

“Stay In the Ministry”
Letters to Timothy — Part 1
1 Timothy 1:1-20

What’s a servant to do?

1. Remember your call to service.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope, To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 1 Timothy 1:1-2

***Paul was crystal clear about his call to ministry.
“I do it for Jesus’ sake!”***

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:23-24

“Payday - Someday! God said it - and it was done!”
Robert Green Lee—Baptist Preacher

2. Remember your task.

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work— which is by faith. 1 Timothy 1:3-4

For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms. Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm. Ephesians 6:12-13 (NLT)

“If you don’t get up in the morning and meet the devil, you’re just headed the wrong way.”
Robert Green Lee—Baptist Preacher

3. Remember the goal of your service.

The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have wandered away from these and turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm. 1 Timothy 1:5-7

4. Remember the standard for your service.

We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

1 Timothy 1:8-11

Application: Postmodernism is a philosophy determining right and wrong based on the immediate needs of the majority. Traditionalism says, “We’ve never done it that way before!” Neither are right! We must not look to either! Preach the Word! Proclaim the glorious Gospel!

Paul’s Testimony to the power of the Gospel

1. God’s grace was poured out on me—a sinner!

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 1:12-14

2. Jesus came to save sinners.

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 1:15-17

***“If Jesus came looking for sinners,
I was too big to ignore.”***

Chuck Swindoll—Pastor

Paul was proof that God could change a sinner!

3. Paul’s Encouragement to Timothy—Defend the Faith!

Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

1 Timothy 1:18-20

1. God called you!

2. Fight the good fight! (Proclaim and live the truth!)

3. Don't let your faith become shipwrecked!

Application: Jesus has assured ultimate victory! Don't get discouraged. Stay the course! Rest in the confidence that you have done all the Master has called you to do. Trust God!

For our present troubles are quite small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us an immeasurably great glory that will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (NLT)

Lifework: In what area of ministry have you begun to serve and now you are ready to throw in the towel? Friend, God calls you to a long obedience. Anything worth doing is always going to be hard at some point. Faithfulness means you hang in even when you feel like quitting. Remember who appointed you to the task. Remember who is trying to discourage you. Remember the eternal importance. Remember the rewards. Never give up!

It is God himself, in his mercy, who has given us this wonderful work [of telling his Good News to others], and so we never give up.

2 Corinthians 4:1 (TLB)