2 Timothy - Commentaries by Paul J. Pascoe

CareLines: Volume 3, Fear

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JUNE 12

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7

The word for fear is the same one used in Revelation 21:8 in the list of those who have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone. The first on that list is “fearful”. Fear, or timidity, or cowardice, is not from God. We often feel afraid when there’s a chance to witness to our friends for the Lord. We are timid in standing up and letting the world know that we’re a Christian. But this is not what God wants. Sure there are some who are naturally more timid than others. They’re just made that way. But God has given each of His own the power, and the love, and the discretion to be effective witnesses for Him.

CareLines: Volume 3, Service

NOVEMBER 16

He oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain.

2 Timothy 1:16

Onesiphorus labored for the Lord in a special way. He often visited the Apostle Paul in prison and encouraged him. Onesiphorus was not ashamed to be identified with the imprisoned Apostle. Paul perhaps got discouraged at times in his prison cell, but a visit from this servant of Christ really refreshed him and helped him not give up.

CareLines: Volume 2, Honor

2TI 2:20

In a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth.

2 Tim. 2:20

The verse goes on to say, “and some to honor and some to dishonor. If a man therefore purge himself from these [that is, the vessels unto dishonor], he shall be a vessel unto honor.” Your friends can make you a vessel unto dishonor. Who are your friends? Some will try to live a life to please the Lord, and some may be involved in worldly activities. At the end of his life Solomon’s heart was turned away from the Lord by his wives. He became a vessel to dishonor. The same could happen to you because of your friends. Be careful.

CareLines: Volume 2, Endurance

2TI 2:3

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2 Tim. 2:3

I have never been in the armed forces but friends of mine who have tell me that basic training is not for softies. It is rigorous, repetitive physical conditioning, done to equip the soldier to be fit and able to take care of himself in battle. We Christians are soldiers in the Lord’s army. We are fighting the toughest enemy of all time - Satan and his angels. Wimps won’t make it. You have to be tough. That’s why the Apostle Paul in our verse exhorted Timothy to endure hardness, to put up with the trials and difficulties, and keep fighting - to be a good soldier. A coward turns and runs. A good soldier keeps on facing the enemy and doesn’t give up.

CareLines: Volume 3, Entangled

JUNE 8

No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

2 Timothy 2:4

The word “entangled” is from a Greek word that means to “weave in”. This brings a very strong picture before us which goes much deeper than our usual thoughts about the word. In West Africa the Urhobo chiefs wear beautiful, multicolored robes which often display a thin gold thread intricately woven through the fabric, making the robe reflect the rays of the sun in a gorgeous way. This should be the character of our lives. That thin gold thread would remind us of the glorious person of Christ who should be woven into the very fabric of our lives so that we reflect His glory to those around. When we weave ourselves into the affairs of this life the gold thread won’t show.

CareLines: Volume 3, Iniquity

Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

2 Timothy 2:19

Scripture is clear. There is a call to the individual to depart from iniquity - whether religious or moral. Christ cannot link His name with evil. Therefore, if we ever find ourselves identified with that which either supports evil or is evil, we are called to depart from it. Take that step of faith. Leave what is evil and let the Lord show you what the next step is.

CareLines: Volume 3, Servants

NOVEMBER 9

The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all.

2 Timothy 2:24

We feel rebuked by this verse. Our natural tendency when things don’t go our way is to fight and argue and try to make opposers see things like we do. But Paul reminds us that the true servant of the Lord is not an arguer nor a fighter, but is gentle to all. Let’s be gentle servants for Christ, just as He was a gentle person. “The fruit of the Spirit is. . . gentleness.” Galatians 5:22.

CareLines: Volume 7, Arguing

Strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

2 Timothy 2:14

We can spend endless hours arguing over doctrine, the meanings of words, philosophies and many other things. But for the most part these arguments do nothing for the participants or for the spectators. How much better to read the Scriptures with an open heart so that the Lord can teach us His way. Then we can better serve Him and be a spiritual example to others.

CareLines: Volume 2, Service: 2TI 3:17

2TI 3:17

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Tim. 3:17

The Lord’s plan for His people is that they will do good works. But to be ready to do them we have to be in the right state - that is, we are living and behaving in the way God likes. If you read the prior verse (16) in your Bible you will see that we need all of Scripture and we need to apply it before we can be perfect (or mature) and ready for good works. Good works without a Godly life are wasted time. Live your life right before God first (starting NOW) - then you can serve properly.

CareLines: Volume 2, Scriptures, The

2TI 3:15

The holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2 Tim. 3:15

Some time ago, at a large airport, a dirty small box, of considerable weight, was kicked around on the floor, being used as a door stop when needed. It had been there for some time, and no one seemed to know where it came from. Finally, someone became curious and it was pried open. It contained a gold brick! It had been part of a cargo shipped by air through a carefully guarded route, and in such crude looking boxes as a security disguise. One box had dropped off the cart! It was returned to the government authorities. So it is with the precious Bible, the Word of God contained in a book. Collecting dust perhaps, ignored, and used as an ornament, or to keep things in, or just kicked around! But it is priceless!

CareLines: Volume 2, Example: 3

2TI 3:14

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them.

2 Tim. 3:14

The Word of God places special emphasis on that which we learn from people we know, because we can see if the teachings are carried out in the life of the teacher. I hope that you may find the thoughts in CARELINES helpful, even though you may not know me. However, I would encourage you to place special value on that which you have learned and seen carried out by those in your assembly. Books, tapes, broadcasts and other study aids may be good for reference, but there is no substitute for seeing the Word of God carried out in the daily life of a believer.

CareLines: Volume 3, Self

JUNE 9

For men shall be lovers of their own selves.

2 Timothy 3:2

In this epistle we have a description of God's house on earth in disorder. It's called a "great house". This includes many professing Christians who are not really born again - they just say they are. In our verse today we have a long list of characteristics of those who are not true children of God. And it begins with "lovers of their own selves." When found in real Christians, self-centeredness and selfishness are sinful attitudes which lead to many problems. Let us all try to occupy our thoughts with the Lord Jesus, to give Him the first place in our lives, and not to put ourselves in the limelight.

ASK THE LORD

CareLines: Volume 3, Proud

OCTOBER 30

In the last days . . . men shall be . . . high-minded.

2 Timothy 3:1-4

High-minded. This word really means, "To be wrapped in smoke," or proud. Man is a very proud creature. Proud of his accomplishments, his intellect, his abilities. And in it all man has left God completely out of the picture. Pride and God don't get along. Because of pride, Lucifer was cast out of heaven. And because of pride man will be cast out into everlasting darkness.

CareLines: Volume 7, Scripture

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable.

2 Timothy 3:16

Because the Scriptures are inspired by God, we can trust them. God cannot lie - therefore what is in the Bible is the absolute truth. The Bible is not just a storybook. It is living and powerful. It exposes the heart of man and displays the love of God. Its instruction is profitable for every step we take. We will really miss out on a lot if we don't read from it every day. In its pages are instructions to help us get to know God, to live to please Him, and details on the wonderful future that God has prepared for those that love Him.

CareLines: Volume 3, Service

MAY 4

Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

2 Timothy 4:11

There are many who have given up their jobs and are serving the Lord full time. That is not the question here. The point is that every one of you who knows the Lord Jesus as Saviour should be, and indeed can be, profitable to Him in His work. Satan would try to bring other things into your lives so that you are not useful to the Lord. Ask Him sincerely in prayer to show you how you can serve Him today. We often speak of activities that are either profitable or unprofitable, but the question is, “Are you profitable?”

CareLines: Volume 7, Forgiveness

I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

2 Timothy 4:16

The Apostle Paul finds on one occasion that his “friends” have forsaken him. Instead of being bitter towards them, he prays for them and we see that there is no hint of reprisal or rebuke. He exhibits the same heart that the Lord Jesus had when on the cross He said, “Father, forgive them.” What a great thing to have a forgiving spirit. This is truly the spirit of Christ.

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