

How to avoid spiritual shipwreck

1 Tim. 1:18

“This Charge Commit I unto thee...

That thou mayest war a good warfare.”

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Sept. 24th

There's a cosmic war being waged for the hearts & souls of humanity. The Bible repeatedly warns us about the nature of this conflict as well as the Powers and Personalities behind this struggle. In this age-old conflict, there is no neutral ground!

Mt 12:30 *“He that's not with me, is against me!”*

Please Consider:

1. God's Commandment. 1 Tim 1:5 *“the end (telos: goal) of the commandment (entole: authoritative prescription) is:*

A. *Charity* (agape: loving benevolence)

1) This is a byproduct of our relationship with God. Gal. 5:22

“The Fruit of the Spirit is love...”

Eph. 5:1,2 *“Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children, and walk in love ...”*

2) This is an evidence of our relationship with God. 1 Jn 4:7,8,13;

Jn 13:35 *“By this shall all men know that ye are my Disciples, if ye have love one to another.”*

3) *“out of a pure* (katharos: clean, purged) *heart,* (kardia: mind, feelings) (1 Jn 3:1-3; 4:15,17)

B. *“and of a good* (agathos: effective, beneficial) *conscience,* (synei'dēsis: co-perception)

1) What makes a conscience “good” (useful?)

a) How does a conscience become bad/useless? 1 Tim 4:2

b) What's the effect of a “bad” (ineffective) conscience? Ro. 1:28

2) What does God mean by “co-perception”?

a) Someone/thing will influence our perception!

Pr 20:27 *“The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts ...”*

Ps 36:9 *“For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.”* (See Ps 119:105)

b) Satan seeks to obscure our perception! 2 Cor 4:4 *“the god of this world blindeth* (typhlo'ō: obscures/dims) *the minds...”* (noema: perception, purpose)

Consider what Jesus said about Satan and those he influences in Jn 8:44,45!

C. *“and of faith* (pistis: persuasion, conviction, trust. from peitho: to assent, agree, and commit) *unfeigned:”* (anypok'ritos: sincere, genuine)

1) Unfeigned (sincere) Faith involves a conviction:

a) That something/someone is true (Jn 14:6; Ps 119:160)

b) And an agreement/commitment to cooperate (partner) with it/Him! Heb 11:6

“without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

2. God's charge. 1 Tim 1:18

A. What? *"This charge I commit"*

1) *"Charge"* (parangeli'a: to transmit orders {from a superior officer})

From para (near) and angelo (angel, messenger) See Rev. 1:20-2:1,2

a) Who were these orders ultimately from? (General Jesus!)

1 Cor 11:23 *"for I have received of the Lord that which I also delivered unto you."*

Mt 11:18-20 *"All power is given unto me in heaven and earth ... Go ye therefore and teach..."*

2) *"I commit"* (paratith'ēmi: to deposit beside/near) as a sacred trust!

B. Who? *"unto thee, ..."*

1) Paul was the original messenger, Timothy was the original recipient; *but We are the ultimate recipient!* (2 Tim. 3:16,17)

2) Once delivered, who was/is responsible for it?

3) This is the consistent pattern of scripture! (See Heb. 13:17)

Who's God's messenger this morning?

Who's responsible for receiving and responding to (acting on) the message?

C. Why? *"that thou by them mightest war a good"* (kalos: virtuous, valuable, worthy) *"Warfare"* (stratei'a: to contend {in military service}) See Jude 3

D. How? 1 Timothy 1:19-20

1) *"Holding faith"*, (conviction of God's truth)

2) *and a good conscience*; (clear co-perception)

which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck, Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme."

Conclusion:

In this age-old conflict, there's no neutral ground! (Mt 12:30)

Both "sides" (Jesus and Satan) are at work in the midst of the storms of life.

If we're not firmly anchored to Christ (aka: "Holding faith" {Heb. 8:17-19})

We can end up "shipwrecked!" (1 Tim. 1:19,20)

OR WORSE! We can end up partnering with Satan! 2 Tim 2:17, 18 *"And their word will eat as doth a canker: (gangrene) of whom is Hymen'aeus..."*

18 Who concerning the truth have erred, ... and overthrow the faith of some."

Application: Jesus often spoke of this cosmic conflict and the choices before us.

"The thief cometh not but for to steal, to kill, and to destroy:

I am come that they might have life, and have it more abundantly." Jn 10:10

Our choices place us in of Partnership with either this thief or the Shepherd.