

## 2 Timothy

### Chapter 1

10-But it has now been revealed through the appearing of Jesus Christ who abolished death<sup>1</sup> and brought to light life and immortality through the gospel.

14- Through the Holy Spirit that dwells in you keep that precious thing entrusted to you<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The Bible talks about three kinds of death: 1- Spiritual death, 2- Physical death, 3- Death- the enemy of God. Spiritual death is the death that came upon Adam when he sinned. When Jesus died at Calvary He abolished this spiritual death that reigned over man since Adam (Genesis 2:16; Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22). Spiritual death includes both the dominion of sin and death that the devil was able to exercise over us, and the judgment of eternal death that was the result of sin (Romans 5:17, 21; Revelation 2:11; 20:6; 21:8). When Jesus said, "whoever keeps my word will never experience death" He was referring to spiritual death (John 8:52). Therefore, through Christ Jesus we pass from death to life when we are transformed by the Spirit of God (John 5:24; Romans 6:13; 8:2; 1 John 3:14).

Although every person must die physically Jesus taught us that eternal life or the life of the Spirit begins at the moment that we are born of God (John 6:54; 17:2-3; 1 John 3:15; 5:11). We have been given the abundant life of Christ Jesus right now at this time. This life of God, which is the eternal life of the Spirit, has been revealed to us through the gospel. Spiritually we were raised up together with Christ from the spiritual state of death to the eternal and abundant life that is in Christ Jesus (1 John 5:11-13; Romans 6:4; Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 3:1; 1 Peter 1:3; Ephesians 4:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

What has been abolished for those who are in Christ Jesus? Spiritual death and eternal death have been abolished. What is spiritual death? It is the realm separated from God wherein Satan rules over the life of men with sin and iniquity. All those who die in their sins will experience the judgment of eternal death which is the hell of eternal separation from God. The last enemy of God death, which is in fact the realm that the devil and all his host were condemned to, will be destroyed and cast into the lake of fire (1 Corinthians 15:26; Revelation 20:14).

<sup>2</sup> Although there may be a number of things that one may consider to be "that precious thing" that has been entrusted to us, there is nothing so precious as the gift of salvation. The gift of salvation brought forth the miracle of a new creation. We should count the new creation as sacred and precious, and protect it by the Holy Ghost. The defilements of the world would rush in upon us and attempt to pollute that which is holy and pure, but through the power of the Holy Spirit we have a strong and impenetrable defense.

We are to build up ourselves in the most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost (Jude 1:20). We are to walk in the Spirit, so that the righteousness revealed by the law might be fulfilled in us (Romans 8:4; Romans 14:17). We are to walk in the Spirit so that we will not participate in the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16; Romans 8:9). It is by the power of God that we are kept; but we must yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit and walk in the way that He desires to lead us (1 Peter 1:5; Romans 6:19-22; 1 John 5:18; Romans 8:14-17; John 16:13).

## Chapter 2

4 No one serving in the army gets entangled<sup>3</sup> with everyday affairs so that he may please the commanding officer.

5- And also if anyone trains to win he is not crowned unless he trains according to the rules<sup>4</sup>.

21- If then one cleanses themselves from these things he shall be a vessel unto honor consecrated and useful to the master prepared unto every good work<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> The first thing that everyone should be aware of is that God has commissioned all of us to serve in His army. However, if we are going to please Him, then we must be willing to be as dedicated as a soldier is to the battle, and as committed as an athlete to his training. The kingdom of God is supposed to be first in our lives; not our jobs. If we are not watchful our jobs can easily consume us, and we will lose track of our purpose. We will become restricted and controlled, and no longer free to be who we are called to be in Christ Jesus. Our ministries and commitments to our families and to the local church will end up taking a back seat to our dedication and commitment to our jobs. The people around us will no longer be the precious souls for whom Christ died, but rather the means to our success or the threat of our failure.

Being tangled up in the cares of this world chokes the word of God, so that we no longer live by the Word, but by our own desires (Matthew 13:22). It is the cares of riches and the pleasures of this life that ruin us, and keep us from bringing forth the perfect fruit that God desires to display through us (Luke 8:14; 21:34). In this deceitful trap we slip away from making God the sole object of our trust, and begin to trust in ourselves. Suddenly, the peace is gone and our lives are consumed with stress and worry (Philippians 4:6; Jeremiah 17:5-8).

Yet at the same time God also demands that we be diligent in business (Romans 12:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 4:12; Proverbs 22:29; Deuteronomy 2:7; 28:12). The difference between being diligent in business and entangled in business is in the way that we trust in God. We are no more responsible for our success than we are for a miracle. We do all that God has commanded us to do, and look to him to bring forth the promised blessing. Much like the farmer, we are to till the ground and sow the seed; but it is God who works the miracle and brings forth the harvest. There are some who talk of balance - but more specifically we must have boundaries. Everyday we must know that all that we do, in word and in deed, we do in the name of the Lord Jesus; and for the purposes of the kingdom of God (Colossians 3:17).

<sup>4</sup> A great opportunity has been afforded to each one of us, if we desire we can function in the majesty and glory of the life and ministry of Jesus (John 14:12; Matthew 10:25; 1 John 4:17; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:3; Acts 2:8; Galatians 2:20). However, if we are going to be trained then we have to follow the rules of His ministry. Jesus did nothing of Himself (John 5:19, 30; 6:38; 8:28; 14:10). We must learn to walk even as He walked, always seeing the Father before us and on our right hand that we should not be moved (Acts 2:25; Psalms 16:8; 1 John 2:6). He depended constantly upon the Father and the glory that was manifested through Him was by the operation of the Holy Spirit in Him (Matthew 12:28; Luke 11:20; Acts 10:38).

We must embrace the truth that we can do nothing of ourselves (John 15:5; Galatians 3:27; 1 Peter 2:21-22). If we are going to have a proof in our lives that we are the sons of God then we must be willing to come under the control of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14; Galatians 4:6-7; 5:22-23, 25). We must be willing to follow our Master and cease from our own works and self-reliance (Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 5:1; John 13:35). We must be willing to be trained by the Holy Spirit to depend on Him for everything, for the things that we have been commanded to do can only be done by that which the Spirit of the Lord supplies. If we attempt to train under the influence of human ability then we will never be crowned with the price of operating under the influence of the Holy Spirit. The rules of the Spirit have been given to us. The word of God has revealed to us very specifically what the Holy Spirit is doing and how He does it. If we will submit to His nature and his direction we will discover and ever increasing demonstration of His glory and power operating through our lives, revealing the majesty and glory of Jesus.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord calls us to come out from among them and touch not the unclean thing (2 Corinthians 6:17; Isaiah 52:11). The instruction is not just against sin and iniquity but also those who would steal the

## 22 - But flee youthful lusts<sup>6</sup>; and run after righteousness, faith, love, and peace with those

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word of God from our hearts with their false doctrines. We must be willing to contend for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints. We must recognize that every evil spirit in hell is set against the glorious church. Men and devils fight against that glory of the Holy Ghost that fell on the day of Pentecost. There is no power in heaven and in earth that can withstand a church filled with the fire of the Holy Ghost therefore demons do their utmost to turn the hearts of God's people from that which God has poured out so that the power and ministry of Jesus may continue to be revealed on the earth. The primary offensive of these devils is not through the world but through religious people who are in the community of the saints.

Hymenaeus and Philetus were two examples of vessels of dishonor who through their teachings were attempting to draw away the people of God from the truth of God's word. We can turn back the pages of time and see the same kind of opposition against God's leadership in the days of Moses. Korah being an influential man stood up and sought to impose his influence on the people of God. In response Moses said tomorrow the Lord will show us those who are His (who He has chosen), Numbers 16:5. God knows those who are His and ultimately He will make it known (2 Timothy 2:19). Moses cried out to the people "I beg you depart from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins (Numbers 16:26). The influence of those who would turn us from the truth of God's word and leadership are like an unclean thing that contaminates all who are touched by them. Their words are like the rottenness of gangrene it spreads like a disease in the heart of man until there is nothing left but corruptions and putridness (2 Timothy 2:17). We must not allow the influence of these men to infect our lives. You will not find Jesus in these political and religious churches. Their leaven has polluted the whole lump and there is nothing holy or of God their. Their influences must not be allowed in our thinking much less in our church communities if there is going to be a revival of the Holy Ghost among us (1 Corinthians 5:7; Mark 8:15).

If we will believe the word of God as little children and believe that His word has not changed and that the working of His Spirit and power have not changed then we will be consecrated, useful and prepared to both receive and function in all those glorious works of Jesus that we were ordained to have (John 15:16; Ephesians 4:13; Luke 24:49; John 7:38-39). It is the word of God that qualifies us and equips us to function in that which the Lord requires of us (2 Tim 3:16-17). We must keep our hearts with all diligence and be both inspired and moved only by the word of God and not by these lies and fables of men that seek to corrupt the truth. Let us all cry out continually for the Fire of the Holy Ghost to fall in power our own our lives!

<sup>6</sup> The Lord demands purity! We live in a time period where moral restraint has no meaning. Our school systems do not teach moral restraint and ethics; rather the post-modern world says "anything goes!" and treats every choice as equal. Many of our church leaders teach that if you live a holy and consecrated life, then you are nothing more than religious and legalistic. However, this is far from the truth. The truth has been proven throughout history: such immoral codes of conduct lead only to ruin and downfall. The Lord makes it painfully clear that the wages of sin is death, and that those who sow to the flesh shall reap corruption (Galatians 6:7-8).

As the people of God, we must be consecrated to moral purity. We must run away from the strong impulses of youthful lusts, and instead run to righteousness. It is essential that we all get wisdom and realize that if we take fire into our bosom, then we will be burned (Proverbs 6:27). If we participate in lustful things by watching them, or in any way setting them in front of us, then Satan will use it to erode our moral resistance against those things - which are contrary to our God and to His life that He has given us. In fleeing from the enticements and the lusts that are set up all around us, we must make sure that we do not bring them into our homes or into the meditation of our thoughts (Proverbs 4:23; Psalm 19:14; Psalm 49:3). We have to be careful regarding the books that we read, the programs that we watch, and the websites that we visit.

The Lord gives us the instruction that serves as the perfect example of how to flee. He says, "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away" (Proverbs 4:14-15). If we will remain committed to the Lord by having no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, we will discover that the temptations of Satan will not be effective against us. "When you walk your steps will not be under assault, and when you run you will not stumble" (Proverbs 4:12). God has made provision that none of our steps should slip (Psalm 18:33,36; Habakkuk 3:19). He has promised to uphold us; and should we give ourselves to His way of life, then we shall never stumble (2 Peter 1:4-8; 2 Peter 1:10). There are many who say it is not possible to live holy and godly lives; but the Lord says He demands it! (Titus 2:12; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2 Peter 3:11; Romans 6:22; Matthew 5:48;

who call upon the Lord from a pure heart.

### Chapter 3

12- And also, all who live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

13- But wicked men and imposters will continue to become worse deceiving and being deceived<sup>7</sup>.

14- But as for you continue in what you have firmly believed knowing from whom you have learned it. (We shall all be taught of God from the least to the greatest).

15- And that from a child you have known the holy scriptures which are able to make wise unto salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus.

16- All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching for reproof for correction for training in righteousness<sup>8</sup>.

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Ephesians 1:4; Luke 1:75). If we are going to learn to walk in the ways that the Lord has commanded, then we are going to have to give ourselves to the commitments that he demands.

<sup>7</sup> One of the fundamental things that we must recognize is that there is a demonic influence in the world. These demonic powers are very effective at deceptions. They present thoughts in the minds of men that seem to be logical and practical, but in reality are nothing but deception. Ultimately these seducing spirits will turn many of God's people from the faith; who will even deny the Lord who bought them. However, the demonic lies don't start by attacking the Salvation that is only in the name of Jesus. They begin in more subtle ways; slowly eroding the truth, so that those who are influenced by them have no foundation to stand on in the end.

Their primary mode of operation is to entangle God's people in sin. They desire to turn the grace of God into lasciviousness; convincing believers that grace allows and even accommodates sin (Jude 1:4). There are even those today who believe that the only way to stay safe within the arms of grace is to continue in sin (Romans 6:1-2). If these spirits can deceive a child of God into believing that sin is somehow okay, then this is the first step towards ultimate deception. Therefore, be aware: for those teachers who preach that any form of sin is somehow justifiable are operating under the influence of a spirit of deception.

The only safe ground is the truth. We must be willing to walk in the Spirit and live by the word. If the Bible even suggests that there is something wrong with a behavior or action, then we must be resolute in having nothing to do with it. We must remain sensitive to the Holy Spirit; and no matter what anyone says, if we are convicted over something - then we must not participate with that thing. Otherwise we will go from one compromise to another, and ultimately agree with every doctrine that the spirit of deception teaches. Here are just two recent examples of the erosion of truth influenced by demon spirits. There was a day not too long ago in the church that alcohol was a terrible sin. Today people have somehow concluded that Jesus himself enjoyed the intoxication of alcohol, and even participated in drunken broths. Only a few years ago divorce was a sin, but now preachers can move from one marriage to another - and the people are fine with that. It all may seem somewhat harmless now; but the goal of every seducing spirit and doctrine of devils is focused on overthrowing the faith of those who believe.

Before it is all over, there is going to be a great falling away (2 Thessalonians 2:3; 1 Timothy 4:1). This is not a falling away of those in the world, or of the Jews; but of the church. This is not going to just happen overnight; for this mystery of iniquity is already at work (2 Thessalonians 2:7). The antichrist spirit was already working in the church before John wrote his first epistle (1 John 2:18-19; 4:1). The demonic influence that will effect the falling away has been preparing and working towards its ultimate influence since the first century, and is at work today. Satan will not ease off, but rather will intensify his work of deception that is focused against the church. Therefore, we must stand fast in the faith; and be resolute to live by the word of God and walk out the consecrated life of Christ, who only lives to do the will of our Father which is in heaven.

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The scripture refers to the writings of the Word of God both in the Old and the New Testament. The Greek word for scripture 'graphe' is translated from the Hebrew word 'mechtav' in Deuteronomy 10:4 and is equated to the word of Yahweh. The scripture that Paul refers to here in Timothy is also equated to

17- So that the man of God may be qualified; unto every good work equipped.

## Chapter 4

3- For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine, but having itching ears will heap up unto themselves teachers after their own lusts<sup>9</sup>.

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the word of the New Testament in 2 Timothy 4:2. The word of God reveals the will of God and describes the miracle that God performed for us through redemption. If we are going to be changed and then grow into all that God has given to us in Christ Jesus then we must believe those things that God has reported concerning ourselves. It is this word preached that produces salvation. It is this word heard and acted upon that brings forth faith that allows us to realize all of the miracles of God and blessings that He had provided for our lives.

When we consider the fact that Jesus spoke only those things which were already established in the scripture and that God will not contradict Himself we should recognize that everything that we hear whether it be prophecy or teaching will always and forever be entirely supported by that which the Bible says. God in times past spoke to us by the prophets but today He is speaking to us by His Son, Christ Jesus (Hebrews 1:1-2). Jesus laid out the foundation of the New Covenant in the Four Gospels. He then further revealed more details of the New Covenant through His holy apostles and prophets (Ephesians 3:5; 2 Peter 3:2). Anyone today who would profess to be speaking the word of God must speak according to the word that has been writing down. Anything that they reveal cannot be in contradiction to that which has already been established.

For example, Jesus told us that we are to be born of the Spirit (John 3:3-6). Jesus then went on to explain that both He and the Father would come and dwell in us and that we would be one with them (John 14:23; John 15:4-5; John 17:21-23). The message of Jesus was clarified further through the ministry of Paul who taught us that being born of the Spirit produces a new creation that is created in righteousness and true holiness (2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:24). We then learn from Peter that when we are born of God we receive the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). When a modern day Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher or saint speaks anything contrary to this revelation then they are not speaking by God. When anyone undermines or diminishes the impact of the new creation that possesses the divine nature with its righteousness and true holiness then they are not speaking by the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God will only declare what the Son was and is speaking from heaven. What the Spirit of God says will be in total agreement and conformity to the word of God. Therefore, if someone says that we are still sinners and are unrighteous they are not speaking by the Spirit of God and in fact are robbing men of the word that produces the faith for such things. If their message is anything less than one of abundant life then their message is not of God. If they declare that the blood of Jesus did anything less than cleanse us from all of our sins then they are not speaking by the Spirit of God. If anyone preaches a message that leaves us with anything less than a new nature and the redemption that has made us the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit then they are not speaking by the word of God. The word of God does not describe us as those who are unrighteous but to the contrary. Furthermore, the word of God is given to us so that we can be instructed in righteousness and be equipped unto every good work.

When we find people speaking things contrary to the word of God then it is our responsibility to correct them with gentleness and the utmost patience (2 Timothy 2:25; 4:2). To enter into strife and division over error is wrong. The more important thing is that we show the love and patience of God in the way that we deal with one another. Unfortunately, there have been many disputes that have ended in broken covenants and friendship. Such behavior is far worse than most of the error or differences that was the point of the concern. Let us not only hear the word, believe the word and speak the word but let us allow the word to be lived out in our lives.

<sup>9</sup> Has the time now come that men will not endure sound doctrine? Sound doctrine places a demand upon all to live in godliness, holiness, and a hunger for righteousness. The itching-ear disease (which is caused by an acceptance of sin) not only makes the heart hard against the convictions of the Spirit of Holiness, but it also leads into a greater stronghold of deception (1 Timothy 6:9). Men will either live godly and righteously, or they will be drowned in perdition (Titus 2:12). Sound doctrine shines the light on ungodliness and rebukes it (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Sound doctrine plainly describes what is right and wrong;

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and as it's used in 1 Timothy 1:9-10, calls men to the lifestyle that God demands. Sound doctrine is the correct teaching of the word of God that brings soundness of spiritual health and purity. It was by disobedience that sin entered the world, and by sound doctrine disobedience is brought to an end. Sound doctrine teaches us to be obedient children, not fashioning ourselves according to our former lusts; but as He who has called us is holy, demands that we be holy in all of our conduct (1 Peter 1:14-15; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; Hebrews 12:14).

Unfortunately the types of teachers demanded by those who have itching ears do not come from outside the church, but are nurtured in the environment of compromise and rebellion within the ranks of the church; and raised up by those who demand to hear teaching that will accommodate their lust and iniquity. Be certain of this: if the teaching that you are hearing is not turning you from all sin and compromise to a life of absolute holiness and a deep yearning for righteousness, then it is not what Jesus taught; and therefore is not sound doctrine. God's truth points out errors and sins, and brings those who will hear into perfect conformity to His will. Those who are under a spirit of strong delusion mistake this for condemnation, and call holiness and godliness "legalism." They refuse to be empowered to live in the fullness of God's presence and grace - so that they may hold on to their worldly lusts and pleasures.

Itching-ear disease is a miserable disease for which there is no relief. In the case of spiritual itching-ear disease, men are greatly agitated and miserable as the truth is being taught; and can only find relief when someone begins to preach compromising lies which allow room for their lusts and ungodliness. Sound doctrine produces spiritual health and well-being, but men would rather remain in their spiritual disease so they can continue in their lust. Unfortunately, this spiritual state only broadens and increases as we approach the final hours of the church. We must all be aware that an apostate church is on the rise. Yet there will always be a glorious church shining with the light of truth, even though it will be hated by all men for His name's sake. Even as in the days of Jeremiah, we find it so today: "The prophets prophesy falsely and my people love to have it so" (Jeremiah 5:31). The time is upon us in the church where the people of God will once again repeat the sins of those that God called "a rebellious people, lying children who say, 'Don't prophecy unto us right things; speak smooth things, prophesy deceits'" (Isaiah 30:10).