

You, Them, & Me

11 Timothy 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. 6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord,

*the righteous judge, shall give **me** at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

Paul is writing his last words to his beloved son in the Gospel, his ministerial protégé, and friend. From the perspective of the end of his earthly trail Paul looks back and addresses the fundamental elements of the sphere Timothy must operate in. *“Timothy, the basic elements of your ministry are you, the man you are, what you do, and them, the people you minister to. Lets talk about these things, I am going to talk to **you** first Timothy. Then I am going to talk about **them**. Then I am going to talk to **you** some more. Then I am going to talk about **me**. And you need to pay attention to what is said in this discourse because it just may give you the perspective you need to stay*

sane in ministry. And to succeed in ministry. ”

You

- Preach the word. Not your opinion. Don't be pressured to address trendy social issues. Don't use the pulpit to sort our personality conflicts. Stay away from pop psychology. You are not a motivational speaker. Preach the Word. Give those people a Bible reason for living, and Bible answer for dilemmas of life, a Bible solution for what troubles them, a Bible perspective on their situation.
- Stay on top of your game. Be instant in season and out. **THIS IS KEY TIMOTHY, HEAR THIS...** Stay focused on what **YOU** do, not on them. If you own a ministry role in this church it is up to you to always be ready to do it.

- When you deal with **them**, reprove and rebuke **them**. Don't be afraid of **them**. Make sure you do it patiently and from the Word. But don't be afraid of them and don't be afraid to do it.

This is the beginning of what **you** do. Your focus has to be on the Word and on what **you** do. Not on **Them**. Because here is what you have to know about **them**.

Them

- The time will come...no matter what you think of **them** now, in time **they** will change.
- **They** will not endure sound doctrine.
- **They** will chase after preachers who say nothing, but indulge **them** in **their** flesh, materialism, and lusts.
- **They** will turn from truth to fables.

- **They** will not glorify God and be thankful to Him. (Romans 1)
- **They** do not like to retain God in their knowledge. (Romans 1)
- *Romans 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 **They** are all gone out of the way, **they** are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13 **Their** throat is an open sepulchre; with **their** tongues **they** have used deceit; the poison of asps is under **their** lips: 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: 15 **Their** feet are swift to shed blood: 16 Destruction and misery are in **their** ways: 17 And the way of peace have **they** not known: 18 There is no fear of God before **their** eyes.*

- *Romans 10:3: For **they** being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish **their** own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*
- *II Corinthians 10:12 **They** measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.*
- *II Corinthians 12:21 I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which **they** have committed.*
- *I Timothy 5:13 And withal **they** learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which **they** ought not.*

- *I Timothy 1:16 **They** profess that **they** know God; but in works **they** deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*
- *Titus 1:10 For **they** are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: 11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. 12 One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.*

*“Timothy, this is what **they** do, this is what **they** are.”* If your focus is on them you will get so frustrated. If your focus is always on them you will despair. If your only fulfillment comes from what

they say and what **they** do and what **they** think and the opinions **they** have you will lose your mind. There will be times when **they** do great and times when **they** do not. But, here is the secret to ministry Timothy...

You do what **you** do no matter what **they** do.

Back To You

- *But watch **thou** in all things,*
- ***You** endure afflictions.* It is part of the business. It is the fleas that come with the dog. It is not personal, just part of the deal. When you entered into ministry you hung an enormous target on yourself. When you agreed to become part of a ministry team, and to help carry the vision of this pastor forward you embraced the idea of affliction. **IT IS NOT PERSONAL IT COMES WITH**

THE TERRITORY. *God told Moses...it is not you they are rejecting...but Me. Cain did not have a problem with Abel, he had a problem with God and when someone has a problem with God they ALWAYS attack whoever they perceive to be closest to God.*

- **You** do the work of an evangelist. When you get frustrated with the lack of progress **they** are making, preach to some sinners and get them saved. When you spend all your time focused on church people you will get incredibly frustrated, so make your focus winning new people. Babies are easier than teenagers. (Work it)

YOU do the work of an evangelist.

We have ministry backwards.

We want the ministry team to

focus on administration, tending

to the saints, addressing the needs of the church and we let the **THEY** bring new people to church. YOU DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST. YOU GET THE NEW PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH. YOU SPREAD THE GOSPEL. Let the THEY get involved in all of this other stuff and maybe if THEY are not sitting around on their hands all the time they will not be so cantankerous.

- **You** make full proof of thy ministry. Don't wait until **they** validate it for you.

Don't get thrown off your game by what **they** do. Don't lose stride because of what **they** say. What **you** do is independent from how **they** respond to it.

You do what **you** do no matter what **they** do.

Me

I tell you this Timothy, because this is what **I** did. **I** had to deal with the same **they** that **you** have to deal with. Every minister that will ever come in the long history of the church will have **they** to deal with. **They** are going to act the same no matter whether under **me** or **you**. There are some who would look at the conditions in some of the churches I have planted, they would point to the fact that I am alone in a prison cell at the end of my ministry without any one to stand with me, and based on that would say that **I** am a failure. But what those accusers do not understand is what **I** do has no bearing on what **they** do. And Timothy, *just as our focus cannot be on what **they** do, neither is our reward dependant on what **they** do.* **They** put

me through the same things **they** will put you through. But guess what Timothy...

- *I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. They could not prevent this moment.*
- *I have fought a good fight, I fought the right stuff.*
- *I have finished my course, I did not quit in frustration.*
- *I have kept the faith: I did not allow cynicism and the failure of people cause me to question.*
- *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me.*

I did what **I** was called to do no matter what **they** did. The comfort is that if **I** keep my faith **they** cannot prevent my reward. But Timothy, while that is the

comfort, the joy is that out of the **they** there is the occasional **you**.

- *II Corinthians 3:2 **Ye** are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men.*
- *Colossians 1: **3** We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for **you**, **4** Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which **ye** have to all the saints, **5** For the hope which is laid up for **you** in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; **6** Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: **7** As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; **8** Who also declared unto us*

your love in the Spirit. **9** For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for ***you***, and to desire that ***ye*** might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

- Colossians 2:5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with ***you*** in the spirit, joying and ***beholding*** ***your*** order, and the steadfastness of ***your*** faith in Christ.

So Timothy, do what ***you*** do, know that ***I*** love ***you***, don't be rattled by what ***they*** do, and look for a ***you*** to pour yourself into as ***I*** did for ***you***.

I am stepping off the scene. But among the rotten ***THEY*** I saw ***YOU***. I sewed myself into ***YOU*** until you became ***ME***. I am done and you need

to look among **THEM** and find
another **YOU**.

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