

Monday, 1 January 2018 1 Timothy 6:20a

O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you.

What is the deposit entrusted to Timothy? The caveats are covered in 1 Timothy 6:1-10 and Paul's counsel is summed up in:

1 Timothy 6:11-12 But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

That advice extends through the centuries to me. My marching orders as an Ambassador of Reconciliation, posted to the Kingdom of Heaven in the Here and Now. May I faithfully execute my responsibilities.

Tuesday, 2 January 2018 2 Timothy 1:12 b

But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.

Can I sing with Paul, "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed against that day."? Can I stand before my family, friends, and neighbors and say, "I am not ashamed?" Lord, fill me with the boldness of the Apostle Paul. Lord, that my testimony would be fearless.

Wednesday, 3 January 2018 2 Timothy 1:13-14

Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

I have been given a trust in my posting as an Ambassador of Reconciliation, it is the portfolio that is given to every ambassador—to faithfully represent the interests of my country. Praise the Lord; my appointment comes with a very special and powerful aide-de-camp, the Holy Spirit. See John 15:26,16:7-15

Thursday, 4 January 2018 2 Timothy 2:1-2

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

I, like Timothy, am commanded to pass the portfolio on to others and instruct them to teach. This is a command to be a faithful discipler, one who teaches carefully and correctly as he has been taught. It is not a command to convert sinners; it is a restatement of Matthew 28:19 to "make disciples as I go."

Friday, 5 January 2018 2 Timothy 2:11-13

The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

When Paul tells me that something is trustworthy, it is the highest accolade that he can put on the statement. A real, "sit up and pay attention, John, what I am about to tell you is of the utmost importance." He's telling me that if I am obedient, He will use me to advance His Kingdom. However, if I am disobedient, I will lose my portfolio. However, no matter how unfaithful I am, He must remain faithful, He can do no else.

Saturday, 6 January 2018 2 Timothy 3:1-5

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

The list of disobedient behaviors extends far beyond disobedience to parents. It is a complete list of behaviors that demonstrate obedience to pleasure not obedience to God. And it comes with a warning; such behaviors will become more prevalent in the latter days. We need to be on our guard against infiltration into the Church

Lord's Day, 7 January 2018 Psalm 119:89-91

Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast. By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants.

All things serve You. Everything, whether circumstances or physical things, emotions to earthquakes, all are called according to Your purpose and to accomplish their role in bringing honor and glory to Your name.

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



January 1-7, 2018

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Ephesians 1:18-19a

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

LORD, my prayer for the [congregation] is that the perceptions of our hearts would be inflamed and filled with passion by the hope to which we are called; that those saints we are called to serve would be encouraged to display the riches of Your glorious inheritance in every aspect of their lives. That none of us would doubt that incomparable great power which accomplishes more than we can ask or imagine. *Amen*

Creational Theology hint for the week--*Blessing of a Restless Heart*

Many a time I wish I were other than I am. /I weary of my life's boundaries. I long to be rid of the weight of my duties. /I hunger for an ampler life. /You, my Savior, who are both wisdom and compassion, /Set me free from the lordship of desire. /Help me to find my happiness here, /In acceptance of my life's circumstance; /In friendly eyes, /In work well done, /In quietness born of trust, /And most of all, in the knowledge of Your presence /Here, in this time, this place.

Anamchara Books. Earth Afire with God: Celtic Prayers for Ordinary Life (Kindle Locations 392-399). Anamchara Books. Kindle Edition.

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