

Series: Body Essentials: Imperatives for Church and Leaders**Today's Message: Be Faithful; 1 Timothy 6:13-14****Key Statement: I charge you (Timothy) to keep the commandment.**

Paul is Timothy's direct commander. I am starting to think about Paul as being like a gunnery sergeant in the Marines. Gunnery sergeants are dedicated, body mind and soul, to the Marine Corp. Their lives revolve around the Marine Corp. They are battle experienced, battle tough, and battle ready. If you were a marine in a fire fight you would have to look for your "Gunny" at front of the company leading the charge in the thick of the battle.

A gunnery sergeant has key responsibilities. 1) They fill the role of Operations Chief. They coordinate logistics and operations for the company of 180 men ensuring their readiness for missions. You can see Paul filling that role as Operations Chief. How many men did he coordinate and prepare for various missions? 2) They fill the role of Tactical Advisor. In combat situations, they provide the company with wisdom ensuring the most effective use of firepower and resources. You can see this in Paul, as he has taught Timothy the most effective way to use his gifts and resources. 3) They provide training and development. The gunnery sergeant is responsible for training junior Marines, giving each Marine confidence in their roles and their abilities to handle warfare successfully as Marines!

In short, a gunnery sergeant is important to soldier's success due to their leadership, operational expertise, and their keen ability to mentor young Marines, getting the most out of each man making them worthy Marines.

Paul is like a gunnery sergeant to Timothy, teaching, preparing, equipping, and mentoring to get the most out of Timothy, lifting Timothy's vision to the glory of God, and ensuring his success in doing so, for the glory of God.

The key to understanding our text today is to understand the weight and glory of Timothy's orders to keep the commandment he has been given.

- I) The What. What is Timothy to do?
 - A) Take Paul's **charge** seriously and **keep** it strenuously.
 - 1) The "charge": Paul says to Timothy, "I **charge** you..."
 - (a) A "**charge**" is an **order** handed down directly from the commanding officer.
 - (i) Paul is giving Timothy **responsibility**.
 - (a) An **obligation** put upon Timothy. It is as if Paul is saying, "I **obligate** you to keep the commandment."
 1. Timothy is receiving a direct order that he is **obligated** to keep.
 - 2) **Keep** it strenuously.
 - (a) **Guard** it, **preserve** it, **protect** it, **watch over** it.
 - (i) 1 Timothy 1:18-19: "Timothy, my son, I **obligate** you to this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by **following/ obeying** them you may fight the good fight holding on to faith and a good conscience."
 - (ii) 1 Timothy 4:16: "**Watch** your life and doctrine closely. Because if you do you will save both yourself and your hearers."
 - (a) To be sloppy and loose with your life and doctrine affects the well-being of others.
 - (iii) 1 Timothy 6:20: "Timothy **guard** what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge."
 - (a) "Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them." (NLT)
 1. Timothy is *intimately* knowledgeable in the mission. He must not *dumb down*!
- B) Commandment: Paul charges Timothy to keep the commandment.
 - 1) Meaning: The entire Truth of the Gospel which he has confessed and believed and committed himself too. The whole counsel of God's Word, which he was commissioned to preach.

- II) The How: How is he to keep it?
- A) With the help and equipping of the Holy Spirit!
- 1) 2 Timothy 2:14: **Guard** the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit **who lives in us!**”
- B) **Be aware** of the temptations coming at you.
- 1) **Be aware** of the temptation to sacrifice **fidelity** to the Word to the **idol of appeasement**.
 - 2) **Be aware** of the temptation to round off the sharp edges of Truth.
 - (a) Let the Word speak even if it hurts someone’s feelings.
 - 3) Preachers and teachers often avoid controversial doctrine such as:
 - (a) Total depravity, Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, Irresistible grace, and perseverance of the saints.
 - (i) It is much easier to champion the free will of man rather than the free will of God in salvation.
- C) How is Timothy to keep it? The answer to this is related to the **character** of Timothy as a man of God.
- 1) “Without spot/ stain or blame/ reproach.”
 - (a) “**without**” means an **absence of something**.
 - (b) “**spot/ stain**” means blemish, something unsightly, or something that discolors the surface.
 - (c) “**blame/ reproach**” means some behavior that brings about an accusation, or behavior that is unsavory to all who see it or knows of it. Some behavior that brings unnecessary criticism.
- III) The Sobering Consideration of the Obligation put upon Timothy. (It is both a sobering order and an encouragement to Timothy!)
- A) “In the sight of God...and Christ Jesus...”
- 1) “**In**” means before, indicating location.
 - 2) “**sight of God**” This means in the presence, or before the face of God. (Coram Deo)
 - (a) Hebrews 4:13: “Nothing in all creation is hidden from **God’s sight**. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account.”
 - (b) 1 Peter 3:12: “The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and His ears attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”
 - (c) Psalms 32:8: “I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.”
 - (d) Job 31:4: “Does He not see my ways and number my steps?”
- B) An encouragement to Timothy:
- 1) “**...God, who gives life to everything...**”
 - (a) God sees you and watches over you. He is holding you accountable, but is with you!
 - (b) God is Creator of Life. He is your life!
 - (c) God is Sustainer. Nothing can touch you. **There are no rogue molecules and no free agents against you.**
 - (d) God raises the dead! The worst man can do to the faithful servant of God is kill the body! We win!
 - (i) Philippians 1:21: “For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain!”
 - (ii) 2 Corinthians 5:8: “To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord!”
 - 2) “**...Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession...**”
 - (a) Timothy, draw strength from you Lord and Master!
 - (i) He was bold and courageous before Pilate, testifying that He is the Sovereign King!
 - (a) John 18:37: Pilate: “You are a king, then!” Jesus: “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this very reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to Me.”
 - (b) John 19:11: Before Pilate He boldly declared: “You would have no power over Me if it were not given to you from above.”
- C) Why do we become so timid when given an opportunity to declare the truth?
- 1) We live always present before God’s sight. Every moment of your life, **Coram Deo**. Before His face!
 - 2) Christ Jesus, your Savior and Lord is always with you. *Immanuel*, the with us God!
 - 3) The Holy Spirit always present to counsel and strength you with faith, courage and boldness!