

II TIMOTHY 1:13-18



“Checking the Loyalty Level” by Pastor Mark Campbell

INTRODUCTION: The Apostle Paul was a faithful man of God, loyal to the Lord Jesus Christ. In the two letters he wrote to his “dearly beloved son,” Timothy, Paul encouraged Timothy to follow his godly example.

A working definition of “LOYALTY” (source unknown): “*using adversity to confirm my commitment to those whom God has called me to serve*” In our text, Paul underscored a 3-fold loyalty to be demonstrated within a local church.

I. BE LOYAL TO THE WORD OF GOD (II TIMOTHY 1:13)

“Hold fast” – to continually keep in one’s mind and possession. Paul had given Timothy the outline of the precious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. This outline pointed Timothy to a Person – Jesus Christ.

Paul defined his entire ministry in terms of the Gospel and his trust in the power of God! The young preacher was to hold these “*sounds words...in faith and love.*”

- “Faith” refers to the persuasion Timothy was to have
- “Love” refers to the passion Timothy was to have toward the Gospel

The Gospel is to be guarded and retained so the doctrinal statements of truth remain intact, providing a standard for future preachers.

When a pastor or church or Christian organization starts to stray off course into liberalism, it usually starts with a weakening of their convictions about the Word of God.

II. BE LOYAL TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD (II TIMOTHY 1:14)

“...committed unto thee” pictures a deposit being made, the deposit being that of the Gospel.

To “keep” literally means to post a guard, and this “keeping” was to be done through the power of “*the Holy Ghost, which dwelleth in us.*”

I Corinthians 2:9-16, ¹⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love

him. ¹⁰ But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. ¹³ Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. ¹⁶ For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

The “natural man” can read the Bible and not understand it. The things of the Spirit of God are spiritually discerned.

Ps. 119:18, “Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”

Loyalty to the Spirit of God involves cooperating with what He desires to do in your life. The Holy Spirit is conforming you to the very image of the Son of God, and the primary tool He uses is God’s Word.

III. BE LOYAL TO THE MAN OF GOD (II TIMOTHY 1:15-18)

Zondervan’s Pictorial Bible Dictionary describes Onesiphorus as “an Ephesian who fearlessly ministered to Paul at the time of the apostle’s second captivity in Rome”

A. HE WAS PERSONALLY REFRESHING (II TIMOTHY 1:16)

! “...for he oft refreshed me”

Onesiphorus was a giver not a taker.

B. HE WAS SACRIFICIALLY UNDETERRED (II TIMOTHY 1:16)

“...and was not ashamed of my chain”

In ministering to Paul, he chose to identify himself with Paul. Every guard at that prison would know Onesiphorus stood with Paul at a time when it was not popular to be a Christian!

C. HE WAS EXTRAORDINARILY DILIGENT (II TIMOTHY 1:17)

“...he sought me out very diligently and found me”

The point: It’s not always convenient to be part of the ministry or to minister to your pastor.

D. HE WAS UNMISTAKABLY FAITHFUL (II TIMOTHY 1:18)

“...and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.”

These actions were nothing new for Onesiphorus; this pattern of service and loyalty and faithfulness was something Timothy knew “very well.” Of all the things God requires of us as His servants, faithfulness is at the very top of the list.