

God's Love the Motivating Force
1 Timothy Chapter 1:01-07

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;

Notice, Paul authenticates his appointment to be an apostle by commandment of Jesus Christ. This is not an office that he has sought out, just as the other apostles were likewise appointed by Christ.

Apostle is from the Greek word *apostolos* (pronounced; ap-os'-tol-os) and means: *a delegate; specially, an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ with miraculous powers*. We see men and women in the world today who claim to be apostles of Christ. I ask you to observe their works and see if they can do any of the miracles, which were appointed to Jesus's apostles, seen in: **Mt 10:1 "And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease."** Scripture plainly tells us; if such an one cannot do these miracles, in the sight of men and God, they are not apostles of Christ. I have yet to hear of anyone who, having powers to heal, goes into a hospital and empties it by healing all the occupants, or even just a few.

Hope is from the Greek word *elpis* (pronounced; el-pece') and means: *to anticipate with pleasure; expectation, confidence, faith*. Notice, Paul says "**our hope**" indicating that Timothy and he share a mutual expectation and have the same confidence and faith in Jesus Christ.

We understand that Paul is looking to Jesus Christ for all his help and provision. He is totally submissive to Jesus's commandments and is following his revealed will. He is conveying the sincerity of his love for Christ to Timothy; and telling Timothy to apply this same sincerity of love to this commandment from God, which I am passing on to you.

2 Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

"my own son in the faith" Paul reminds Timothy; you have been born-again by the power of Jesus Christ. God has called you to the ministry, and I have taken you under my wing, as if you were my own flesh and blood son. I am ministering to you as a father.

Paul also conveys to Timothy; I pass to you the same grace, mercy, peace, and love of Christ, which I have received from God and Christ. Why would Paul do this? Because, if Timothy is to do what Paul is commanding him to do, Timothy will need these gifts, of God and Christ, to be fully active in his life.

Now let's make some application to our own lives. Do you believe you can do anything good without the grace, mercy, peace, and love, of God and Christ? These gifts, of God and Christ, must be our motivating force, which will enable us to walk and talk in the way, which God and Christ have set before us, without malice, or ill intent in our hearts.

3 As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, 4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

- Charge is from the Greek word *paraggello* (pronounced; par-ang-gel'-lo) and means: *to transmit a message, to enjoin, to charge, give commandment, declare.*

Apparently, there were, in the church at Ephesus, some who were not teaching "***thus saith the Lord.***" Paul tells Timothy; I asked you to remain at Ephesus to charge those, who are teaching false doctrines, to not do that anymore. You are directed to tell these, who are teaching false doctrine:

- "***Thus saith the Lord***" is the only truth. Teach this truth and this only. Do not taint the word of God by turning to, or mixing it with, fables, genealogies, or rituals of the ceremonial law.
- Don't be listening to or teaching fables, which are the lies of satan, which are used to tempt you away from Christ.
- Don't be worrying about genealogies. These false teachers still believed you had to be of the lineage of Israel to be saved and a part of the church. They were trying to keep the Gentiles out of the church. God's people are those who have been born-again by the power of the Holy Spirit. It has nothing to do with your natural lineage.
- Paul says: The teachings of fables and genealogies stir up the minds of people, to seek and search false teachings, which are only fit for those who are not born again and have itching ears. These things do not focus the believer's attention on Christ, which is what the true gospel of Jesus Christ does.
- Paul says: "***thus saith the Lord***" does not generate vain imaginations of the heart and mind, but rather, they plant your feet on the solid rock of truth, Jesus Christ, Saviour and Lord.

Paul says to Timothy: you have your commandment, get it done. This is meant to be an encouragement to Timothy, to give him that extra confidence, which he needed to stand firm upon the truth, and face the many false teachers, and their resistance to the truth of God and Christ.

5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: 6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; 7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

- End is from the Greek word *telos* (pronounced; tel'-os) and means: *to set out for a definite point or goal; properly, the point aimed at as a limit, the conclusion of an act or state.*
- Charity is from the Greek word *agape* (pronounced; ag-ah'-pay) and means: *love, affection or benevolence; specially a love-feast.*

Herein we see; Paul is instructing Timothy about teaching "***thus saith the Lord***" is the commandment of God. Convey to these teaching bad doctrine; fables, genealogies, and the rituals of the ceremonial law, are not the new standard, because Christ has come and established a new covenant. Timothy, do this with your heart full of love for God, love focused upon Christ, with love and compassion toward those to whom he is ministering.

Paul is telling Timothy: if your whole being is possessed with the grace, the mercy, and the peace of God and Christ; you will be able to perform a fruitful work on behalf of Christ. Do you understand;

doing the work, of God and Christ, requires these attributes, and gifts of Christ, be fully manifested in all your actions? Timothy, if the false teachers recognize you exemplify these attributes; they will understand that you are called, and commanded, to the ministry, by God and Christ. They will be able to sense the sincerity of your approach to them. They will recognize in you the love of a father admonishing his children. If they don't recognize these things in you, they will continue believing; fables and genealogies can bring them salvation and eternal life.

However, if they see these qualities of Christ in you, they may turn from the error of their ways. They may turn from fables and genealogies to "**thus saith the Lord**" thus, turning to Christ with penitent hearts, reprobates may be restored to true faith in Christ. Finding forgiveness in Christ, they will become faithful teachers, thus, they will bring glory and honor to God and Christ. Then, yours will be a fruitful work in the ministry of the Gospel of Christ.

Now application to myself and other ministers. If I stand before a congregation, or speak to a person privately, ranting and castigating any who are not teaching or living by "**thus saith the Lord**", and I do this with a heart filled with malice, ill intent, and without love; that ranting and raving will just go in one ear and out the other. It will not be heard nor heeded to.

However, if I come before a congregation, or speak to a person privately, exhibiting humility in Christ, conveying "**thus saith the Lord**" from a heart filled with grace, mercy, peace, and love for Christ, this message is likely to be received and adhered to. If it is, then the pathway of restoration has been opened, and fellowship in Christ is once again manifested by all parties involved. Hallelujah!

I ask you some questions I have already had to answer myself: as a born-again child of God:

- Do you see in yourself the gifts of grace, mercy, peace, and love for Christ?
- Do you display these special gifts and qualities of Christ to others?
- Do others see, in your actions and words, the sincerity of a heart, which is completely filled with the love of Christ?
- When you are given occasion to minister to the needs of others; do they feel the sincerity of the love, which you have for Christ, being directed to them?

May God grant that we stand firm on the truth of "**thus saith the Lord**" without demonstrating that we have fallen under the influence of fables, genealogies, and rituals of religion. Heavenly Father, purge our hearts of all evil and ungodly intents and imaginations, that we may, through the power of the Holy Ghost, give evidence that our hearts are fully influenced by the grace, the mercy, and the peace of God and Christ.

If you have any doubt that love of Christ is the motivating force in the life of a Christian, just go and read all about the actions of Christ, while he was here incarnate, and see that everything he did, he did because of his love for God the Father, and his love for God's people. As you search the scripture for what Christ did, see the following attributes and actions of Christ and his motivation to do them:

- Christ Jesus came, in incarnation, conveying the love, which God the Father had for his chosen people. Not to the Jews only, but to both Jew and Gentile.
- Christ came conveying the love of a father to all his children.
- Christ came conveying his love to his betrothed bride, the church.

- Christ demonstrated the greatness, and sincerity, of his love, by giving his life on the cross for the remission of our sins, whereby, we are found righteous in the sight of God the Father.

God's love was always the motivation of Christ's actions, and it should be thus in our own lives as Christians. We should convey this gift of love of Christ in all we do and say. When dealing with one another, we should convey the sincerity of the love of Christ in us to them. We should never be shy about admonishing others who are teaching fables, genealogies, and rituals of religion, but remember, we are to manifest to them that we have the grace, mercy, peace, and love of Christ toward them, as we minister to them.

As I look back over my own life; I see where I have failed so many times in so many places. May God forgive my failings; fill me with this precious gift of grace, mercy, peace, and love of Christ, and help me convey to others the sincerity of the love of Christ. Grace, mercy, peace, and love, to all in Christ Jesus, Amen.