

1 TIMOTHY VERSE BY VERSE
SESSION 16 | 1 TIMOTHY 6:20-21 AND EPILOGUE

1 TIMOTHY 6:20-21 | CLOSING INSTRUCTIONS

- Verse 20 –
 - What is that was **committed to thy trust**?
 - Based on 1 Timothy 1:18 (see note on that verse), I would say that the commitment was 1 Timothy 2:1-3:13, the “meat” of the epistle in which Paul gives very specific commandments to Timothy for the Body of Christ.
 - But could the things **committed to thy trust** be the Pauline mystery or his Jewish faith?
 - It would seem difficult to build much of an argument that either of these was in some way committed to Timothy or that he had any kind of fiduciary responsibility in these that went beyond that which would be held by any adherent.
 - However, the material that follows the **charge** of 1 Timothy 1:18 is given exclusively to Timothy (2:1-3:13) and would be given to Timothy *in trust*.
 - Note that Bullinger believes that the trust was “the teaching regarding the Mystery.” However, he references 1 Timothy 3:16, and my interpretation is that **the mystery of godliness** is not the same as the Pauline mystery.
 - There are two things which Timothy is to be **avoiding** as he watches over **thy trust**.
 - First, **profane and vain babblings**.
 - The word **profane** comes from a Greek word meaning *easily accessible*. In this light, it could be understood as *things which are just too simple to spend your time on*.
 - The Greek word translated **vain babblings** is κενοφωνία [kenophonia], which is literally *empty sounds*. Timothy, as the *keeper of the organizational matters of the Body of Christ*, should avoid simple thoughts and empty chatter. This is not a bad recommendation for all of us!
 - Second, Timothy was to avoid **oppositions of science falsely so called**.
 - The word **oppositions** is ἀντίθεσις [antithesis], which we have brought into the English language. The Greek word could be understood as *contradictions*.
 - The English word **science** is used both here and in Daniel 1:4. Here is a translation of γνῶσις [gnosis] from which we get *knowledge*. Originally the word **science** was, in the English language, a “knowledge as acquired by study, experience, or reflection” (Oxford English Dictionary).
 - The words **falsely so called** are a translation of the Greek ψευδώνυμος [pseudonumos], literally a *false name*.
 - In summary, **oppositions of science falsely so called** could be understood as an instruction to avoid *contradictions brought about by fake knowledge*.
 - Sadly, when one considers the church today, it is chock-full of things too *simple* to spend your time on, sermons that are simply *empty sounds*, and

churches full of members circling around *fake knowledge* and not holding any degree of Biblical knowledge.

- Verse 21 –
 - The **science** “*which does not deserve the name, being only speculation*” (Bullinger, *the Companion Bible*, note on 1 Timothy 6:20) has caused many to err **concerning the faith**. This is sadly true in all generations.
 - Paul ends with a very quick greeting; **Grace *be* with thee. Amen.**
 - Note that the Critical Texts use the plural pronoun *you* (only discernable by the footnote, as in ESV, or with the words *you all*, as in NIV).
 - This is, in my estimation, a mark of error in these texts.
 - Not only is the letter written to Timothy alone, but the closing comments are to Timothy alone (v. 20).
 - Further, *this would be the only second person plural pronoun in all the epistle.*
 - It would make no sense to suddenly switch to the plural. Who are the others? The epistle gives no clue (because *there are no others!*)

EPILOGUE: LESSONS LEARNED FROM 1 TIMOTHY

- It seems impossible to me to understand the epistle without separating purely Pauline material from prophetic material. To do so simply introduces confusion into the faith.
 - Timothy lived in a day in which there was a *lawful use of the law* (1 Tim. 1:8). Timothy, as a Jew, was to *keep commandment* (i.e. *Torah*) (1 Tim. 6:14).
 - Timothy also lived in a day in which Paul was the one to exhort and teach the Body of Christ about the things related to “Body” life – see 1 Timothy 2:1-3:13.
 - Mixing these two becomes a recipe for confusion.
- It seems perfectly logical that Timothy would receive instruction from Paul that related only to his continued interest in and membership within the “flock of God” that would inherit the Kingdom (faithful Israel in the flesh).
- Paul is very concerned about accurate teaching and avoiding *time wasters* of thought.
 - See 1 Timothy 1:4-6 and 1 Timothy 6:20.
- While Christ is the *foundation* of Christianity, Paul is the *founder*.
 - 1 Timothy 1:14-17 is unmistakable and irrefutable when studied closely.
 - There *is* a clear division between the teachings of Christ and the teachings of Paul. This division *is fully expected* when Romans 15:8 and 1 Timothy 1:15-16 are compared.
- While so many Christians would claim that 1 and 2 Timothy are their favorite books of the Bible, few (oh so few!) are able to make sense of the book. Most simply skim the surface for the “cream” and leave the meat at the bottom of the pan.