning to that subject, speaks of committing that charge to Timothy
 - a) verse 18 This charge I commit [ESV entrust] to you
 - b) Paul wrote about how Jesus Christ has committed the gospel to his trust (verse 11), after so working in him as to make him faithful
 - E. APPLICATION
 1. if this is the first thing the apostle brings up in this letter, and
 2. if it is so important that he will recapitulate before going on to something else, then
 3. make this to have a high priority in your thinking, in your life
 4. consider it good news that the Lord who saves you also is protecting you, keeping you

II. Being Faithful to Charge Men with This Charge Is a Kind of Warfare (verse 18)

A. Paul speaks of Timothy's work in charging the men not to other-teach as waging war

1. "wage the good warfare"
2. fight a good fight, as long as you understand it not of a fistfight, but of a war
3. JRY: wage a good campaign

B. See that this is a theme in how the bible communicates to us the work of maintaining the truth about Jesus Christ over against false doctrines

1. 2 Timothy 2:1-4 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. (2) And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (3) You therefore must endure hardship as **a good soldier** of Jesus Christ. (4) No one engaged in **warfare** entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a **soldier**.
2. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not **war** according to the flesh. (4) For the **weapons of our warfare** are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, (5) casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, (6) and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

C. APPLICATION

1. Paul wrote this about himself as an apostle, but also about those to whom he entrusted the work
2. in that Paul commanded those to entrust it to other faithful men, who themselves would entrust it to others, means that our Lord Jesus will be enlisting men as soldiers to wage this warfare all the way until He comes back
3. in a war, the soldiers do the actual fighting, but all of the citizens have their place in supporting the soldiers
 - a) they provide what he needs, which he cannot get for himself while he is fighting

- b) they stand to suffer serious loss if their soldiers are defeated and the enemy gets the victory over them
- 4. for most Christians, it is not your normal duty to charge certain men not to teach false doctrine or listen to it; but it is an important part of your normal duty
 - a) to support those whose work that is
 - b) to approve as official teachers those who will wage this warfare, and to refuse as official teachers those who will not wage this warfare
 - c) to be a member of a church that wages this warfare, and to refrain from being a member of a church that refuses to wage this warfare
 - d) to do that work in whatever way it is part of your life
 - (1) with your own family
 - (2) when it is thrust upon you
- 5. rejoice in how your Lord Jesus is the great captain, the great commander, who leads his soldiers in your defense, that although the enemies may threaten the household, He protects it

[check time at this point and conclude if time is expired]

III. This Warfare Is To Be Waged with Certain Equipment

A. In Timothy's case, according to the prophecies made concerning him (verse 18)

1. 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.
2. 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.

B. In all cases, with two indispensable things (verse 19)

1. faith and a good conscience
2. these you must hold or have
3. see what he means
 - a) 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]**.
 - b) 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.
4. by faith, he means
 - a) the mystery now revealed
 - b) the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me
5. by a good conscience or pure conscience he means
 - a) love
 - b) that is, love for God and for your fellow man
6. knowing what is true, and believing it; knowing what is right, and doing it
7. holding both truth and love

C. APPLICATION

1. realize the happiness of a soldier, and a household that must hold to the very things our heart delights in!

CONCLUSION

Call to Worship: Psalm 28:7

Scripture Reading: Psalm 144:1-15a

Sermon: "Wage the Good Warfare" 1 Timothy 1:18-19a

Benediction: Psalm 144:15b

Prelude: Trinity 53 "Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah" - Dorita

Trinity 3 "From All That Dwell Below the Skies" - Dorita

Grace 105 "Lord, We Come to Hear Your Word" - Dorita

Trinity 186 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" - Camille

Trinity 500 "He Leadeth Me" - Anna