

MORNING CHAPEL MESSAGES

I & II TIMOTHY and TITUS

I TIMOTHY 1:11.

GOOD MORNING! The apostle Paul, directed by the Holy Spirit, writing to Timothy spoke about sound doctrine, and inserted these words: *"According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust."*

The whole New Testament teaches us that "the gospel" has to do with the life, the death, the resurrection, the ascension and the exaltation and return of JESUS CHRIST the LORD as these truths bear upon the saving of men and women everywhere.

A companion statement gives the contents of the saving gospel: *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of CHRIST: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; ... For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."*

The Old Testament lays the groundwork for the gospel by declaring the promise of God in the beginning; and by the sacrifices of the Tabernacle; and by the prophecies of the coming One who is the *"desire of all nations."*

The context of the words: *"the glorious gospel of the blessed God;"* is the awful need of humanity for that which the world is helpless to do for itself.

The gospel in its origin is of God. *"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son."* The gospel in its content is of JESUS CHRIST the LORD: *"For God hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

"The glorious gospel" JESUS CHRIST the LORD is the glory of God because JESUS CHRIST the LORD is the revelation of God. *"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. ... And the WORD was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. ... And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."*

JESUS CHRIST our LORD is the glory of God, because he is God's love expressed. *"God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, CHRIST died for us. ... Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the*

propitiation for our sins. and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

JESUS CHRIST the LORD, crucified, risen, and exalted to the right hand of the Majesty on high is the revelation of the height, and the depth, and the length, and the breadth of the love of God.

What a remarkable truth is stated here: "*the blessed God.*" Many times, in the scriptures, this word "*blessed,*" describes some truth concerning the sons and daughters of God's family, here it is an expression of the supreme place God puts his gospel.

The scriptures, in their pure, literal communication of the gospel, show us that God intends the whole world of humanity to hear it through his ordained messengers. "*Go ye, into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ... How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! ... And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*"

AMEN.

I TIMOTHY 1:15.

GOOD MORNING! There is a beautiful, declarative sentence, describing the gospel, in the Epistle to Timothy: *"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that CHRIST JESUS came into the world to save sinners."*

This glorious gospel of the blessed God fills the Bible and a thousand books cannot exhaust its fullness, and here, in one exquisite sentence the whole of the gospel is expressed.

Do you see who it is that came into our world? "CHRIST" is our LORD'S official title. The words "Messiah the Prince" and "the CHRIST" are titles that spell out for men that God sent his Anointed One, to be the sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Our LORD, after his public ministry had begun, visited Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and as his custom was, went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet ISAIAH. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."*

The apostle, in bringing the gospel to the household of the Gentile Centurion, Cornelius, declared: *"The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by JESUS CHRIST: (he is LORD of all:) ... How that God anointed JESUS of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. ... Whom they slew and hanged on a tree: him God raised up the third day, and showed him openly; ... unto witnesses chosen before of God, ... To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins."*

"JESUS" is the personal name of CHRIST, the only begotten Son of God. The angel said to Joseph, *"Thou shalt call his name JESUS, for he shall save his people from their sins."* What a precious name the personal name of our LORD. Again and again an ordinary individual is found to be wearing this name, but none of them are "saviors," none of them wear that name with such distinction as does the only begotten Son of God. "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven, given

among men but the name of JESUS of Nazareth, whom God has given to us to be our ever living Saviour.

"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation ... " Our LORD JESUS CHRIST "came preaching and saying, repent ye, and believe the gospel." Every one who repents toward God and believes on the LORD JESUS CHRIST is saved by the grace of God.

Every son/daughter of mankind needs to be saved, because we are all sinners by choice: *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."*

All that which the gospel claims to do for men and women has been tested in many a life. Not one who has believed on the name of the LORD has been turned down, nor has one been left desolate. *"For whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be saved."*

You may be saying, My case is a singular. Yes, but have you considered that the gospel *"is worthy of all acceptation."* All cases are singular with the LORD of the gospel.

God's salvation is his gift, and is received as a gift. God's gift is given freely to that one who comes as a sinner, pleading only the merits of Calvary. *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saves us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; ... That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."*

AMEN.

I TIMOTHY 2:1-4.

GOOD MORNING! The Holy Scriptures teach us that we have a responsibility to the government under which the LORD our God has placed us. And foremost in this is our duty to be faithful in our *"supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good in the sight of God our Saviour; who will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

No child of God is subservient to this world, but has been planted, by the will of God, to serve the purpose of God in each of the institutions of God's ordaining.

God ordained the institution of the family. God ordained open, public worship, of which the local church is, at this present time his agent.

God has ordained human government. *There is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."*

We should meditate upon the fact that the chief duty of the child of God is to intercede with God that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness, such living makes a way for the propagation of the gospel to touch many lives.

Why are we, the children of the LORD, to work for quietness and peace? Because *"God will have all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."*

Crisis times call for renewed emphasis of the duty God has assigned to us, individually and cooperatively. When we take seriously our primary duty, then we can be lead by the Spirit of the LORD to assume active engagement in a way that will not detract from the gospel.

We do not know the day and the hour of our LORD'S return, nor will we until it takes place. Which most assuredly means that carrying out our duty in a faithful manner is to fill the whole of our *"Doing the will of God from the heart."*

"As (our LORD) is so are we in this world." We are, by the grace of God, the hands and the feet, the eyes and the ears, of the gospel. "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

It is only those who are right with God, and are obeying the LORD'S instructions, that can turn the tide of wickedness, and they can only do it in the way the LORD God has prescribed.

God's children are the only Bible that the world cannot help but read. *"Ye are the salt of the earth ... Ye are the light of the world. ... Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*

We who are God's children are the pillar and ground of the truth. We are not the truth, for the sacred scriptures are the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. *"Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ... written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart. ... As strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: ... For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. ... For even hereunto were ye called."*

AMEN.

I TIMOTHY 4:8.

GOOD MORNING! The apostle Paul, by direction of the Holy Spirit, writes instruction to his son in the faith of the gospel: *"Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and that which is to come."*

"Godliness" is that quality of soul and attitude of heart which causes a man to put God and his word before everything that pertains to living and prospering in the everyday of this life.

"Godliness with contentment is great gain." "Godliness" is the character and the conduct that develops from *"the fear of the LORD which is the beginning of knowledge."* "Godliness" is profitable in all areas of living. In whatever field a man may work, if he is a godly man, he is far more effective. Is he a doctor? Then his work with human suffering is more complete if he is practicing medicine for the glory of the Great Physician. Is he a lawyer? Then he is a more useful one if he is practicing law for the glory of the Great Advocate. Is he a business man? A mechanic? A scientist? A housekeeper? Then all that he handles is better done in proportion to his loyalty to his LORD and Saviour.

In the home, the more godly a father, the better he discharges his parental responsibility. The more devout a woman is, the better mother she will be with her children. The teacher will teach with more effectiveness, the farmer will till the land with more success if he is working as a laborer together with his Creator.

"Godliness" blesses every aspect of man's earthly life. In the home it is kindness, in business it is integrity, in social interaction it is courtesy, in work it is thoughtfulness, in play it is fairness, toward the unfortunate it is empathy, to the weak it is a helping hand, to the wicked it is full blown resistance, to the strong it is the strength of gentleness.

"Godliness" is more costly than religion! Because it is a positive quality of life. *"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and the widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. ... The fear of the LORD is the fountain of life. ... The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever. ... In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death. ... He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"*

The "profit" of godliness is experienced in this life, and continues to bear dividends in eternity! *"he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. ... having a promise of the life that now is, and that which is to come."*

It is only our relationship, in grace, to our Great LORD and Saviour, that this present life has meaning; for there can be no future apart from God's salvation.

One of the earliest "decision statements" written for our learning, was given by Moses to the children of Israel, while they were still in the wilderness: *"Behold I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse; therefore, choose life that thou mayest live. ... to love the LORD thy God, to obey his voice and to cleave unto him, for he is thy life! ... thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. ... And these words shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name."*

AMEN.

I TIMOTHY 4:12-16.

GOOD MORNING! Paul, by Holy Spirit direction, writes a word of instruction to Timothy that has in it ingredients that we all would do well to take to heart: *"Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. ... Give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee. ... Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine, continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."*

"Be thou an example." Our LORD put it this way in his manifesto of the kingdom of heaven: *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*

Our LORD has made us his own, and he has ignited a reflective light within the soul of each of his children. The way one lives is the necessary shining forth of that heaven-born light.

God's children are called upon to lay aside the works of darkness and to put on the new man, which is created in the knowledge of him that created him.

All that a Christian is, *"cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. ... Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. ... Give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."*

The place we put our emphasis in life, that which is first in our thinking, and in our planning, must be a deliberate choosing on our part. Again, the manifesto of the kingdom of heaven, to which each child of God belongs, sets the priority of daily life: *"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? Or, What shall we drink? or, Where-withal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*

"Neglect not the gift that is in thee." Each child of God should be fully aware that the Holy Spirit has taken up his abode in his life, and He came bringing gifts. *"The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. ... For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, ... and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."*

Child of God you have a place to fill. You are not without the Spirit's blessing, and you have work to do. *"And we desire that*

every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all." The hurly-burly of this earth life can be kept out of the soul by delight in the law of the LORD, and in his law meditating day and night. "In quietness and confidence shall be your strength."

"Take heed unto thyself, and the doctrine; continue in them. ... This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for them thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. ... But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. ... Who so looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

Our God is calling each one of his children into the fellowship of serving. He is also promising a reward: *"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."*

AMEN.

II TIMOTHY 1:6-9.

GOOD MORNING! When Paul, by Holy Spirit instruction, wrote his second Epistle to Timothy, he was facing execution at the hand of the Roman Caesar and Timothy was being called on to carry forward the work of the gospel he had been sharing as Paul's coworker.

Because the Epistle to Timothy is sacred scripture, it is written to every follower of JESUS CHRIST the LORD: *"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our LORD, ... but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which is given us in CHRIST JESUS."*

You brother, sister Christian are in possession of this holy calling! *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in CHRIST JESUS unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."*

Each child of God is saved by the grace of God, delivered from darkness and translated into the kingdom of light, set free from the power of Satan and made a child of God by faith in JESUS CHRIST the LORD, and given a stewardship in the kingdom of God.

By the power of the gospel of God we are to cast off the works of darkness, we are to put off the old man with his deeds, and put on the new man, *"which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him."*

God's gifts, to every one who is in CHRIST JESUS, are serving gifts. *"To every man his work."* The field of ministry is wide, and every part of it has eternal meaning. *"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey."*

"Stirring up the gift of God" means that we are to take seriously the fact that our LORD expects our service. And more to the point, to *"stir up"* means that we are not to allow ourselves to grow slack or careless or negligent in our service. *"Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing."*

The great motivation for faithful service is the certainty that we are moving swiftly toward our seeing the LORD face to face. There is a crown laid up for every one that loves the appearing of our Great LORD and Saviour.

Let us consider, the provisions made for the LORD'S "labor force." For every child of God there is a three-fold gift: power, love, a sound mind.

In the moments before the visible ascension of our LORD, he promised *"Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you. In the first Pentecostal message, this promise was spoken: For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call."*

Not even one little bit of the LORD'S work can be done by human power. The love that he gives is *"the love of God which is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."*

And, God's word shows us how to keep a sound mind: *Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. ... And the God of peace shall be with you."*

AMEN.

II TIMOTHY 1:8.

GOOD MORNING! Here is an exhortation that every child of God should take to heart: *"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our LORD, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God."*

The context of the Epistle makes it abundantly clear that Timothy was in every aspect of the word, a faithful Christian. Paul's appeal to him was therefore both an encouragement and a challenge.

The gospel has always created a tension between those who follow JESUS CHRIST the LORD and those who belong to the world order which crucified the LORD of glory.

The words of this text are an exhortation to maintain that tension in order that we continue to be faithful servants of our Great LORD.

All those who would live in personal fellowship with our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST will not have the world's approval. *"Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. ... Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."*

It is very human to shrink from censure and to like approval; therefore we must be made aware that it is costly to stand by wholesome convictions and it is wholly contrary to the world's way of thinking to be a declared follower of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

We Christians all face, in one way or another, what Simon Peter faced the night of our LORD'S betrayal into the hands of his enemies; first Peter made an unwise lunge of physical violence, then he followed afar off and before morning, had thrice denied that he even knew the LORD.

It was the look that JESUS gave him that broke Peter's heart. *"Godly sorrow worketh repentance, not to be repented of."*

May our LORD help us to recognize that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but they are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. Because God has given us the spirit of love and of power and of a sound mind.

The scripture we have read is exhorting Timothy, and every believing reader of the sacred scriptures, to take a positive stand for the gospel and for those who are the ministers of the gospel. *"Be thou a partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God."*

Foremost in our taking a stand for the gospel is to be true to the real gospel both in conversation and in daily life. One of the tactics of the enemy is to get us backing *"another JESUS, another gospel."*

There is always a sharp line of demarcation between the true gospel and the false gospel. *"Only let your conversation be as becometh the gospel of Christ: ... For unto you it is given in the behalf of CHRIST, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake."*

It is a matter of urgency that the followers of the LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST be true evangelists of the gospel of CHRIST; for this is the way the gospel is spread to the ends of the earth.

Make no mistake about it, each follower of the LORD JESUS is his representative in this world: *"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* *"God ... hath saved us and called us with an holy calling, ... according to his own purpose and grace."* Our LORD JESUS CHRIST is our example of faithfulness.

AMEN.

II TIMOTHY 1:12.

GOOD MORNING! There is a testimony, given in the scriptures, that each believer on the LORD JESUS CHRIST is authorized to claim as his own: *"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."*

There are three precious subjects in this text that are special to each child of God. The first shows us how the gospel becomes a personal possession. *"I know whom I have believed. ... For I am not ashamed of the gospel of CHRIST, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."*

Immediately one believes on the LORD JESUS CHRIST, God gives the Holy Spirit to live within that believer. This means that the believer is made to personally know the Saviour and to have fellowship with him.

One is born into God's family by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. The channel of faith and spiritual knowledge is the sacred scriptures. *"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."*

It is the indwelling Holy Spirit who illuminates and applies the word of God to each child of God.

In the second place, with the coming of the Holy Ghost into the believer's life, the perception of the truth of the scriptures begins to take place, and the believer becomes increasingly conscious of the spiritual fact that to become God's child by faith in the LORD JESUS CHRIST, is to be *"kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

Receiving the LORD JESUS CHRIST by faith is the committing of the whole of life to him who is *"able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."* Our God is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

And in the third place, the scripture is plainly teaching us that *"the Day of the LORD is coming."* It is the very nature of a child of God to be living in expectation of that day; to be loving the day of our LORD'S appearing.

From the beginning of time men and women of faith have been looking for the city which hath foundation, whose builder and maker is God. *"Wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."*

Physical death is not a break in the believer's relationship with the LORD JESUS CHRIST: *"For to me to live is CHRIST and to die is gain. ... For if we believe that JESUS died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in JESUS will go bring with him. ... For the LORD himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, and with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in CHRIST shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the LORD in the air."*

One last word: *"Our God is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."* Oh precious, comforting, strengthening, enabling grace of God: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."* To be born into God's family by the Spirit of God is to be given eternal life, never to be forsaken, never to be lost again! From the moment of the new birth, *"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ... and Nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our LORD."*

AMEN.

II TIMOTHY 1:13,14.

GOOD MORNING! Here is one of the great exhortations of scripture, written to urge our hearing and heeding to the glory of God. Paul, writing to Timothy by Holy Spirit instruction, wrote: *"Hold fast the form of sound words, which that hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in CHRIST JESUS. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us."*

"Hold fast the form of sound words." This is speaking of the Holy Scriptures; for that is the book *"of sound words."* From beginning to end, from the book of GENESIS to the book of REVELATION; the Holy Scriptures are perfect and complete; the word of God, written by holy men who were moved by the Holy Ghost.

"Holding" includes keeping, without adding to, or taking from, the true copy of the scriptures. The word of the LORD is a pure word, and we are charged to keep it that way.

The modern revisions of the Bible have changed the text! *"Hold fast the form of sound words."* Every follower of the LORD JESUS is responsible for receiving and faithfully passing on to the next generation *"the form of sound words; the sacred scriptures that has been faithfully passed on to us."*

"That good thing which was committed unto thee keep." Both the form of sound words, and personal salvation have been committed to every believer.

The gospel constantly urges: *"Watch" ... "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation." ... "That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost. ... How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?"*

We should carefully consider the strong foundation upon which the exhortation rests: *"In faith and love which is in CHRIST JESUS."*

It is only by the *"faith and love which is in CHRIST JESUS;"* and the *"indwelling presence of the Holy Ghost"* that this *"keeping"* can be kept as God intends it to be kept.

Imperative, for each individual, is this exhortation to the wholesome commitment of the whole of my life to the will of God. Our LORD and Saviour established the pattern, when in the Garden he prayed of his Father, *"Not my will, but thine be done."*

The question of the Psalmist is also the question of the child of God who on JESUS has leaned for repose: *"In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain? For the*

righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright."

What the purpose of God commands he also provides the strength to fulfill. Every child of God may confidently say, *"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. ... God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son JESUS CHRIST our LORD."*

AMEN.

II TIMOTHY 2:15.

GOOD MORNING! The subject of an exhortation to every child of God is the exhortation as to the place of the word of God in the life of a child of God: *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*

Many of us seem not to recognize the importance of the Bible in our daily lives. Many a Christian has relegated examination of the scriptures to listening to a minister read a text for his Sunday morning sermon.

From the days of the children of Israel entering into the land God promised to them, the scriptures are to have a central place in our lives.

The word of the LORD to General Joshua was: *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."*

We are to read, to meditate upon, and take heed to every portion of the book God has given to us for our eternal welfare. Under all circumstances of daily living, God's word is the pure doctrine, reproof, correction, for instruction in righteousness; *"That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

The exhortation of the text tells us that to keep from being ashamed before the LORD, we are to *"study the word of truth."* The sacred scriptures are to be constantly meditated upon because they are the *law of liberty* for every child of God.

Although the many books that are available to us are very helpful companions of our lives, it is the sacred scriptures that we are to study; that is, we are to study the Bible, not what someone says about the Bible. This means that we must be continually reading the scriptures and meditating on them. The Scripture itself puts it this way: *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."*

Modern revisions of the Bible are, by their very nature, the source of much confusion, because they are trying to state the thought of scripture in human words, rather than allowing the pure unadulterated word of God to be received and read. We do not

need to change the text in order to understand what is written; rather we are to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit's illumination of the very words of God's book.

A basic conviction is absolutely necessary to a meaningful study of the scriptures, and that is you must truly believe that the Bible is God's word to you. Scripture is the interpretation of scripture. When you sit down to read God's word you are sitting before the table of good things that God has prepared for them that love him.

God has given to the human family two revelations of himself: the first is the voice of the natural universe. *"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork, day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard."*

The Bible, written by holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Ghost is the second revelation of the living God: *"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul, the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether."*

"Rightly dividing the world of truth," is the true way to study the scriptures. The student of scripture is to allow the scripture to speak to him rather than to listen to his ideas. Scripture is to be handled as scripture; God is speaking to you! The Bible speaks for itself, and comparing scripture with scripture shows to us what God is saying.

AMEN.

II TIMOTHY 3:16,17.

GOOD MORNING! The Holy Bible declares for itself what it is, and how men are to receive it: *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

How did the holy scriptures, -the word of God, come to us? The text says that it was given by *"inspiration of God."* This is further explained in the writing of the apostle Peter: *"We have a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."*

All scripture, that is all the sacred writings to which we do well that we take heed, was spoken by holy men of God, as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. Not a sentence, not a line, not a paragraph, not a portion, not a book of the scripture of truth, has a man for its author. All scripture was given by *"inspiration of God"* -given by the breath of God.

We are being shown, in these passages of scripture that we are to receive the BIBLE in just the way it is written, because it is, from cover to cover, the word that God has given to us. We are to believe all of it, and live by all of it, and go to meet our Maker by the guidance of all of this book that was given to us by God.

We are shown the great value of the scriptures to our lives by the word *"profitable," "all scripture is profitable ... "* No earthly thing can be as precious to us as is the word of God.

The Holy Bible covers, with timeless instruction, every aspect of *"the life that now is and that which is to come."*

When the wicked one came, tempting our Saviour to make bread out of stones, his answer was: *"It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth of the mouth of God."*

The response of the Saviour, in everything "the tempter" sought to influence him, was: "It is written." Our LORD met "the tempter" for our sake. The weapon of our warfare with the tempter is the sword of the Spirit. We are to: *Put on the whole armor of God; ... taking the shield of faith whereby we may be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying with all prayer and supplications."*

The word of God is Heaven's storehouse for the needs of the man of God. God's word completely furnishes every child of God for the fulfilling of every good work that has been ordained by God.

The Holy BIBLE, makes God's salvation known to us in words that we can receive and believe, and obey. *"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ... I am not ashamed of the gospel of CHRIST for it is the power of God unto salvation; ... for therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, The just shall live by faith. ... For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the LORD endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."*

AMEN.

II TIMOTHY 4:9,10.

GOOD MORNING! The apostle Paul, at the end of his third missionary journey, was in Jerusalem to carry to completion the distribution of a liberal care package from the Gentile churches; on the mission field. While the apostle was doing this, he was taken by the leaders of the Jews and spent two full years as a prisoner in Cesarea, and then two more years as a house prisoner in Rome; before he was able to bring together his missionary team for preparing to carry the gospel farther to the West.

Paul, in writing to Timothy while making these preparations, mentioned a loss of a team mate: *Do thy diligence to come unto me: for Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica.*"

We do not know enough about Demas to write his biography, but we do have a word portrait that preaches a powerful sermon.

What happened to Demas? What turned his feet into the pathways of this earthly life? He certainly had been a working member of the great gospel team that turned the world upside down, for he is spoke of elsewhere as Paul's partner in the ministry.

We do not know any of the details of Demas "*forsaking*" Paul. other than the words in our text: "*Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.*"

What was it that caused Demas' defection? He fell in love with this present world.

Demas is one of a large number of those who have named the name of CHRIST, but have forsaken their participation in the work of the LORD for selfish reasons. (the love of this world is a selfish, and a loosing pattern of life) "*Love not the world, ... if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ... and the world passeth away, ... but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*"

No, I do not say that "forsaking the work of the LORD" deletes from the book of life, those who names are in the "book of life." Yes, most assuredly, all who having once begun, then cease to be faithful, are in the truest sense of the word, "*backsliders!*" And "*The backslider in heart is filled with his own ways.*"

Yes, the charge against Demas is a serious one, for Paul writes that Demas forsook the work, "*having loved this present world.*"

A man said to our LORD JESUS, "*LORD, I will follow thee whither soever thou goest. And JESUS said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.*"

That man was looking forward to an easy ride, to a successful and materially profitable journey; but there had not been a change of heart, nor a commitment of life to the way of the cross.

Without a change of heart, that can only be brought about by the surrender of the will to the grace of God, the way of the cross is not attractive to the natural man, and will not be followed very far. For *"the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, will choke out any commitment of faithfulness.*

Not one of us, can by himself stay the course. The true Christian is so altogether by the grace of God. It is the indwelling Holy Spirit that continually renews us as we *"grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To him be glory both now and for ever."*

The standing invitation of our LORD and Saviour is: *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.* On the authority of the scriptures, To follow the LORD JESUS in this life is to be carried to where he is now. Our LORD'S word to us is, Where I am there will my servant also be.

AMEN.

TITUS 2:11-14.

GOOD MORNING! In a personal letter, addressed to a long time coworker, and written by direction of the Holy Spirit, the apostle Paul speaks of the appearing of the gospel and the purpose of the gospel in this world: *"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour JESUS CHRIST; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."*

Our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST is himself the grace of God. He was sent by his Father into our world to be the sacrifice for the sin of the world. He is the Prophet, Priest, and King that God has given to us. *"In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with God, and the WORD was God. ... And the WORD was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. ... No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son who is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."*

He is the one mediator between God and men, *"We have such an high priest who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the LORD pitched, and not man."*

He is the reigning LORD to whom all authority and power has been given. God hath set him upon his holy hill of Zion. He is now the reigning LORD. *"For he must reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet. And the last enemy to be destroyed is death"*

When our LORD JESUS CHRIST ascended on high, he sent to us the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, he who illuminates the written word of God, he who teaches us by the scriptures,

The Holy Spirit is our guide into all truth *"for he shall not speak of himself,"* His ministry is to glorify our LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.

The Holy Spirit shows us by the scriptures how to live, and how, by our lives, we are to display the gospel, so that all men, everywhere, may hear the saving gospel. For *"God will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

JESUS CHRIST is LORD. *"Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved."*

All of the Christian's past and present is wrapped up in the God-planned future; *"For we are looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour JESUS CHRIST; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."*

The child of God lives his present life in reference to his future life. *"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."*

This means that the present is a time that has been given to the child of God to respond to the grace of God. *"Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life."*

Every redeemed child of God is being purified by the Holy Spirit's application of the word of God. And is, by God's grace, engaged in the good works *"which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."* Every born again person is a possessor of the *blessed hope, ... a hope that is sure and steadfast and that entereth into that within the veil; wither the forerunner is for us entered, even JESUS."*

AMEN.

TITUS 3:3-8.

GOOD MORNING! In the missionary epistle called TITUS, the children of God by faith in the LORD JESUS CHRIST, are shown why they should be earnestly seeking to influence the children of this world to receive the LORD JESUS CHRIST: *"For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through JESUS CHRIST our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying."*

Did you hear what the condition is of all of those who are outside of the faith of the LORD JESUS CHRIST? *"Foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another."*

The Psalmist shows us, also with picture words, how much the LORD'S grace has done by bringing him out of his sinful condition, and into a family relationship: *"I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet on a rock, and established my goings."*

We need to be well be informed, by reading the scriptures, that all the sons and daughters of Adam are either saved or lost; have eternal life, or they are lost and undone and without hope in this world. and scripture declares that there is no neutral ground.

God does not "balance the books in favor of good deeds outweighing the bad; God's plan for every individual, is their reception of God's grace salvation. *"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight. ... But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of JESUS CHRIST unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. ... Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed. ... For God will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

These scriptures, just quoted, show us plainly that God's gracious salvation is: *"according to his mercy he saves us, by the washing of*

regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he sheds on us abundantly through JESUS CHRIST our Saviour."

Scripture also shows us the fullness of God's salvation: *That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."*

To be justified means to be made right with God by the Holy Spirit's application of the righteousness of CHRIST, and this means to be accepted with God in CHRIST JESUS the LORD. *"Of him are ye in CHRIST JESUS, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the LORD."*

This glorious salvation that God has given to us in CHRIST JESUS the LORD, is to be manifested by the Christian in his active engagement, by his life and by his testimony, in the publication of the gospel. *"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. ... Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. ... We love him, because he first loved us. ... And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also."*

God has graciously assigned to each one of his children a place of service. His word of encouragement is: *"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."*

AMEN.