



Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

Volume XV

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A MAN OF GOD

Introduction: "But thou, O man of God, FLEE these things; and FOLLOW after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH, LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou KEEP THIS COMMANDMENT without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Tim. 6:11-14).

Some the Bible Labels

Men of God

(1) Moses (Deut. 33:1; Josh. 14:6; I Chron. 23:44; II Chron. 30:16; Ezra 3:2); (2) Samuel (I Sam. 9:6ff.); (3) The young prophet of Judah (I Kings 13); (4) Elijah (I Kings 17:18, 24; II Kings 1:9ff.; 4:7ff.); (5) Elisha (II Kings 5:8ff.; 6:6ff.; 8:1ff.; 13:19); (6) Prophets in general (I Sam. 2:27; I Kings 20:28; 7:1ff); (7) David (II Chron. 8:14; Neh. 12:24, 36).

There are a number of lessons from the lives of these men of God. (1) Men of God

need to be trained (Moses and the sons of the Prophets are examples). (2) It is possible to understand the duties of God. (3) It is possible to become unfaithful in a charge given you (Moses, the young prophet, David, et al.) (4) Being men of God does not mean that there will be no difficulties before you. These men suffered from their own people. (5) Men of God must speak the message of God faithfully. (6) It is possible for men of God to become discouraged. (7) There were few things more needed in their day, and in our day we have a great need for men of God.

What is required for us to be a man of God?

Equipment

of The Man of God

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 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, throughly furnished unto all good works" (II Tim. 3:15-17).

The Man of God

Must Flee These Things

There are some things in the immediate context of our text that Paul states the man of God must avoid. The nearest to our text is the love of money. He shows why this is true. The love of money is the root cause of all kinds of evil and many are deceived in the process. Sorrows abound for those that have never learned this vital lesson. Some even preach or practice religion with the deluded view that godliness is a means of gain. Paul's admonition to the "man of God" is that he flee these things (I Tim. 6:5-10).

False doctrine is also to be avoided. It occupies the verses in the paragraph above that begins at First Timothy 6:3. It reminds one of the words of the First Psalm, does it not? "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" (Psalm 1:1-3).

The fruits of false doctrine are ignored by many today. Paul brings them to our memory in these verses: "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness" (I Tim. 6:3-5).

Another "thing" of the "things" the "man of God" is to flee from stated in the immediate context of our text is the **involvement in someone else's problems without cause** (I Tim. 5:17-25). Those in leadership that are wrong are to be rebuked but there is a need to be sure that the charge is true. It is easy to become involved in the private squabbles of others to your own hurt as well as the harm done to the cause you are committed to promote (I Tim. 5:22). The "man of God" must flee these things.

The Man of God Must Follow After—

Men of God are to be positive as well as negative in their spiritual devotion. That was true of those labeled as men of God in the passages above and it must be true of men of God today.

(1) Among those components are **Righteousness and Godliness**. It might be said that these two are inseparable. Righteousness stresses our relationship to God and our fellowman and the motivating factor behind or every act is our relationship with God. These are

to be pursued continually. This duty is seen in the commandments that are considered first and second in God's requirements (Matt. 22:34-40; Luke 10:25-29). Righteousness and godliness are so intertwined that if we fail in one we fail in the other. Continued devotion to these will help one be the people of God—a "man of God."

(2) In like manner there is a relationship inherent in **Faith and Love**. Without faith we can not please God (Heb. 11:6) and without love we are nothing and accomplish nothing before God (I Cor. 13:1-3; 16:22). In order to be men and women of God we will continually follow the course of God that faith and love (devoutly willing the highest good) demands.

(3) **Patience and Meekness** must be a constant in the lives of people of God. Patience has to do with our continuing and persevering in all circumstances that we encounter. Meekness has to do with that quality of life that combines courage, strength and kindness. Christianity is not something with which we are born. It demands our best and molds us into the likeness of our Saviour and Lord. Moses and Christ stand out in the Bible as examples of these great moral principles. To be men of God we must be like this.

Fight the Good Fight of the Faith

We must remember, as men of God—soldiers of the Christ—we are in a battle for our souls and the souls of others. We have no choice, we must fight. Fighting is not all that is involved, we must fight the GOOD fight. We must know what to fight and what not to fight. We must know when to fight and

when not to fight. We must know where to fight and how to fight. These reflections should better prepare us to fight the good fight.

The faith demands that we fight (Jude 3). The faith is that which directs our battles—our fight. The faith is the foundation of many of our battles. The faith is that which motivates us for the battles of life—Onward Christian Soldiers! Does not the Hebrew writer mention "By Faith" great things were accomplished by men of faith (Heb. 11)? Paul acknowledges his "good fight" (I Tim. 4:6). People of God can do no less.

Lay Hold On Eternal Life

The man of God has "abundant life" (John 10:10) in this world. He understands the difference between existence and life before God. Men have existence but they long for meaning for their existence. Life in this world is often lacking in essential elements. At times, that for which we long to obtain is never realized.

Ultimate life is that which is in the presence of God. This is life eternal and this is the life that the man of God desires and should ever hold before him as the preeminent goal. It should have been before us when we

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made the good confession that leads unto life eternal. Since we are risen with Him we must seek those things that are above (Col. 3:1-4). In this eternal life we have a life that does not fade away, prepared by the Lord (II Cor. 4:16-5:10). In it we have the city that occupied the grand hope of the journey of Abraham and the faithful of all ages (Heb. 11:10, 13-16; 12:22ff.).

Keep the Commandment

This charge must not be taken lightly. It is given by the Apostle Paul. It is given before God who gives life to all things. It is given before Christ Jesus whose confession before Pontius Pilate resulted in His lose of life here, but ushered Him into His ultimate state of glory and honor. Any directive that is placed in such an awesome setting must not be ignored. What is the charge, order, command? Keep the commandment!

Other passages will help us appreciate the duty enjoined. In Romans 7:12 God's charges are called holy, righteous, and good. This that is holy, righteous and good is to be taught all men everywhere (Matt. 28:20). In the mandates of God are those things which make us loved by God and insure our relationship with Him (John 14:15, 21; 15:10). The clearest expression of this charge I know of is the following: "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it" (II John 6). This is true if it is only a single charge (command) or if there are many (commandments).

These things (His commandments and mandates) entrusted to us must be kept without spot, and without

reproach until our Lord comes again. That some are not as concerned about this directive is evident to anyone with eyes to see. There are those who take liberty with what God has charged upon us. Peter describes their practices and fate. He warns all not to be led astray by unstable and unfaithful souls who twist the Scriptures to their own destruction (II Peter 3:14-18).

Lenski's comments here are to the point. "It is plain that no one 'observes' or 'obeys' the commandment unless he keeps it intact, prevents anyone from tampering with it, altering, reducing or adding to it. Only he who is so concerned about it will be concerned about really believing and 'observing' it with meticulous obedience. To drop the one part of the meaning of the verb is to slacken hold of the other part. He who guards will obey; he who really obeys must guard.

[He continues in the next paragraph] As the passages in John's and in Matthew's Gospels show, 'the commandment' is Jesus' 'Word' or his 'words,' and no less is referred to by Paul. It is the substance of 'the noble confession,' the substance of 'The Faith' (v.12). The term thus needs no further definition: it is all that Christ commands us to believe, teach, confess, keep inviolate, guard against alteration, obey, adhere to throughout our lives." (*Interpretation of First Timothy*, pp. 721-722).

Conclusion

Let us understand what it means to be a man of God. Let us apply these sacred mandates of God to our lives that we might be a light to the world of what men of God ought to be. Let us flee, follow, fight the good fight of

the faith, lay hold on eternal life, keep the commandment without spot. May we instill these truths in men we encourage to preach the gospel. [Editor.]

Correction

In the last issue of the Harvesters we INCORRECTLY STATED that Victor Jarrell had retired from preaching. He is still preaching and is at the present time seeking a congregation in this area with which to work. He has his support and is willing to preach for a congregation that can not financially support a preacher. If you are interested in brother Jerrell's services you may reach him by writing:

Victor Jerrell

1404 Lake Bass Drive
Lake Worth, FL 33461.

In the process of reorganizing the library, we have had the need for a copy of the Dewey Decimal System book. A local librarian attempted to find a copy of the book for us. When she could not locate one in her library, she put out an appeal for someone who had an old copy.

In a matter of a few weeks we had a four volume edition sent to us at no charge from the Pasco County Library. Below you will find a copy of the letter of thanks.

Dear Ms. Neff,

I want to thank you for sending me the complete 20th edition of the Dewey Decimal system. It is going to help us so much with our cataloging. All we had to work with was an abridged copy on loan from the public library.

I had intended on trying to buy a used copy of this publication...By your giving us this, it has saved us some money and time trying to locate it. I would be more than willing to pay for the postage if you want, but you indicated that this was not necessary.

Again let me say how appreciative

I am for your help.

Sincerely,

Rachel Capps, Secretary

Schedule of Classes for the Fall Semester 1995

HOURS	COURSE	INSTRUCTOR	CREDIT
Monday			
8:30-12:00	Romans	Davis	3
1:00-4:15	Logic	Burgett	3
Tuesday			
8:30-12:00	Greek I	Stearsman	3
1:00-4:15	Genesis-Exodus	Stilwell	3
7:00-9:30	Bible Study Resources	Blackman	2½
Wednesday			
8:30-12:00	Revelation	Stearsman	3
1:00-4:15	Isaiah & Jeremiah	McAnally	3
Thursday			
8:30-12:00	Computers & Churches	Stearsman	3
1:00-4:15	I & II Corinthians	Davidson	3
Friday			
8:30-12:00	Denominational Dogmas	Daugherty	3
1:00-4:15	Bible Geography & Archaeology	Franklin	3

Registration :

August 25, 1995

Classes Begin:

August 28, 1995

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