

2 Timothy 1:13-18

HOLD TIGHTLY TO GOD'S TRUTH

Make no mistake. We as Bible-believing evangelical Christians are locked in a battle. This is not a friendly gentleman's discussion. It is a life and death conflict between the spiritual hosts of wickedness and those who claim the name of Christ. It is a conflict on the level of ideas between two fundamentally opposed views of truth and reality. It is a conflict on the level of actions between a complete moral perversion and chaos and God's absolutes. But do we really believe that we are in a life and death battle? Here is the great evangelical disaster—the failure of the evangelical world to stand for truth as truth. There is only one word for this—namely accommodation: the evangelical church has accommodated to the spirit of the age. Truth carries with it confrontation. Truth demands confrontation: loving confrontation, but confrontation nevertheless. If our reflex action is always accommodation regardless of the centrality of the truth involved, there is something wrong.

—Francis Schaeffer, *The Great Evangelical Disaster* (1984)

2 Timothy is Paul's final exhortation to Timothy. Facing death, Paul exhorts Timothy to not give into fear and to not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ nor of himself, Christ's prisoner. Instead, Timothy needed to stand strong in the faith as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

HOLD TIGHTLY & GUARD TENACIOUSLY THE CORE TRUTHS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH (1:13-14)

Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, guard by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

- **Know _____ you believe.**

There is a standard of core truths in the Christian faith.

These core truths will be attacked.

These core truths must be kept, guarded, and passed on.

- **Know _____ you believe.**

Biblical truth is _____.

Biblical truth is _____.

This is the main burden of the apostle's pleading with Timothy, "Hold fast!" We have equal need of the same exhortation, for this is an evil day, and thousands hold everything or nothing as the winds of opinion may change.

—Charles H. Spurgeon

Pattern. Grk, *hupotuposis*, lit., "an undertype." Used of an artist's sketch or a builder's blueprints. In modern terms, it is a prototype.

*No man was left to invent a religion for his own use, and after his own mind... If God did not give a revelation of himself, the inventions of man, in religious things, would be endless error, involving contortions of unlimited confusion. God gives, in his mercy to man, a form of **sound words** or doctrines; a perfect plan and sketch of the original building; fair and well defined outlines of everything which concerns the present and eternal welfare of man and His own glory.*

—Adam Clarke (1762-1832)

Sound. Greek, *hygiaino*, "to be in good health, to be made well." Used in Luke 5:31, 7:10, 15:27.

- **Know _____ you are to believe.**

Hold fast to truth with _____ in Christ.

Hold fast to truth with _____ for Christ and for others.

Hold fast to truth with _____ from the Spirit.

BE A FAITHFUL & REFRESHING ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST (1:15-18)

- Paul's extreme difficulty in prison.
- Phygellus & Hermogenes' unexpected desertion in time of need.
- Onesiphorus' encouraging diligence in ministering to Paul.

*The Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus,
for he often refreshed me,
and was not ashamed of my chain;
but when he arrived in Rome,
he sought me out very zealously and found me.*

You know very well how many ways he ministered to me at Ephesus.

The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that Day.

- True ministry to others is intentional.
- True ministry to others is faithful.
- True ministry to others is refreshing.
- True ministry to others is practical.
- True ministry to others is rewarding.

When we defend God's Word in a self-righteous, unloving spirit, the resulting controversy and opposition are not caused wholly by the offense of the truth itself but also by the offensive and unspiritual way in which we proclaim it. We are to defend God's Word in the faith, that is, with the right attitude of confidence toward God; and we are to defend it in love, with the right attitude of kindness and compassion toward unbelievers and toward poorly taught and immature believers.

—John MacArthur, Jr.

Increasing numbers of Christians are becoming ashamed to be found unequivocally on the side of truth. They say they believe, but their beliefs have been so diluted as to be impossible of clear definition.

—A. W. Tozer

Refresh. Greek, *anapsucho*, lit., "to cool again." To cool off from the effects of heat; to refresh.

Our presence in a place of need is more powerful than a thousand sermons.

—Chuck Colson

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

—Proverbs 17:17

The highest honor in the church is not government but service.

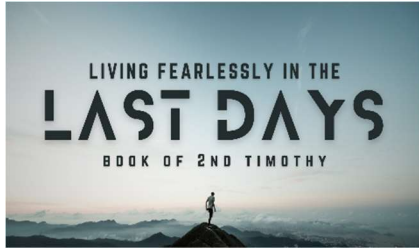
—John Calvin (1509-64)

There are no trivial assignments in the work of the Lord.

—Vance Havner

Hermogenes & Phygellus go down in history branded as deserters; Onesiphorus goes down in history as the friend who stuck closer than a brother. If we were to be described in one sentence, what would it be?

—William Barclay



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