2 Timothy - Commentaries by Henry Allan Ironside

Daily Sacrifice, October 8

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“Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; when I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also” —2 Timothy 1:4, 5.

THE home in which Timothy grew up was not actually Christian, as the gospel did not came to his mother and grandmother until after he was well-grown, and his father is not said to have been even a proselyte to Judaism. But it was a pious, Jewish home, nevertheless, where the sacred Scriptures were read and loved, and so the heart of the lad was ready for the message of the grace of God in Christ, when Paul and Barnabas came to Lystra and Derbe. Timothy’s early training bore rich fruit in future years, and led to his becoming an earnest servant of the Lord Jesus after he was converted through Paul’s ministry.

—Carl Johann Philipp Spitta.

Daily Sacrifice, October 9

“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 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 Tim. 2:1-4.

THE believer is not only a child of God, redeemed by the precious blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18, 19), but he is called to do valiant soldier-service, contending earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3). This figure is frequently used in the Epistles. Note specially 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:8, as well as our present text. The Christian life is a constant warfare. We have three subtle and cruel enemies ever arrayed against us—the world, the flesh, and the Devil—and against all these we are called to make a resolute stand. We do not fight in our own strength but as we are empowered by Him whose soldiers we are.

—Lillian M. Weeks.

Daily Sacrifice, October 10

“Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil-doer, even unto bonds; but the Word of God is not bound” —2 Timothy 2:8, 9.

“REMEMBER... Jesus Christ.” It is really a battle cry—as of late we hear often the slogan “Remember Bataan.” The word “that” is omitted from the Revised Version. When pressed by the foe, even to the point where one despairs of life, let us remember Him who could not be overcome of death, but arose in triumph from the grave. It is He who beckons us on to ultimate victory. His promises never fail of fulfillment. So Paul could say, in his distress, “I suffer... even unto bonds... but the Word of God is not bound.” Shut up in prison, it might appear as though the Apostle were defeated, but the Word he had proclaimed was bearing fruit still. That Word could not be fettered or destroyed.

—H. F. Lyte.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, November 18

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will” —2 Timothy 2:24-26.

CHRIST was the perfect Servant who came not to do His own will, but the will of the Father who sent Him. He has left us an example that we should follow His steps. There is a new glory shed on the servant’s path since He has trodden it before us. Those who now would follow Him as ministers of the Word are called to lowliness and patient grace. Self-assertiveness, emulation of others, string for recognition by men rather than seeking the honor that comes from God only, are utterly foreign to the spirit of true service. Christ’s representatives are to manifest the meekness and gentleness that were seen in all their perfection in Him whom they own as their Master in heaven.

Daily Sacrifice, October 11

“Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 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”—2 Timothy 3:14, 15.

TIMOTHY had been instructed carefully by his godly Jewish mother and grandmother (1:5). So when he heard the gospel he was ready to receive it in all simplicity. Paul exhorts him to continuance in the study of and obedience to the sacred writings of the Old Testament, which had been the means of preparing his heart for the gospel message.

It is a great thing thus to learn the Word of God in the family circle. Timothy’s mother had given heed to the commandments regarding this, as in Deuteronomy 6. Teaching a child the truth of Scripture is like placing kindling and fuel in order. Then when a match is struck, it bursts into a flame. So Timothy’s heart and mind had been stored with the Word. Paul’s preaching brought definite conviction and decision, and so Timothy was made “wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

—W. M. Czamanske.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, November 19

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” —2 Timothy 3:16,17.

IT is of all importance to realize that “to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams” (1 Sam. 15:22). The only way anyone can know what is acceptable to God is through careful and prayerful consideration of His written Word, which is the revelation of the living Word (Heb. 4:12, 13). Forms and ceremonies, no matter how impressive, doctrines and traditions, no matter how venerable, are all to be refused if contrary to the mind of the Lord as set forth in the Bible. The supreme test is “What saith the Scripture?” Where the Word speaks, it should be ours to obey. Where Scripture is silent, we may well be silent, too. But a merely mental acceptance of Bible doctrines will not do for God. There must be heart subjection to His truth. When Christ is received by faith, and His Word becomes the rule of our lives, we shall be enabled to glorify God in all our ways (Isa. 59:21).

—John Fawcett.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, November 20

“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing” —2 Timothy 4:6-8.

WHAT a word to come from a dungeon death-cell. Bereft of all that ordinary men consider necessary to make life worth-while, Paul the prisoner of Jesus Christ was able to rejoice in the Lord as he looked back over all the way he had come, and looked onward to the glad hour when he should lay his armor down at the Redeemer’s feet and receive from His hand the crown of righteousness, that blessed award which is reserved for all who love His appearing. The apostle’s wish, expressed some years before (Acts 20:24), that he might finish his course with joy, had been gloriously fulfilled. He had fought in the good conflict for truth and righteousness. He had kept the faith and now he anticipated his home-call with joyful confidence. To him Christ was all and Christ was enough!

—J. C. Deck.

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