

The Time Has Come

Paul's exhortation to Timothy concerning how we are to overcome the deadly lies of Satan as these are intended generally for the body of Christ and specifically for the defeat of the end time church.

These are revealed for those believers who will overcome all of the assaults of Satan in the dangerous days to come.

By Jim Sayles

The time has come for the end time body of Christ to consider Paul's exhortation as it was given to his disciple, Timothy.

At no time in the history of the body of Christ has this exhortation been more important and, yet, more deliberately avoided.

I solemnly exhort you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; correct, rebuke, *and* exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires,...i.e. denominations... **and they will turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths...Satanically inspired lies.... **But as for you, use self-restraint in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.** 2 Timothy 4:1-5 NASB**

Note, first of all, that Paul reminds Timothy, and us, by reference, that present day believers are being judged, and will be judged, concerning our thoughts, words, and actions as well as our response to Paul's prophetic exhortation.

This judgment is not normally about whether or not we will remain in the body of Christ, but a judgment concerning whether or not we are teaching and conforming to His truth, His covenant promises, and His commands as the Spirit guides us.

Nor does it relate only to apostles, prophets, pastors and teachers. It relates to each and every born-again believer in Christ.

What caught my attention is that the reason for this exhortation by Paul is to let Timothy know that the time **will come** when the body of Christ in general:

- 1) Will not tolerate sound doctrine;
- 2) Will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires;
- 3) Will turn their ears away from the truth;
- 4) Will turn aside to myths (creative lies that replace the truth)

This prophetically revealed time **has come** and is **now** the general condition in which the vast majority of the body of Christ is heavily deceived and divided concerning the truth, covenant promises, and commands of our Lord.

At the same time the majority of the body of Christ today manifests these four distinct **sources** of Satanically inspired and empowered false doctrine just as Paul **prophesied**.

Paul's instructions concern how the organized body of Christ is to function in agreement with **sound doctrine** as opposed to the **unsound doctrine** that is unknowingly being taught by teachers of false doctrine that please members of the body of Christ attracted to unsound doctrine.

Unsound doctrine accepted by the vast majority of the body of Christ leads to believers turning their ears away from the truth so that they no longer hear the **rhema** word of the Spirit of truth who was sent to supernaturally "guide" us into all **rhema** truth.

These then turn toward "myths," which are the lies intentionally introduced into the organized church by the Father of lies, lies that are **authorized** by denominations and men in positions of authority throughout the organized church.

This IS our general condition of somnolence today just as Paul prophesied.

It is also Paul who gave us the keys to overcoming the faith killing lies that have been introduced into the organized body of Christ over a long period of time. These are, then, our instructions NOW.

Preach the word: "Preaching" in this passage includes all believers. "Preaching" is proclaiming the truth about any given subject related to the truth, covenant promises, and commands of our Lord, whether in a church congregation or one on one. It is NOT limited to a pastor preaching to his congregation.

For some this takes place naturally as they are prompted by the Spirit of truth. For others it is difficult. And, in this regard, "preaching" is sharing the word of truth in various ways, not just a one-on-one conversation. It could include letters and cards, spiritual advice given in love with genuine concern for those we are advising and living out the truth and will of God as an example for others.

For those leaders and teachers today who have become aware that the body of Christ is in desperate need of “**sound instruction**” (Spirit guided, Spirit confirmed truth and instruction) we need to review Paul’s instructions for Timothy and both receive and act on them by faith:

Being ready in season and out of season to correct, rebuke, and exhort (whomever and wherever) **with great patience and instruction:** Being ready in season (i.e. deliberate gatherings) and out of season (i.e. non deliberate contact) is to be natural, as we are prompted by the Spirit who is the voice of our Lord.

Correction: should not be bossy or condemning, and it should be in a spirit of love as we are guided by the Spirit for the benefit of those who are being corrected. “Correction” based on our authority over the one being corrected should never be demanding or an expression of anger.

It should **always** be an expression of agape love, and it should never be done in a spirit of personal authority (i.e. a pastor reminding the one they are correcting that he, the pastor, is **the** authority in “his” church) No individual church body should be under the ruling authority of one man, but under the authority of a body of elders that includes the pastor and other ministry leaders and elders.

Rebuking: Rebuking is to bring a person to awareness that they are speaking or acting in a way that reflects disobedience to the presence, love, and truth of our Lord. Rebuking in anger drives away the one being rebuked. Rebuking with wisdom and genuine concern for the one being rebuked will lead to repentance.

Exhorting: This is our deliberate encouragement of others as they seek to respond to the Lord’s truth, covenant promises, and commands. This is best done through encouragement and non-judgmental guidance.

Great patience and instruction: This indicates that we are not to manifest our personal frustration concerning the one we are instructing when we are aware that they are in need of instruction. “Instruction” and “commanding” are two very different words.

Instruction takes place when we lead someone, or some group, in their Spirit-confirmed understanding of the Lord’s truth, covenant promises, and commands, so that their response is by faith, not by obedience or conformity to a worldly leader or organization (i.e. denominational conformity).

Our response to Paul’s very clear, prophetic truth and exhortation will impact the immediate and eternal future of every believer whether they are aware or unaware. Be, therefore, **AWARE**.