

- We all know that there is a battle going on right now between the people of God and the spiritual forces in the heavenly places. The battle is personal and the battle is unceasing because there are presently two forces at work in this world system—and they are at odds with each other. God intends to give His people what Satan currently has and Satan does not want to give it up. The battle is about a land, an inheritance, and the realization of the very purpose for which man was created, as well as the very *purpose* for man’s redemption.
- My particular focus this hour is that WITH THIS IN VIEW—the battle—we stay on the alert and we stay on our guard

GUARD WHAT HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED YOU

1. It is serious business learning and teaching God’s Word, because we should not take lightly that which has been entrusted to us. This is not just about gathering together to feel good, gathering together because we feel that it is the right thing to do---this is about GOD, His Word, His Word made flesh in the person of His Son, and our taking hold of that for which Christ took hold of us—

Phillipians 3:12

...I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Matthew 22:14

For many are called, but few are chosen [called out].

- Out entire existence here on earth is for ONE purpose. You were created to fulfill *God’s purpose*. You were CALLED (saved) to fulfill God’s purpose. God’s purpose is for Man to have dominion. Man=Us and Man=Jesus. Both, together, ruling, together—

Hebrews 2:8-10

“THOU HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET.” For in subjecting all things to [man], He left nothing that is not subject to [man]. But we do not yet see all things subjected to [man]. But we do see Him [Jesus] who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for [Jesus], for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through suffering.

- We are to perfect, or complete, Christ through our sufferings. Our suffering in this life, which must mean that we put to death our flesh as Christ did, will complete Him. Completion as seen within the context of the ruling relationship that we see in Genesis with Adam and Eve—

Genesis 2:18

Then the Lord God said, [after creating Adam] “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”

- Eve was made to be Adam’s helper—a helper to do what? RULE
- Jesus is the last Adam, we are to be His bride. We are to be His helper—TO RULE. It is why we exist.

3. So again, how serious are we to take *this*? By *this*, I mean the proclamation of our beliefs, our diligence in learning what God says, and our application—OBEDIENCE—of what we believe.

- We are in a battle. We must take every minute of every day seriously. Because our adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour—

I Peter 5:6-10

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him [the devil], firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal [age-lasting] glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

- The word “devour” means to drink down, or gulp entirely. Referenced in Hebrews 11:20 re: the Egyptians be devoured in the Red Sea. Satan is trying to do this to *us*.
- Resisting him is linked to suffering.. do you see that? “After you have suffered for a little while...”
- And also, the knowledge of our brethren suffering is linked to this resisting. The word for “Accomplishments” of our brethren’s sufferings is the word “epi” an intensifier, and “teleios” which means completion or perfection. “Accomplishments” in the sense of fulfilling further. Exactly as we saw in Hebrews 2:10, with Jesus being “perfected” (same word “teleios”) by our suffering.
- Again, from the text of Peter, our suffering NOW (in and to the flesh)— will result in age-lasting glory in Christ.
- There will be conflict in our lives. There will be trials and testing in our lives. *If there is not, then we are doing something wrong.*

4). Peter very clearly lays out the idea of two sides warring against each other, doesn’t he? Our adversary, the devil, prowls about looking to devour someone. We need to resist him. Paul says it this way—

--Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having SHOD YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; in

addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view [the battle], be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

There is a reason that Paul speaks this way to the Church at Ephesus. By way of a quick history lesson, Paul had spent 3 years in Ephesus, teaching the church there things the deep things regarding “his gospel.” We know this because of what he said at a later time, when he summoned the elders of Ephesus to him while he was in Miletus. His concern for them is clear—

Acts 20:18-32

¹⁸ “You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² And now, behold, bound in spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. ²⁴ But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵ And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will see my face no more. ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day, that I am innocent of the blood of all men. ²⁷ For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose [Lit., all the will, or intention] of God. ²⁸ **Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock**, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and **from among your own selves** men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore **be on the alert**, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. ³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

- Very specific directions from Paul to the elders—Be on your guard—FOR YOURSELF AND FOR ALL THE FLOCK-- against those “savage wolves” from among them, speaking perverse things.
- He wrote to this same church about the armor of God. He says exactly why—

Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Very clearly Paul understood the gravity of the situation that encompasses the Christian. He then passes these same warnings on to Timothy, whom he had left in Ephesus—

AND THESE SAME WARNINGS WE NEED TO HEAR TODAY.

I Timothy 6:20

O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you...

- Let's pay attention to what Paul writes to Timothy. Paul, as we know, was made a minister of the gospel by the Lord Jesus Christ, and he is telling Timothy to guard what he has been entrusted with. What has Timothy been entrusted with? Listen to what Paul says as he addresses the church in Ephesus—

Ephesians 2:19-3: 13

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you; that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made know to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, of which I [Paul] was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. To me [Paul], the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, [And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world (age) hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ--KJV]; in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

- Paul was made minister of that for which is in accordance with the eternal purpose that was carried out in Christ Jesus. The purpose, we know, being—

Luke 4:43

But He [Jesus] said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose."

AND

Colossians 1:16, 19-20

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created by Him and for Him. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all

things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

- Paul taught the church in Ephesus these things. Paul taught *all the churches* these things. All the apostles taught these things. And those that were taught *were to teach others these same things*—

I Corinthians 4:10-17

We are fools for Christ’s sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor. To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless; and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; when we are slandered, we try to conciliate [to win over to goodwill]; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. [KJV--For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.] I exhort you therefore, be imitators of me. For this reason, I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.

And Paul also writes of Timothy to the Church at Thessalonica—

I Thessalonians 3:2-5

...and we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this [for what? AFFLICTIONS]. For indeed when we were with you, we kept telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know. For this reason, when I [Paul] could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor should be in vain.

- Paul is fearful that they had been tempted by the “tempter” and fallen away from their faith.
- Now back to what Paul wrote to Timothy, a man whom Paul called his “brother” and fellow worker in the gospel of Christ.
 - With these communications with Timothy, we read Paul earnestly exhorting Timothy to guard this gospel, to guard himself, to be on the alert against those around him who would try to teach different doctrines—

I Timothy 6:20-21

O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called “knowledge”—which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith.

5. Let's review what it is that we understand God's Word to say, that which Paul refers to as his gospel, the gospel of Christ.

- First, a simple deduction of "gospel of Christ" teaches us 1) gospel means good news and 2) Christ means "Anointed". Obvious textual definition= the good news of the Anointed One.
- Question for further defining—anointed to do what?

Hebrews 2:1-3, 5

For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation... For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking.

- The author of Hebrews tells us what he is speaking about—"the world to come" not being subjected to angels.
- If the world to come is not subjected to angels, then who is it subjected to? Continuing—

Hebrews 2:6-8

"WHAT IS MAN, THAT THOU REMEMBEREST HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT THOU ART CONCERNED ABOUT HIM? THOU HAST MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; THOU HAST CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR. AND HAS APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF THY HANDS; THOU HAST PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET." For in subjecting all things to [man], He left nothing that is not subject to [man]. But we do not yet see all things subjected to [man]. But we do see Him [Jesus] who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for [Jesus], for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through suffering.

- This first part is from Psalm 8—and it is talking about Man being crowned with glory and honor. David wrote this Psalm because he understood the truths about man's purpose!

And going back to v. 1 **For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.**

- What reason?

Hebrews 1:14-2:1

Are they [angels] not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will [literally "about to"] inherit salvation? For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

- Explain "inherit."

So, because of man inheriting salvation, which has to do with the world to come being subjected to Man, we need to pay MUCH CLOSER ATTENTION TO WHAT WE HAVE HEARD!

- What have we heard? Context—Hebrews chapter one, of course, but particularly what the Old Testament teaches, since the author chose to quote 7 Old Testament prophecies to make his point.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CHAPTER:

Hebrews 1:1-2

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

- Jesus is heir of all things-- What things? ALL THINGS! Not forgetting—

Colossians 1:16

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created by Him and for Him.

Hebrews 1:3-4

And He [Jesus] is the radiance of His [God's] glory and the exact representation of His [God's] nature, and upholds all things by the word of His [Jesus'] power. When He [Jesus] made purification of sins, he [Jesus] sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high; having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. (Although, not forgetting in chapter 2 that Jesus is *currently* a little lower than the angels.)

- Jesus has inherited a more excellent name than the angels, because of what God has said about Him (which He hasn't said about the angels); the author of Hebrews quotes what God has said about Jesus from passages throughout the Old Testament —
 - Hebrews 1:5
THOU ART MY **SON**, TODAY (For this day) I HAVE BEGOTTEN THEE Psalm 2
II Samuel 7:14 The promise to David—Explain. And from Psalm 2, a recording of a prophetic event—God's **King** upon Mt. Zion, all the kings of the earth taking their stand, God's King breaking them and shattering them.
 - Hebrews 1:5
I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME
II Samuel 7:14 The promise to David about his kingdom lasting *forever*
 - Hebrews 1:6
And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says (No question about the timing of this, is there?)
AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM. —Psalm 97 and WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE
 - Jesus' future authority over all the angels emphasized here
 - Hebrews 1:8

THY THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM. THOU HAST LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; Psalm 45

- Again, Christ's authority, and JUSTICE—and His Deity— are emphasized, as ruler over His kingdom
- Hebrews 1:10-11
THOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING DIDST LAY THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF THY HANDS; THEY WILL PERISH, BUT THOU REMAINEST; AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD AS A GARMENT, AND AS A MANTLE THOU WILT ROLL THEM UP; AS A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT THOU ARE THE SAME, AND THY YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END.
 - The author is pointing out the heavens and the earth—their beginnings and their end—and Christ's authority over it all.
- Hebrews 1:13
SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR THEY FEET
 - Again, emphasizing Christ's FUTURE authority over all

We must pay much closer attention to what we have heard! The OT teaches us about the redemption of man through the Promised Redeemer—Jesus Christ, the Son of God—ultimately bringing an end to and replacing the current ruler of this world. This current ruler will be replaced by Jesus (the heir of all things) and His Bride (His co-heirs).

THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE HEARD, AND THAT IS WHAT WE MUST PAY MUCH CLOSER ATTENTION TO—IT IS THE GOSPEL OF OUR SALVATION.

6. SO AGAIN, LISTEN TO PAUL—

I Timothy 6:20-21

O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called “knowledge”—which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.

- These are actually the *last two sentences* in Paul's first letter to Timothy. His second letter to Timothy, written maybe 5 years later reveals a more solemn approach from Paul, as he exhorts, strengthens, and warns Timothy of the very things that Paul endured. Listen to what Paul writes about what Timothy must endure, *as he protects and guards the truth of the gospel—*

I Timothy 1:1-11

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope; to Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus, in order that you may *instruct* certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the

administration of God which is by faith. But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions.

- Paul goes on in chapters 2 and 3 to discuss certain godly behaviors of women and church overseers, and the necessary qualifications the leaders of the church were to have. Again, in order to guard the truth. As Paul writes,

I Timothy 2:14-15

I am writing these things to you [Timothy], hoping to come to you before long; but in case I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth [the truth of the gospel—what we have heard and must pay much closer attention to!]

- And further on we see Paul talk about other dangers *within the church*—

I Timothy 4:1-3

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods, which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.

- Look at the deeper level of what Paul is teaching—The forbidding of marriage that these liars advocate is the forbidding of the marriage between the King and His Bride (the called out of the called), and the abstinence from food they advocate is referencing the strong meat of the Word. Reference Gen. 3:18 “bread”
 - Please note that those who do so have fallen away from THE faith, they do not know THE truth—*they are Christians, which is why Paul points out how dangerous they are.*
- And more from Paul to Timothy, one leader to another—

I Timothy 4:6-11, 16

In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is profitable for all things, since it hold promise for the present life and also for the life to come. It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially [chiefly, most of all] of believers. Prescribe and teach these things. Pay close attention to yourself

and to your teaching; persevere in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

- Paul then goes on to be specific regarding relationships and the treatment of others—very practical stuff—and then warns—

I Timothy 6:3-5

If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness [again, members of the body—Christians], he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

- While hearing these words from Paul, and being on your guard against such people, please do not be deceived into thinking that these “depraved” men with different doctrines will somehow appear monstrous or evil on the outside. Nothing can be farther from the truth. Men with different doctrines are described as “tares” by Jesus Himself and He says that they cannot be differentiated from the wheat—*except by their fruit*. There is good fruit and there is bad fruit. All good fruit is produced by the Spirit, who is the Word of God, which must be seen in accordance with all we have heard—all that we must guard and pay much closer attention to.

Continuing—

7. I Timothy 6:11-15

But flee from these things, you man of God (*there is an action in there—fleeing is not passive*); and pursue (*an action*) righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. Fight (*an action*) the good fight of faith; take hold of (*an action*) the eternal [age-lasting] life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords...

What was His confession before Pilate? **John 18:37 Pilate therefore said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”**

Everyone who is “of the truth” hears His voice—what would Jesus’ voice be saying? He told us—He is the King, it is why he came into the world. To preach the kingdom-Luke 4:43
--His Voice would be speaking of things concerning the kingdom which is to come.

8. II Timothy 1:13-14

Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me [Paul], in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted you.

2:1-2

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things which you have heard from [Paul] entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

2:7-15

Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned. For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him; if we endure, we shall also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us; if we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself. Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless, and leads to the ruin of the hearers. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

9. You and I are Timothys. We are being taught the things that Paul taught. Some of us are also teaching others the things that Paul taught. (All of which, of course, was taught to Paul by Jesus Himself.) We are all *fellow workers* in the gospel of Christ. We are to gather together, study together, grow up together... and we are to *guard* what is being entrusted to us—

Ephesians 4:11-15

And He [Jesus] gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; UNTIL we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth [the truth of the gospel] in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ.

- We must guard ourselves against the devil because he prowls around seeking whom he may devour. We must guard ourselves against false knowledge. We must guard ourselves against the trickery of men. We must guard ourselves against everything that is not of God and would seek to pull our focus away from Him. And in order to do this *and be victorious*, we must put on—and keep on—the full armor of God.