



A Spiritual Encouragement Message November 13, 2020

Saving Sinners

by Andrew Lemus

Paul left Timothy in Ephesus with a charge that was challenging, critical to the well-being of the church, and crucial for the salvation of those involved. He had Timothy, his true child in the faith, stay in Ephesus to instruct people to not teach false doctrines or devote themselves to those things that promote speculations instead of furthering God's will (1Timothy 1:1, 3-4). This task no doubt wore on Timothy and brought about discouragement and even timidity as he repeatedly, never ending, had to keep on correcting people of their false and misguided ways (1Timothy 1:18-19; 2Timothy 1:7-8).



The charge Timothy was tasked with is not unlike the commission each of us has been given. We have been called to preach the gospel, to make disciples, and to be ambassadors of our Lord (Mark 16:15-16, Matthew 28:18-20, 2Corinthians 5:20). Like the Lord that we follow, we are given the task of being lights in a dark world, exposing wickedness, ungodliness, and sin that manifests itself in the lives of those around us (Matthew 5:14). Like Timothy, we can grow weary of doing good! It is a struggle for elders, evangelists, and all Christians to continually respond to the task laid at our feet to confront, expose, and call for repentance.

The question is, how do we rekindle the fire in our souls and get back to work? How do we renew our strength, courage, and zeal? One of the greatest blessings of God's word is that when problems, concerns, and struggles are exposed, God typically reveals a way to overcome. Timothy, whom we can empathize with, was given a task that was wearing him down, but God through the apostle Paul gives a source of replenishment for Timothy to draw from as he faces the daily challenge of being a light in a dark world.

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. 1Timothy 1:15

Paul motivates by encouraging Timothy to remember. Remember who Jesus came to save, remember that Jesus saved me (Paul), and Timothy, don't lose hope that Jesus can save those you are trying to help. In other words, Jesus had hope that sinners could be saved, Jesus saved Paul who is the greatest of sinners, and Jesus can surely save these people that are misled in Ephesus (1Timothy 1:12-17). Don't lose hope but trust in the power of God.

Paul was a blasphemer, persecutor, and violent aggressor towards the Lord's people. He denied the gospel of peace and violently pursued those that espoused it. Of all people on this earth, he stood head and shoulders above all men in his zeal to shut down the faith that was delivered through the Messiah, His apostles, and prophets. Surely, if God can save such a wretch of a man He can transform, convict, and bring about repentance in the lives of those that Timothy was called to correct and that we today are commissioned to confront.

This simple but trustworthy statement provides us with hope, zeal, and courage! It is the difference between growing weary or standing strong, being quiet or speaking up, and being ashamed or standing proud. Jesus came to save sinners, He saved Paul, therefor be lights in this dark world knowing that Jesus has the power to save those in your life that reject Him, His word, and His ways! Preach the gospel church!