Series: Legacy

Series Text: 1st Timothy

August 11, 2019

Message 2:

**Experience You Can Depend On**

1st Timothy 1:18-2:15

**Intro:** I have seen ads for consulting firms, real estate brokerages, a woodworking company, photography business, IT company, political ads - all use this phrase - “Experience you can depend on.”

That’s what Paul is giving Timothy - that’s what one generation can pass on to another - that’s what one generation can learn from another - that’s what we want to have here at New Life and that’s what we can learn from these passages in the Bible -

In the opening section of this letter we saw Paul telling Timothy that one generation can give to another -

> Right Teaching

> Warm Relationships

> Truth with Love

> Openness in Humility

> God’s Mercy

Opening and closing phrases from this passage in The Message -

1st Timothy 1:18 MSG - I’m passing this work on to you, my son Timothy.

1st Timothy 2:15 MSG - … You can depend on this.

**Big Idea: We should all pay attention to experienced advice.**

**T.S.:** In this part of the letter Paul passes on 3 powerful words of wisdom -

**> Cling to faith in Christ**

1st Timothy 1:18-20 - Timothy, my son, here are my instructions for you, based on the prophetic words spoken about you earlier. May they help you fight well in the Lord’s battles. Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked. Hymenaeus and Alexander are two examples. I threw them out and handed them over to Satan so they might learn not to blaspheme God.

Word study on “cling” -

* to possess
* Same word is used of wearing something - the word is used to describe the clothing that John the Baptist wore
* The same word is used to describe Mary being “with child” with Jesus!

It’s holding on to - but it’s more - it is what we wear - we wear this faith - we own this faith like we own and wear our clothes. This faith is a part of us in the way that the infant Jesus was a part of Mary in her womb.

This faith is not just something we profess - we must integrate our faith in Christ and relationship with Him into EVERY area of our lives! If we don’t, we are no example for any generation.

Prince Charles - wants to change title to “Defender of Faith” -

There’s a problem with that -

Jesus is the only way… (Scripts) - we must cling to that faith - this is a truth that every generation must receive and accept.

Many things change - many things can change - many things will change - we want things to change! I will drive change!

But, we must CLING to our faith in Jesus Christ!

**> Keep your conscience clear**

1st Timothy 1:19 - …Some have deliberately violated their consciences…

Deliberately - willingly went against what their guts told them about right and wrong -

Dad: Our lives are the result of the choices we make.

If you have faith in Christ - you have the Holy Spirit - and the Holy Spirit speaks to your conscience - leads and guides you in your inner thoughts.

John 14:16-17 AMP - And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), to be with you forever— the Spirit of Truth…you know Him because He (the Holy Spirit) remains with you *continually* and will be in you.

If we choose to deliberately not listen to that guidance, we are headed for big trouble -

Paul mentions a couple of guys and basically just says he gave up on them -

Hymenaeus & Alexander - Hymenaeus is mentioned elsewhere as a false teacher. Paul had to protect the church from them so he had to ask them to leave - he warned the church against their divisive influence. His desire was to protect the church family.

He said he still wanted them to learn - but it took some tough love for Paul to attempt to wake them up.

Sometimes we have to leave people to their choices - that is the only way they will learn -

But Paul doesn’t want that for Timothy - for his son - for this leader of the next generation -

Cling to your faith - Keep your conscience clear - listen to the Holy Spirit - don’t discard that still, small voice, that gentle quiet whisper speaking to your inner thoughts -

Don’t listen to your heart and follow your heart - listen to the Holy Spirit!

**> Pray for everyone**

1st Timothy 2:1-4 - I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.

It is easy for us to get upset - angry - when we see people in places of influence making bad choices and leadership decisions - it is easy for us to complain and criticize and forget and fail to pray.

Generational differences in views on culture -

* one sees something stolen from them
* Another never experienced it - they don’t understand the loss - they don’t understand the pain - they don’t understand the complaints - they don’t understand the anger.

Many just see themselves living on a mission field, they accept that - they want to change that - they want to build relationships to make a difference -

Paul is reminding us - pray for everyone - that is what will make the biggest difference -

- Praying for all will lead to peace

We may not see everyone’s minds change. We may not see a wonderful bridge to the great divide we are experiencing in our culture -

But it can bring peace to our own hearts and minds -

Cut way back on the news in November of 2018 - lots more peace!!

Remember this -

1st Timothy 2:5-6 - For, There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone…

Jesus died for everyone!

* He didn’t just die for those who have already accepted Him!
* He didn’t just die for people of one political party or viewpoint
* He didn’t just die for people of one race, country or culture

He gave His life, to purchase freedom for everyone!

He is the only answer!

If all generations will look to Jesus as the answer, we will be able to serve one another, learn from one another, as Timothy is learning from Paul, and

When the divisions are healed among us, maybe we can see some divisions healed beyond us!

1st Timothy 2:6-7 - …This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time. And I have been chosen as a preacher and apostle to teach the Gentiles this message about faith and truth. I’m not exaggerating—just telling the truth.

Paul reminds Timothy - “I was sent to share this wonderful message with people WAY different from me!”

Paul’s history … Jew of Jews …. Legalist of all legalists …

THIS is the way! Kill those who disagree - Have nothing to do with Gentiles -

God sent Him to people totally different - radically different - radically different views on religion, deities, basic life practices -

What was the same between Jews and Gentiles?

Basic Biology & physiology … that’s about it -

- Prayer is more effective when we leave out anger & controversy

1st Timothy 2:8 - In every place of worship, I want men to pray with holy hands lifted up to God, free from anger and controversy.

This should be a given - but it’s not. When we pray - leave your anger out of it. We pray in love, not in anger. Praying in anger will lead you to not praying in the will of God - so you won’t get your answer anyway.

- Don’t be a distraction

1st Timothy 2:9-15 - And I want women to be modest in their appearance. They should wear decent and appropriate clothing and not draw attention to themselves by the way they fix their hair or by wearing gold or pearls or expensive clothes. For women who claim to be devoted to God should make themselves attractive by the good things they do.

Women should learn quietly and submissively. I do not let women teach men or have authority over them. Let them listen quietly. For God made Adam first, and afterward he made Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived by Satan. The woman was deceived, and sin was the result. But women will be saved through childbearing, assuming they continue to live in faith, love, holiness, and modesty.

The first thing we think when we read this is our culture - that’s the last place we should begin if we want to understand a passage of Scripture -

1st - Who was writing this?

2nd - Who was he writing it to?

3rd - What is he saying in the rest of the letter?

Remember - this is a letter - a personal letter - the first application is from Paul to Timothy - then we look to see how it applies to us. Don’t have a knee jerk reaction of getting all bent out of shape - think carefully - apply with wisdom.

There have been lots of bad applications of this from many sides -

* No makeup - only dresses -
* Throw out this stupid Bible -
* Women are to blame for all our problems …
* Women are only good for having babies …
* Sex is a sin - unless you want to have a baby - even then, it’s a sin and you have to ask for forgiveness later …

These are some of the worst, most uneducated, unthoughtful, ignorant interpretations that anyone has ever applied to any writing in the history of the world! Is that strong enough for you?

All things in between -

4th - What was the situation in their culture?

*(just add this to the list above)*

He’s writing instructions from an older, wiser, more experienced ministry leader - to a younger, less experienced ministry leader - new pastor -

He’s telling him -

* Cling to faith in Jesus
* Keep your conscience clear
* Pray for everyone

In Paul & Timothy’s time, they were constantly bringing new people into the faith - people from all kinds of backgrounds and lifestyles … - may God help us to do this today!

What is described here from experience as teaching related to women, is something that everyone could learn today - The Church is a new culture - we come out of our old culture - into the new - in order to be an influence on the culture as a whole -

Don’t feel overly targeted as women - The two previously mentioned that were kicked out of the church and turned over to Satan were men!

* Don’t draw attention to yourself! Don’t let your style be so outlandish that people come noticing you more than anything else! We are to draw attention to Jesus!

Women and men can draw just as much attention to themselves for NOT fixing themselves up as they can for overly fixing themselves up -

I thought about finding some outlandish pics - but decided against it - someone might see a resemblance…

Their experience was people coming to their gatherings who were drawing more attention to themselves and being a distraction from people being drawn to Christ — but behaviors of all kinds and clothing styles of all kinds of extremes can draw attention to us and not to Christ -

If I came in here wearing a glow in the dark neon purple suit … that may be commonly accepted in another culture - but here, my suit would get more attention than my message of Jesus -

If we are going to -

* Cling to faith in Jesus
* Keep our conscience clear
* Pray for everyone -

We can’t be the focus of attention - getting people to focus on us can’t be our goal.

This is Ephesus - Corinth was even worse - When Paul wrote the Corinthians about what women should wear - it was because they were trying to blur the gender lines! It’s not about pants vs. dresses - Corinthian women were coming to church trying to pass themselves off as men.

Paul is saying - there are genders - there are 2 of them - there are differences between the two - then, he applies it specifically to their culture as we should apply it specifically to our culture.

There are too many women in the Bible who are prophetesses, teachers, evangelists, and at least one apostle for us to limit women in ministry -

Unless - You’re wanting a woman to be a guest speaker at a conference titled, “What It’s Like To Be A Man!”

Paul was trying to correct specific issues in his culture and give Timothy some wisdom in how to navigate the issues in Ephesus -

Eve may have been deceived by Satan - but Adam was deceived by Eve - He was with her at the time and did nothing to protect her - which was to be his role given by God.

1st Timothy 2:8-15 MSG - Since prayer is at the bottom of all this, what I want mostly is for men to pray—not shaking angry fists at enemies but raising holy hands to God. And I want women to get in there with the men in humility before God, not primping before a mirror or chasing the latest fashions but doing something beautiful for God and becoming beautiful doing it.

I don’t let women take over and tell the men what to do. They should study to be quiet and obedient along with everyone else. Adam was made first, then Eve; woman was deceived first—our pioneer in sin!—with Adam right on her heels. On the other hand, her childbearing brought about salvation, reversing Eve. But this salvation only comes to those who continue in faith, love, and holiness, gathering it all into maturity. You can depend on this.

This gets it - “with her” - Genesis … we’ve got to look at the whole of Scripture together to understand it - No passage is understood in isolation from the rest of Scripture -

We are all ultimately saved through the birth that came through the woman!

Genesis 3:15 AMP - And I will put enmity (open hostility) Between you and the woman, And between your seed (offspring) and her Seed; He shall [fatally] bruise your head, And you shall [only] bruise His heel.”

Words of Angel to Mary …

Luke 1:28-35 MSG - Gabriel greeted her: Good morning! You’re beautiful with God’s beauty, Beautiful inside and out! God be with you…

You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus. He will be great, be called ‘Son of the Highest.’

The Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Highest hover over you; Therefore, the child you bring to birth will be called Holy, Son of God.

Elizabeth to Mary …

Luke 1:42-43 MSG - You’re so blessed among women, and the babe in your womb, also blessed! And why am I so blessed that the mother of my Lord visits me?

This is GREAT NEWS for women! Women are held in high regard, because it was through a woman that the Savior came! She was entrusted with His raising …

**Concl:** So - this is what God wants us to do - from an experienced minister to a younger minister:

* Cling to faith in Jesus
* Keep our conscience clear
* Pray for everyone -
  + Praying for all will lead to peace
  + Prayer will be more effective when we leave out anger and controversy
  + None of us should draw attention to ourselves, live by our own agenda, and distract from these 3 goals.