

## SPIRITUAL “SAFETY FIRST”

### 1 Timothy 4:16

#### INTRODUCTION

- A. A Trustworthy Statement (5x in letters to Timothy and Titus).
  - 1. God is the “Savior of All,” 1 Tim. 4:10.
  - 2. Christ came into the world to save, 1 Tim. 1:15.
- C. However, Paul urged Timothy to save himself, 1 Tim. 4:16.
- D. God provides our salvation by telling us how to be saved.

#### I. THE IMPORTANCE OF “TAKING HEED.”

- A. In physical life, a lot of attention given to “safety first.”
  - 1. Machinery used in the workplace – “safety first” signs.
  - 2. Encouraged to “drive defensively.”
  - 3. Same for boating and hunting.
- B. In our spiritual life, “close attention” should also be given.
  - 1. Faith may be “shipwrecked.” 1 Tim. 1:19-20.
  - 2. People may depart from “the faith,” 1 Tim. 4:1.
  - 3. Faith may be “overthrown,” 2 Tim. 2:16-19.
    - a. Vs. 18 – “...overthrow the faith...” (KJV).

#### II. “TAKE HEED” TO SELF.

- A. “*Hold [Keeping] Faith,*” 1 Tim. 1:19.
  - 1. By proper “feeding of faith,” Rom. 10:17.
    - a. Heb. 3:12-15.
    - b. Exhortation to listen to God’s Word.
  - 2. By doubting doubt (second guessing).
  - 3. By examining fruits of unbelief.
- B. “*Holding a Good Conscience.*”
  - 1. Christianity designed to give good conscience, 1 Tim. 1:5.
  - 2. Our hearts “*sprinkled from...*” when baptized, Heb. 10:22.
- C. “*Behave*” [Gr] as a member of God’s family, 1 Tim. 3:15.
- D. “*Exercise [Gr] yourself,*” 1 Tim. 4:7.
- E. “*Flee*” materialism, 1 Tim. 6:6-11.
- F. “*Fight [struggle, Gr] the good fight of faith,*” 1 Tim. 6:12.
- G. “*Lay hold on eternal life,*” 1 Tim. 6:12.

#### III. “TAKE HEED” TO DOCTRINE/TEACHING.

- A. Much emphasis given to doctrine, 1 Tim. 1:3; 4:1-2; 4:6; 6:3-5.
- B. One cannot believe error and do right.
- C. Relationship to doctrine of Christ determines discipleship, Jn. 8:31-32.
- D. Failure to abide in word of Christ is failure to abide in Him, Jn. 15:6-7.
- E. Failure/refusal to abide in doctrine of Christ means we no longer have God, 2 Jn. 9-10.
- F. False doctrine produces apostasy, 2 Thess. 2:10.

#### CLOSING

- A. Must be a balance between taking heed to self and doctrine.
- B. Salvation for those who practice “spiritual safety first.”
- C. When Paul urged Timothy to save self, Timothy worth saving.
- D. When Paul urged Timothy to practice “spiritual safety first,” Paul said Timothy could save others, worth saving, too.