

CHAPTER 1

PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, *which is our hope;*

2 Unto Timothy, *my own son in the faith:* Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

3 As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: *so do.*

5. Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and *of* a good conscience, and *of* faith unfeigned:

6 From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;

7 Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

8 But we know that the law *is* good, if a man use it lawfully;

9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

11 According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

12. And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.

14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

15 This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, *be* honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

18. This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

CHAPTER 2

IEXHORT therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men;

2 For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a

quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

3 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

5 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, *and* lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

9. In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

CHAPTER 3

THIS *is* a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

8. Likewise *must* the deacons *be* grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy

lucre;

9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being *found* blameless.

11 Even so *must their wives be* grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.

12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

14. These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly:

15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

16 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.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

It is very likely that Paul was at Colosse visiting Philemon when he wrote this first letter to young Timothy. The letter is one of encouragement to Timothy. He was facing many difficult problems in the church. Evidently Timothy wanted to resign, and Paul's first encouragement was for him to stay and finish the task. Almost every Christian worker I know today, at one time or another, has been tempted by the devil to quit. It is always, without exception, too soon to quit. When troubles, trials, and tribulations fall upon you and the devil seems to have the upper hand, remember that God never wants you to quit. He wants you to keep on pressing toward the goal He has set before you, and He has promised to give you help and strength to accomplish that goal. Paul gives that same encouragement to Timothy throughout this first epistle to him.

In chapters 2 and 3 Paul discusses the public ministry of the church and the different roles of church members. In chapter 2 the emphasis is placed on prayer. In verses 1-8 Paul tells Timothy the importance of prayer in the local church. He explains that prayer is a vital part of any local church. The strength of a local church is in direct proportion to its constant communion with God through prayer. Paul exhorts us to pray.

In chapter 3 Paul writes to Timothy concerning the New Testament pastor, listing his personal qualifications (verses 2,3); family qualifications (verses 4,5); and church qualifications (verses 6,7). Then, in verses 8-13, we find the standards for the New Testament deacons. If our churches today would follow these simple instructions, they would do away with many of the problems facing them. We all too often attempt to run things our own way, without the leadership of the Holy Spirit. When this happens, our plans are doomed because, without the leadership of the Holy Spirit, nothing of lasting value can be accomplished—either individually or on a church basis. It is time our churches came back to God and the leading of His Holy Spirit so that He can do the work He so greatly desires to do through Christians.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"It is joy to the just to do judgment: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity" (Proverbs 21:15).

HYMN FOR THE DAY

ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

James Montgomery, 1771-1854

All my heart this night rejoices

as I hear, far and near, Sweetest angel voices.

*"Christ is born" their choirs are singing,
Till the air everywhere now with joy is ringing.*

—Paul Gerhardt

"Angels, From the Realms of Glory" is considered by many students of hymnody to be one of our finest Christmas hymns. In a unique style it addresses first the angelic chorus in the first stanza, then the shepherds in the second stanza, the wise men in the third, and finally today's believers—calling all to worship Christ our King. Worship is the very essence of the entire Christmas story.

James Montgomery was known as a deeply devoted, noble person who made an important contribution to English hymnody through his many inspiring texts. At the age of 23 he was appointed editor of the weekly Sheffield Register in London, maintaining this position for the next 31 years. As editor of this paper Montgomery championed many different causes, such as the abolition of slavery. "Angels, From the Realms of Glory" first appeared as a poem in Montgomery's newspaper on December 24, 1816. Later it was published in a hymnal titled Montgomery's Original Hymns and was known as "Good Tidings of Great Joy to All People."

*Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:*

*Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:*

*Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen His natal star:*

*Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in His temple shall appear:*

Refrain:

*Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 28 (found on page 6).

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1714

GEORGE WHITEFIELD WAS BORN.

George Whitefield was one of the great preachers of England. I count him as one of the great preachers of history, especially of England. It is said that he preached three thousand times on the subject, "Ye Must Be Born Again."

He preached to crowds of over 10,000 without a public address system. Oftentimes he would preach with blood streaming down his face where stones had been thrown at him. He was a fearless preacher and a great preacher. He was a contemporary of Wesley and one whom the Lord used to open doors for Wesley. Some, yea, many, give him much credit for Wesley's great ministry.

1799

GEORGE WASHINGTON DIED.

Again let us pause to thank God for his life and to

pray for our President today.

1896

JAMES DOOLITTLE WAS BORN.

1819

ALABAMA WAS ADMITTED TO THE UNION.

Pray today for preachers, churches, and Christians in Alabama. There are many wonderful people in this state. I have always found a warmth there among God's people. Let us pray for the brethren of Alabama today.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1968

Classes of San Francisco State suspended after demonstrations by Black Student Union and Third World Liberation Front.

Sammy Davis Jr. awarded Spingarn Medal for his "superb and many-faceted talent," and his contributions to the civil rights movement.

MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 28 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION: CHRIST'S BIOGRAPHY PREWRITTEN

His Birth (742 B.C.)

() Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Fulfilled—Matthew 1:23)

His Birth Place (710 B.C.)

() Micah 5:2

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. (Fulfilled—Matthew 2:5-6)

Rejected by His own people (712 B.C.)

() Isaiah 53:3

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised and we esteemed him not. (Fulfilled—John 1:11)

Sold for 30 pieces of silver (487 B.C.)

() Zechariah 11:12

And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price: and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. (Fulfilled—Matthew 26:14-16)

Hands and feet pierced (1000 B.C.)

() Psalms 22:16

For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. (Fulfilled—John 19:37)