

Series: Body Essentials: Imperatives for Church and Leaders**Today's Message: Live Up to Your Name, Timothy; 1 Timothy 6:20-21**

I met a young man the other day. He introduced himself as Lucky Brown. I was astonished by his name. So, I looked at his nametag on his shirt, and what do you know? It said, "Lucky Brown." Wow! So I had to ask if that was his real name or a nickname. He said it is what everyone has called him since he fell from a tree when he was 7 years old.

Names mean something. Did you know that the name, Timothy, means "honor God" or "honoring God?"

Paul has written this epistle to Timothy. It can't be lost on us that Paul in every respect is charging Timothy to live up to his name by honoring God through faithful service by protecting and upholding the gospel and sound doctrine and the body of Truth that has been entrusted to him.

It is quite a letter to Timothy. If Timothy wasn't embroiled in daily conflict and continuously bombarded with the efforts of false teachers to undermine the Truth, the letter wouldn't be as weighty. If Timothy wasn't ministering to a congregation of believers who had been indoctrinated into a heavily pagan culture, we probably wouldn't read it. But indeed, Timothy was under pressure. Apparently, he felt the pressure to back off the Truth, find common ground, and try to make everyone happy. But Paul pushes Timothy to hold firmly to the gospel and to sound doctrine. This is why this letter is so necessary. We are facing the same pressures in our time with all the seemingly endless pressures being exerted against each believer to do anything but hold a firm stand for the Truth!

Through it all, Timothy must live up to his name and honor God. And we are being exhorted in this to do the same!

- I) **Review: The difficulties Timothy faced and the pressures upon him challenging his commitment to honor God.**
 - A) Paul's many exhortations and instructions so Timothy can be faithful in serving as pastor.
 - 1) Resist and rebuke the false teachers with God-given authority. (1:3-11)
 - 2) Guard the gospel and sound doctrine with authority.
 - (a) Fight the good fight of the faith. (1:18)
 - 3) Teach the church how they should conduct themselves. **(3:15-16; 4:6-10)**
 - (a) Instructions for the congregation especially men. (2:1-8)
 - (b) Instructions for women. (2:9-15)
 - (c) Instructions for elders and deacons. (3:1-13)
 - 4) Diligently guard the church against the influence of religious legalists. (4:1-5)
 - 5) Faithfully set a good example before the church. (4:11-12; 14-16))
 - 6) Regularly and habitually set the Truth before the people through the reading of Scripture, preaching and teaching from the Scripture. (4:13)
 - 7) Pay attention to the welfare of his own soul. "Watch your life and doctrine carefully." (4:16)
 - 8) Be faithful and be not afraid to admonish believers whether young or old. "Velvet steel." (5:1-2)
 - 9) Hold to Paul's guidelines for caring for the widows in the congregation. (5:3-17)
 - 10) Don't show favoritism (5:21). This includes the widows (5:3-17) and also the leaders. (5:17-20)
 - 11) Hold a high bar of expectation for believing slaves. (6:1-4)
 - 12) Exhort the church to pursue godliness as a higher priority than seeking temporal wealth. (6:4-10)
 - (a) Paul teaches what are the virtues of godliness. (6:11)
 - (b) Paul encouraged Timothy to get it right and *invest* his energy into fighting the good fight... (6:12-16)
 - (c) Command the wealthy to avoid becoming arrogant and proud of the wealth they have. (6:17-19)
- II) **(6:20-21b) Paul's concluding words of exhortation to Timothy.**
 - A) (20a) Paul's simple exhortation to Timothy. "Guard what has been entrusted to your care."
 - 1) Guard: A military term meaning that Timothy is to be alert 24/7/365. **Coram Deo Semper Fi!**
 - (a) What is he to guard? The message of Christ and His gospel and the sound doctrine received.
 - (i) Protect, preserve the purity of the gospel, which has the greatest value.

- 2) Entrusted: A banking term concerning a valuable deposit for which he is responsible.
- (a) Paul makes it clear in 6:12-14 that Timothy is responsible before God.
 - (i) What? To bury it? Or multiply it?
 - (b) I'm reminded of the parable of the "talents" from Matthew 25:14-30.
 - (i) The master didn't simply entrust the "talents" to the servants he expected a return!
 - (c) I have to think that the same principle is true for every true Christian. We've been entrusted with the gospel and the truth and are expected by the Master to produce a return!
 - (i) The Lord entrusted the Gospel to Paul, Paul entrusted the gospel to Timothy, and Timothy is to entrust it to others, and no doubt the others are to entrust it to still others! **(2 Tim. 2:2)**
 - (a) Multiplication not stagnation! Multiplication NOT stagnation!**
 - (b)** Paul invested in Timothy. And Timothy is to invest into the lives of faithful men.
 - 1. This is the PRINCIPLE MEANING AND METHOD OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP!!
- B) (20b-21a) Roadblocks to waste what has been entrusted to us as believers!
- 1) Paul teaches Timothy what to avoid if he is to successfully protect and preserve the Truth!
 - (a) **Rule 1:** "Turn away from godless chatter and opposing ideas falsely called knowledge."
 - (i) False teachers teaching will sound all important, but it is nothing but wind and bluster.
 - (a) **Jude 1:12b-13** says about them: "[They are] shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars for whom the blackest darkness has been reserved forever."
 - (ii) Timothy is not to WASTE his time occupying himself with debating their endless arguments.
 - (iii) He is to use his time protecting and preserving the Truth and investing into the lives of godly men.
 - (b) **Rule 2:** Refer to Rule 1.
 - (c) **Rule for the Church:** Remember we are to follow the same pattern set for Timothy.
 - (i) Guard (preserve and protect) what is entrusted to us because the Church is "**the pillar and buttress of the Truth.**" (3:15)
 - (d) What about debating? Are we saying that the Church should never oppose "ideas of what is falsely called knowledge"?
 - (i) Not at all. Paul is protecting young Timothy. He's not ready. If Timothy is to "honor God," as his name demands, he needs to **do the first thing, which is to keep the Main One the main thing!** He can't get sidetracked by the whims and fancies of false teachers.
 - (a) Paul on the other hand was given authority and possessed the intellectual tools required to debate as he did on a few occasions as we can read in Acts.
 - 1. But Timothy would probably get smoked and lose his grip on his main calling!

III) (21c) Finally, Be encouraged

- A) Grace be with you all.
 - 1) Be faithful! Carry out your appointed task. Do it well.
 - (a) Because God's grace is with you. In other words, He is present with His assisting grace!
 - 2) So, whatever you are given to do in service to Christ:
 - (a) Be faithful and carry out your work with the following exhortation in mind:
 - (i) **Do the first thing, which is to keep the main One the main thing!**