



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

“RETAIN THE STANDARD!” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:13

COLORADO

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Dan File, P.O. Box 1088, Lake City, CO 82135-1088/303-345-8830 / filefamily@centurytel.net

Paul was profoundly certain that his life was protected by the power of God; he had complete confidence not in what he knew, but in Whom he knew! In spite of hardships and suffering, Paul entrusted his life, his soul in salvation, his work, his mission, his ministry, his safety... his all, with God for His guarding. And Paul knew with certainty that nothing would be lost. God was able, could, and would guard, keep, and protect his soul and life's investment until the end. As a believer, all that we are, the ministry we have done, the eternal investments we have made in the lives of others, God will guard until that day for His safekeeping and nothing will be lost. Our life, our work for the Lord that has His eternal purpose and significance will remain until that day when we stand before Him and lay down our life's work before Him. Until then, we must remain faithful knowing no matter what this life brings. It is these truths that can strengthen and enable us to stand through the fiercest of hardship and suffering. And Paul's message of exhortation, hope and encouragement to Timothy still reaches out to all true believers.

I. “RETAIN THE STANDARD!” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:13

2 Timothy 1:13, “Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”

Timothy had been saved with a holy calling for God's purpose and Paul reminds him that he was secure in the One he had placed his life, his trust and his confidence in. Now, Paul calls on Timothy to retain that standard of truth that changed his life forever, because it is the Word of God that does the work of God in our lives.

Therefore, Paul issues two imperatives in 2 Timothy 1:13-14; *“Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.”*

A. “RETAIN THE STANDARD OF SOUND WORDS” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:13

Paul calls on Timothy to hold tightly to the truths he has been taught.

“**retain**” Greek **ἠχο** means steadfast adherence.

“**standard**” Greek **ἡυποτύπωσις** means a pattern, example, refers to a rough sketch that sets the guidelines for the finished work, a writers outline.

“**sound**” Greek **ἡυγιανό** means healthy, sound in health and faith.

“**words**” Greek **ἡλογος** means instruction, expression of thought.

Paul calls Timothy to hold tightly to the pattern of truth that he taught him. Stay within that teaching and hold on to that sound doctrine. Steadfastly adhere and do not depart from the standard of

truth you have been given. What is that standard? Our standard as believers is God's Word. It is divinely inspired, absolute truth that is sufficient and complete for this life. Later, Paul gives this insight for Timothy regarding God's Word; 2 Timothy 3:15-17, *“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”*

Jesus said in John 8:32, *“If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”* Clearly Jesus reminded His disciples of the perfect nature of His Word and its' power to save. Later in His prayer to the Father offered just before He went to the cross, He said in John 17:17, *“Sanctify them in the truth, Thy word is truth.”* What changes a life? God's Word! And what is truth? *“Thy Word”!*

Our words are powerless, even the most effective words cannot save or change a life. Only the Word of God is effective in calling one to salvation, transforming a heart and renewing the mind through its sanctifying work in cooperation with the Holy Spirit. And it is God's Word that teaches us about Who God is and offers the unshakeable pillars of truth we can live by and rely upon.

Paul calls on Timothy to hold tightly and affirm right doctrine. That requires that we know it. Many Christians, perhaps most, do not have the courage of their convictions simply because they have no clear understanding of what they believe. Before you are willing to put your life on the line for what you believe like Paul, you must believe it!

Some may think that to hold to Biblical doctrine can be unloving or unkind. There is little regard for Biblical truth with a standard for living. But Paul reminds us in 2 Timothy 4:3-4 there are those who will not endure sound doctrine but rather just want to feel good. Conviction often doesn't feel good but God's Word isn't meant to tickle our ears.¹

From Acts 2:42 and Acts 5:28 we find that the very first thing the believers were pursuing was the Apostles' teaching, doctrine, set of beliefs. In Acts 6:4, the Apostles devoted themselves to *“prayer and to the ministry of the word.”* They knew it was the Word of God that does the work of God. They understood the importance of steadfast adherence to the truth they had been taught. They took seriously their responsibility to *“holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.”* (Titus 1:9)

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

Colorado

“RETAIN THE STANDARD!” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:13

Paul calls on Timothy to watch his doctrine, hold tightly to the pattern of truth he had been taught, hold on to sound doctrine and do not depart from it. Do not compromise it, change it, soften the message or dilute it. It has been said that time is able to erode even the highest mountain. So Paul exhorts Timothy to watch his doctrine and make sure that it will not erode through even the harshest adversity or the passage of undisciplined years. Hold tightly to that pattern passed on, never loosely. This was not only for Timothy’s benefit but for the welfare of all in his care. Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 4:16, *“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”*

Raymond Perron wrote this in regards to this passage; “Consider the value of a human soul! The soul, “the life of the life”, as someone called it is capable of an eternity of good or woe. A soul possesses incalculable potentialities of good and evil extending in a boundless eternity. Consider the importance of your care to such a soul and the consequences of neglecting it. It has been said that the value of a thing is measured by the price paid for it. The cost of the souls that our Lord committed to your care was nothing less than the blood of the Eternal Son of God Himself. So, when you appraise the souls committed to you, you must not only reflect on what they are and what they should be but also appreciate the value that God Himself has set upon them. You will certainly understand, beloved friend, that if I insist so much on the necessity to watch your doctrine, it is because so many circumstances and foes are going to try to prevent you from doing so.”²

Our mission is not to make up the message, but to faithfully deliver the one we have been given by God. We must watch our doctrine, our beliefs, the pattern of truth revealed in Scripture and be faithful to teach all that God has delivered to us in His Word. There are many counterfeit gospels. Satan doesn’t want the truth of our Lord’s teaching to set anyone free. Any measure God’s truth can be diluted, diminished, altered or reduced to a palatable message distorts the very gospel we are called to steadfastly adhere to and proclaim faithfully. Therefore we must hold tightly to the pattern of truth that God’s Word teaches. We must stay within that teaching and hold on to that sound doctrine. We are not given the liberty to change the message and we must keep the same pattern. Why? Because it is the pattern our Lord laid out for us and it is His truth that saves souls and transforms lives.

B. “WHICH YOU HAVE HEARD FROM ME” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:13

2 Timothy 1:13, “Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”

How was Timothy to retain the standard of sound words? First, by looking to Paul as an example to follow. Paul lived his life before Timothy without filters. Paul taught, preached, lived and wrote the gospel in the midst of the harshest of circumstances. And Paul calls on Timothy to remain true to the pattern Paul had lived as a faithful example over many years which he had witnessed first-hand.

C. “IN THE FAITH AND LOVE WHICH ARE IN CHRIST JESUS.” – 2 TIMOTHY 1:13

How else was Timothy to retain the standard of sound words? Paul says in the *“faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”* “*In the faith*” refers to the right attitude of confidence toward God believing that what He says is true no matter what the world would say. And “*in the love*” which points us to the kindness and compassion towards others. Never cold or insensitive but seeing believers and unbelievers as God sees them and loving them as God loves them. How are we to retain the standard as we hold tightly to the pattern of sound teaching found in Scripture? Since it might at first seem insensitive or harsh, unloving or unkind, Paul reminds Timothy that our work must be done with confidence in God’s truth to save as the message He has given, and with a loving, sensible, compassionate heart for others as demonstrated by the Lord Himself. Compassion and love give no room for compromise. In fact, because of that love and compassion for the lost we will share the truth of the gospel and never waiver or deviate from the truth we have been taught or what is revealed in God’s Word and it will be with a love and compassion as demonstrated by Jesus Christ for all.

What Paul says to Timothy, he says to every believer...*retain the standard of sound words.* Ask yourself the following questions.

- ✚ Are you retaining the standard of sound words given to you through God’s Word? Does what you believe, teach and share accurately reflect what God has written and declared in His Word?
- ✚ Remember, to hold to the truth, you must know the truth. You must spend your life growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18) Are you committed to that in word and deed?
- ✚ Are you willing to accept nothing less than the exact pattern of declared and written truth revealed in God’s Word for your life or are you compromising?

¹MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary on 2 Timothy*. Moody Press: Chicago, 1998. Pg.29.

²Ascol, Thomas K., *Dear Timothy, Letters on Pastoral Ministry*. Founders Press: Cape Coral, FL., 2004. Pg. 189