

# 1 Timothy 3:15-16

Sunday 7/31/2005

Let me say something to you here that I want you all to hear. I really do appreciate this. I received an anonymous letter this week. Mostly, anonymous letters go unanimously in the trash. Anyway, this was a really good letter. Whoever wrote it, and I have a sneaking suspicion it was a lady, only because I do not know a man that could write this well of a letter. I am speaking of my own personal experience. Your timing was great because I really appreciate the fact that you wrote the letter, first of all that you did write it, and second of all that you wrote it where it corresponds with where we are at in our time in the Word of God together.

The person did not put their name on it because she felt like she had some legitimate questions that she wanted to know about the ministry. She felt like I would feel threatened because she did not understand and was asking questions. Let us face it, in 99% of the churches in the world today, if you ask questions, the pastor automatically thinks you are against them, whether it is a good question or a bad question, because the name of the game today is, "Do not ask any questions."

First of all, let me just say to you that your letter was very good, and your questions are very good. It was not a mean-spirited letter; it was not "curse God and die" and all that stuff. It was a lady or a person who had some legitimate questions about the ministry and the Word of God, and I appreciate that. The good fact of it is this, and it comes in great timing with our book in 1 Timothy, because in the book of 1 Timothy, we come into what we call the books that are called the pastoral epistles. In these next couple of books, you are going to find great instructions laid out to a pastor on how to be a good pastor. They are the bedrock, as far as I am concerned, of what it takes for a young man to really be called and to really fulfill that office as a pastor.

One of the things that I told you when we started our church from day one is that the pastor always has to be accountable for what he does and what he says. There is no question about that. If you take any given pastor in any church who does not make himself accountable to the people for what he teaches and what he preaches, you are going to have somebody that is going to have some problem within the church because the bottom line in ministry is accountability. Most pastors want you to be accountable to them, but they do not want to be accountable to you. It is a two-way street.

As you know from our time together here, you have every right to ask whatever you want to ask about the Bible or questions that you have, or even if it is something that I do or somebody else does and you do not understand or maybe you do not even agree with. It is beside the point. When you love the Bible and you know the Word of God, and the Word of God is your main goal, you never have to be afraid of whatever anybody asks you about whatever.

So I say to you, thank you for that letter. Your letter was very timely because it fit right into where we are at, and at the same time, it gave me an opportunity to reaffirm some things that we have talked about off and on as we have been in church now for a little over two years. That is the fact that you have a right to want to know and to know whatever you want to know without any fear ever. Even if it is something that you think that I am going to get upset about, I never get

upset about legitimate questions in the Bible. Of course, the bottom line is that you are here to learn. So if you are listening to the sound of my voice and you are here, please, first, do not feel bad about it, and please feel free to sit down with me and call me, and we will sit down, and I will answer your questions about the Bible. That is what we are here for.

Your spirit in your letter was very encouraging to me, and you signed your letter as somebody who considers yourself a member of this church, so that sealed it for me. The bottom line is, if you are a member of this church, then I have an obligation to answer your questions. The day that you come to me and I get upset about whatever you ask me is the day you need to look for another church and find another pastor because I have slipped right back into the mode like all the rest of them, and of course, that just cannot be. Accountability is crucial, and that is why every member of this church has a right to sit down with me and ask me whatever you want to ask. You have a right to sit down and have me teach you whatever you want to know, and of course, that is my job, and that is the way it has to be. I would never ask you to be accountable to me or the Word of God without me submitting myself to be accountable to you, and that is just the way it has to work.

## I. The Pastoral Epistles and Local Church Training

Thank you for the timing of your letter because, as I said, the books of 1 and 2 Timothy are about pastoring. Your letter really helped me understand the fact and give a point to this message that I probably would not have emphasized, and that is the aspect of accountability. I talk about it many, many times, and we have talked about it over the course of the time we have been together. But you are going to find when you come into 1 and 2 Timothy, and then also Titus, that all three of these books are books that are aimed at training a young man to be a pastor.

You will notice in your Bible that Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we have talked about those, and we have showed you how Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, by the very names of the Bibles in your New Testament, show you where the books are coming from. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are part of the original twelve, the Apostles. Therefore, their writings are going to be based on the first coming of Christ to Israel, and of course, they are. So we know that those books give us a complete picture of the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then a man comes on the scene who the Bible clearly tells us is the Apostle to the church, the Apostle to the Gentiles, and the man who is going to establish the concept of the church. He is unique in who he is, he is unique in his ministry, he is unique in how he is saved, he is unique in every aspect, and of course, that is the Apostle Paul. He writes three-quarters of your New Testament, and we have talked about how that if you want to find Bible doctrine for your life as a New Testament Christian or for the church, you go to Paul's writings.

Of course, Paul writes books to the churches: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Thessalonians, Philippians, Colossians. Those are all churches. But then you are going to find that Paul switches gears, and some of his books are not addressed to churches; they are addressed to individuals: 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon. Those are not churches; those are men. Those books make up for us the incredible teachings that we have to have on a personal side. In other words, the

books that Paul writes to the churches are for church doctrine, and yes, we find many, many comforting verses in that for our own everyday life, we certainly do. But specifically, they are aimed at congregations or churches, a group of people meeting together in the New Testament center of the Word. These books are written to individuals, and therefore they are aimed at a different aspect, laying out different concepts.

In 1 and 2 Timothy, we are dealing with the pastorate, and of course, Timothy and Titus are all pastors. Paul was never a pastor; Paul was an elder, and Paul in his work in ministry was never a pastor; he was an evangelist. Now I know that today in the world that we live in, the concept of an evangelist is what we all have as where a guy who just flits around and preaches at churches every week, a different place, and motivates people and fires people up and moves on to someplace else. I am not saying that that is not needed; I am not saying that that is not good. What I am saying is that is not the Bible's definition of an evangelist. An evangelist is someone like Paul who went, started a church, headed that church up, in the process of heading it up, trained somebody, and then moved on and started another church. That is what he did, and that is the work of an evangelist in a New Testament Bible sense.

When we lay out each book, and we are going to do that, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and then right on down the line through we finish out the Bible, you are going to realize, obviously, that you are going to see it from a pastor's perspective. Now we know, sitting here this morning, not everybody in this room is going to be a pastor. Of course, we know that not every young man that comes into the church is going to be a pastor. There are lots of other things that somebody can do within a church, but we know from the Bible, we are going to see it a little bit later, that women are not to be pastors. But that does not mean you do not need to understand these things because these things are key to leadership.

I am going to tell you something: the success of any church follows a very simple pattern.1.) You have to have a Bible. You have to have a Bible that is the absolute perfect Word of God.2.) Then you have to have a pastor that believes that Bible.3.) Then you have to have people who believe what the pastor believes and altogether believe the Bible.

What is going to happen is this: God is going to work through the Bible, show the pastor where He wants it to go, and then through the pastor's preaching and teaching, it is going to show the people where they need to go, and everybody is going to fall in line. So you need to understand these principles whether you are ever going to be a pastor or not, because whether you are or you are not is not the case. You are going to have to get a pastor's heart to understand the work of the ministry whether you ever really become one or not.

That is what we have in Young Timothy. Young Timothy is, without a doubt, in the New Testament, the model pastor in every aspect of his life. We first found Young Timothy, if you remember, back in Acts 16. We talked about it when we came through the Book of Acts a number of months ago. As you know, we are coming through every book of the Bible, kind of giving an overview as we are training you and getting you ready and preparing you. We are doing a number of things at the same time, but that is what we are doing on Sunday morning.

You remember we first saw him in Acts 16, and Timothy is mentioned no less than 24 times in the New Testament. He is quite a prominent person. When we come back to Acts 16, we saw how that we really got a good glimpse of who he was and what he was. We saw that he was someone that the Apostle Paul wanted to take with him on his mission trips. He is somebody that Paul saw, and he thought, "You know what, that young guy has what it takes, and I am going to take him and train him."

When we got to Acts 16 and some other places in the New Testament, we saw that Timothy had a good foundation. We saw that his mother and his grandmother played a vital part in his spiritual foundation and his spiritual growth. The Bible says that he had a good report among those in the church there at Antioch. So we know from that that not only did his grandmother and his mother play an important part, but somebody in the church is putting him in the ministry, and he is getting training as he is growing up in the local church. Then he finds, or God puts him and Paul together, and Paul takes him and finishes his training. The interesting thing about this to me, anyhow, is the fact that it is this guy, from every case, it is this guy, from what Paul says, that Paul had in mind for Timothy to replace Paul when Paul went off the scene. It is an incredible story.

1 and 2 Timothy have always been special books to me. 1 Timothy for me because what Paul does is this: he gives young Timothy in the book of 1 Timothy 12 charges. In other words, 12 admonishments. He lays out 12 things to Timothy that a pastor has to have or has to be or has to know. I will never forget 25, 26 years ago, when I started to put the Bible together, I saw those 12 things. I began to realize if I was ever going to be a pastor and if I was ever going to be a good pastor, that I had to follow, obviously, the books in the Bible that lay out what a pastor should be. So I made it a point in my life and have done this for 25, 26 years: there are 12 of these every year, each month of the year, I will focus in my life on one of these. I will take one of these every month and then run it through the year and then start over the next year because I understand that these things are absolutely a necessity if I am going to be the pastor that God wants me to be.

I told you last week or a couple of weeks ago that there is no such thing as a perfect church. There is no such thing as a perfect pastor. I am going to make mistakes. We all make mistakes. This church is not going to be a perfect church. There are no perfect churches like there are no perfect Christians and there are no perfect pastors. Though we try to be everything the way we should and lay the Word of God out and do it the way that we are supposed to do it, the bottom line is nobody in this world is going to be perfect. I said then, you know, that most Christians do not want a perfect pastor; they just want a real one. They want one that they know that will stand by them, that is not higher than they are, that is on the same plane and the same level, that is basically going to be where they are at and lead them, and together they can fulfill the things that God wants them to fulfill, that they can feel comfortable. This is going back to the letter now, and thank you again, I am going to use it all through my sermon, where you can sit and say, "Why do we do this? Why did you do this? How does this work? Can you lay this out for me? Can you show me how this worked through the Word of God?" That is exactly what we have got to have.

Timothy's life is a gold mine. It is a gold mine for training young men and young ladies for the ministry. Before I even get started in this, let me just make my statement: I believe that the local church is God's method of training men and women for the ministry. I believe that the local church is everything. I believe that the pastor's job is to take young men and young ladies under his wing, train them, look for those who have this gift of being a pastor, and then structure and shape their training, putting them in circumstances and letting them develop at a place where in time you prepare them for what God wants them to do.

I have been accused all my life of being anti-Bible college. You can say it however you want to say it. Somebody said one time, "You are anti-Bible college, are not you?" And I said, "No, I am just really pro-local church." I believe the local church is God's program. I do not find anywhere in the Bible where God ever said, "Set up an institution of higher learning separate from the New Testament local church and send your people there."

I have got to hand it to some of these guys, and I do not ever really get into naming them because they are all the same. My father in the Lord is old Mel Sabaka. A lot of you know who he is, some of you do not, but he was certainly one of the last Laodicean warhorses. He is still alive, and he is in his 80s now. I will never forget one time he had an answer for everything, and it was always a good answer. In fact, I have a little book at home; I keep Mel's answer to everything that I used to answer others because they were so good.

One time somebody challenged him on the issue because his stand was my stand, or my stand is his stand, I should say, is the fact that the local church is God's program. That Bible colleges, in many cases, if not most cases, destroy a young man's faith in the Word of God, not help it. One time somebody challenged him in a fellowship type setting. They wanted to, and you know, he was answering questions, and somebody kind of set him up because people were doing it all the time in a good way. Because the guy that was setting him up wanted to believe what Mel believed but wanted Mel to whack everybody else. So he set him up, and he said, "Could you explain your position on Bible colleges and why you do not send anybody to Bible college?" So he went through it. Somebody stood up to challenge that, and when they stood up, they came to the point where they said, they kind of gave him a rough time about doing it the way that he did it. Then old Mel, with all the wisdom of Solomon, took his glasses off and said, "Let me see if I get this thing straight. You send the very best of your people that grow up in your church. You send them the very cream of the crop, the very best people that God raises up in your church and have the ability to be leaders, pastors. You send the cream of your crop over to a Bible college for them to train in ministry, is that correct?" The guy said, "Yes." "That man puts the cream of your crop of your church to work in his church to build his church. And then when they graduate and they are ready to go out and start a church, go to the mission field, then he sends them back to you so you can support him. What a deal that is!"

Of course, the thing that will make this church strong is taking young men and young ladies, teaching them the aspect of ministry within the local church. You learn the same way I learned. You learn by doing it. You learn by failing. You learn by being successful. You learn by making some bonehead mistakes. You learn from all the people that are in the church, all the experiences that Timothy must have learned, and then go on from there and let God mold you and make you

into what God wants you to be. Of course, that is my job; that is the job of the pastor; that is the job of the church. There are some jobs that I will not give to anybody else to do. Why? Because it is not your job; it is my job. I have certain responsibilities that I will not give out to anybody. Why? Because that is my responsibility as a pastor. Go get your own church; you can screw it up any way you want to. But there are jobs that are my responsibility, and that is what I am going to do. My job is to teach you the Bible, to bring you up, and the reason why is because the Bible says in 1 Timothy 4:14:

*1 Timothy 4:14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.*

Every Bible-believing, saved person, God wants to do something with you. Usually, as I work with people in the Word of God and I work along those lines, the gift that you have will probably become obvious to me before it becomes obvious to you. Because I know what to look for. You have never been in the ministry before; you are really just learning the Bible, so for you, it might be confusing as to what God wants you to do. After 30-some years in the ministry, you are able to see the profiles, if I can use that word. That is a terrible word today, profiling people. You fall into profiles, and those profiles will show basically where you are going with it. As a pastor, it is my job to look at that. I may give you somebody to disciple. I may give you somebody to work with in their counseling aspect. But when it comes to training young men and young ladies for the ministry of laying out and teaching the Bible, that is my job. It is not your responsibility to look into somebody's life and to see what their gift is; that is my job. As I see that, then we shape it. We make the things in your life that as God leads you and as you are willing to learn, and then God brings you through the process, and whatever gift God has given you, whatever abilities that you have, and you know our stand on gifts, using that word in a loose concept, you fulfill all that God wants you to do.

In that group of young men, if I am smart, or the pastor is smart, you will do what Paul did, and you will find within that group a young man that will probably become your replacement. Then you give that kid everything you can. You do not tell him, but you see within him everything that is there, and then you begin to give him a little extra everything because of the fact that you see, as God reveals, the thing that someday I am not going to live forever. No pastor is. A pastor is really stupid that does not understand that 20 or 30 years before he goes, if he goes in a natural life. Every pastor, the first thing he should do when he begins to work with people in the Word of God is to look for that one, and God will show him that this guy is probably the guy, and if you do what you have got to do, and if it does not work out, then I will... But anyway, you begin to look for your replacement if you are smart.

So when I come to the book of 1 and 2 Timothy, and we are in 1 Timothy today, it is a great book for me. It is a book that has always been special to me in a sense because that is how I was trained for the ministry. A man took me under his wing and taught me everything that he knew. I submitted myself to him to the place where I never questioned anything that he did because I knew at that point he was the man that God put in my life for me to learn, not to criticize. I was there to learn. He knew more about it than I did. He had done it for 40 years before I ever showed up, and in that process, you learn how to pastor if that is what God called you to do. Or

nothing else, you learn the heart of the man that God has allowed you to serve with through the local New Testament church.

Two things have always stood out to me about Paul and Timothy. First of all, I do not know if you know this or not, but 1 and 2 Timothy are the last things that Paul writes before he dies and goes home to be with the Lord. I have found in the Bible, and it is also true in life, that usually the last thing a person says before they die—I do not mean "goodbye" and then die—I mean the last general statement that they make, it is usually the most interesting. You know why? Because it shows their perspective of things. We all know who General Douglas MacArthur is, and when you think of General Douglas MacArthur, you probably, if you know anything about history at all, some of you older folks know more about it than some of the younger folks do, but when I think of General Douglas MacArthur, I think of one thing: his final address at West Point where he said, "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away." Now he did lots of other things, said lots of other things, but that is what he is remembered for, is the last thing that he is saying. Why? It showed his perspective.

You are going to find that true all the way down. William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, William Booth, one of the greatest soul-winning men the world has ever seen in the Philadelphia Church age, what he did. If you know anything about William Booth and you know anything about his ministry, really the most famous thing that he is famous for, the last thing he said literally before he died, he was on a Christmas Eve, and they were broadcasting his messages as they had done for 25 years over the radio to all the Salvation Army. He did not live through that night, and he was so sick and so weak, but yet he wanted to give an address to all of the people. That night, as the radio came on while he is in the hospital on his deathbed, and he died sometime that night, the last words out of his message was only one word. The last thing he ever said on their air, but it summed up everything. You know what it was? It was simply "others." That is what his life was about.

If you want to find out the greatest material in the Bible about the whole perspective of the Bible, go to the last book in your Bible, the last thing John, a type of the church, wrote. You want to find out the great things about men in the Bible, find out the last thing God says about him. Find out the last thing Moses says before he dies while the children of Israel cross over. You see, the last thing a person says will always give their perspective, and the last thing Paul is thinking about before he dies and goes home to be with the Lord is two things: young men and the scriptures. His life was wound up in the last thing he wrote was a book to a young man that had been chosen by him to take his place and to carry on what he had started, and then he asked for the books and the parchments; he wants his scriptures. Incredible thing to me, incredible thing that the last thing the greatest Christian ever walked this planet was thinking of before he went home to be with the Lord was his heart was with the two things, and I told you this before: invest your life in the two things that only last for eternity. One of them is the Word of God, and the other is the souls of men. Everything else is nominal.

The second thing that always really struck me, as far as the record is concerned in the Word of God, nobody that Paul worked with got his heartbeat for ministry better than Timothy. I mean, they went and did whatever Paul needed to be done. There is no record of any conflict like with

John Mark. He grew through Paul's ministry. He learned how to look at people and the ministry. Timothy, in his own way of life, and he was a very multidimensional person. His mother is a Jew, his father is a Greek. He has got two cultures he has got to learn to exist in. He is everything a man could look for, and as far as the record is concerned, I do not know of anybody else that ever grasped Paul's heartbeat for ministry than young Timothy did. That is why you are going to find in chapter one, we will get here in a minute, Paul charges him to protect the church. That is an incredible statement. I know how Paul loved the church. I can read in his other letters to the churches. I can actually see and feel the emotion he has for them. For Paul to tell a human man to take and protect and charge him to protect the church from bad doctrine shows me that Paul had tremendous confidence in young Timothy. That confidence did not come through a casual acquaintance. That comfort came and that mindset came because of the fact that they had grown together, and Timothy had proved to Paul, "You do not have to worry about me, pal, I have got your back when it comes to ministry." That is the most impressive thing that I see in young Timothy's life.

This book has six chapters. It is written around 67 AD when Paul is in prison for the last time right before he is killed, or already said. The outline of this book is built around these twelve charges that I already talked to you about. We are going to go through the book by these charges as briefly as we can, yet covering all the material time we have. That is okay. One of these days, as you begin to grow, you and your wife, or you by yourself if you are single, however it works out, you and I will sit down, and we will spend a lot of quality time in 1 and 2 Timothy because I want you to understand all this material. The outline of this book, as I said, is built around these twelve charges that Paul gives to young Timothy, and really the book of 1 and 2 Timothy is the backbone or the handbook of how to pastor and how to be a good pastor.

Let us pray. Father, we thank you and praise you for all you do for us. I love you, and I thank you, Father, for all that you do for us today. Bless us as we come to your Word, and we will thank you and praise you in Jesus' name. Take the young men and the young ladies under the sound of my voice, Lord. Help them to always love your Word. Help them, Lord, to always fend off the things of this world that will keep them from fulfilling what God wants them to do, and let me as their pastor be found faithful in teaching, preaching, and loving them through the Word of God. In Jesus' name, for His sake, we ask it. Amen.

## II. Eight Characteristics of a Pastor

Over the years, I have learned that a pastor has to be able to do eight things. You find these eight things in Paul's life, and obviously, he taught them in young Timothy's life, though we do not have the scope of Timothy's life like we do Paul's. But I have learned over the years that a pastor has to be able to do eight things really well. I will tell you something else, and this is a true statement based on my observation of 30-some years watching pastors, preachers, and everybody concerned, and I have dealt with a lot of them and known a lot of them and been around a lot of them most of my life, and I am going to tell you a strange anomaly: most good preachers do not make good pastors, and most good pastors do not make good preachers.

Now I do not know why that is, and I have found guys who were pastoring that just could not preach their way out of a wet paper bag. I have found guys who could preach who had no concept of the people that he was supposed to pastor and supposed to do with. I cannot explain it other than that when you find somebody who is both, when you find somebody who understands and you have this one and this one, and you find somebody that goes right between the middle and can do both and do it well, you have somebody you want to pay attention to. I am telling you, I do not understand that, but I have seen that all of my life. I can give you statistic after statistic, case after case, of guys who I have had come and preach for me who were great preachers, and we went back to their churches, it looked like Hiroshima Day after. I have seen guys whose churches were the most ridiculous thing; everything was in its right place, everything was fine. You put them in the pulpit, and you think they got lockjaw. But every once in a while, you find that one that splits it right down the middle. He can teach, he can preach, he knows how to put it together, and brother, when you find somebody like that, when I see a young man like that who even at this early stage has those abilities, oh boy, you know you have got something.

- 1.) He needs to be able to relate to his people.
- 2.) The pastor needs to be able to educate.
- 3.) The third thing is a pastor needs to be able to elevate.
- 4.) You have got to be able to motivate people.
- 5.) The fifth thing is, a pastor needs to be able to accelerate.
- 6.) The next thing, a pastor has to be able to generate.
- 7.) Then he needs to be able to duplicate.
- 8.) Last but certainly not least, a pastor needs to be able to placate.

Those are the eight things that you are going to find that a pastor has to be able to do. Those eight things are found certainly in Paul's life. Many of them are found in the 12 charges we are going to look at with a lot more material. But they are the things that I look for in myself. They are the things that when I hold myself accountable personally for what I do, this is where I go. Then from there, I look for it in every young man and young lady that has the potential for ministry or leadership. Some of these 12 are inwardly; they have to do with your personal walk and spiritual growth. Some of them are administrative; they have to do with the work and the operation day to day of the local church. Some of them are outwardly, how you look and view and deal with people. But all in all, you have in 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy, and also Titus, you have the handbook for pastors. We are going to start to come through chapter by chapter here, and we will move on through.

### III. Charges to Timothy: Doctrine, Prayer, and Women

In chapter one, you are going to find from verse three to the end of the chapter in verse 20. This is where we see Paul's trust through his relationship with young Timothy. There is nothing more crucial to Paul than the ministry and people. Nothing. There was no more fervor, no more spirit. There was no more passion in anything in his life than young men and the ministry. For him in chapter one, verse three, to charge young Timothy that he would check the church from bad doctrine. You are going to find doctrine is the key. 13 times in 1 and 2 Timothy, you are going to find a reference to doctrine in some form. Paul understood what I understand. My ministry, based on chapter one, I have learned over the years that the number one thing a church needs to guard against is bad doctrine. So from the very get-go, you begin to teach people the right doctrine.

You people who are learning how to disciple right now, I look at you in a number of roles, and one of the roles that I look at you as is that when you start to work with somebody, people come into our church from all different backgrounds. I am not saying people come in with an ulterior motive per se that they want to hurt the church, but you know as well as I do, people floating around for 10, 15 years, they pick up some kind of bad teaching or bad doctrine. What a discipleship person does, I look at that as our first line of defense. Because in teaching them discipleship lessons, you basically teach them about the Bible's basic doctrines, and it gives you an opportunity for them to respond back. I look at you like a baggage check at KCI. There are certain things you can take on the plane; there are certain things you cannot. They run it through an x-ray machine, and they check it out and open your bags and look at it and make you shake your shoes off and all the things, run the wand all over you. Then when they are satisfied that everything is okay, you can get on the plane. Well, churches are the same way. The thing you do not want to do is you do not want people to bring things that are in the church that are bad doctrine, just like you do not want somebody to bring a Bowie knife on an aircraft. So your job as a discipler, among other things, is to see and understand how that thing works and to look for those things that you can help, and you teach them the right way.

Paul was so comfortable with young Timothy and the time that they had spent together, the relationship that they had, that Paul said, "That is the guy, that is the guy." He said to young Timothy, "Tim, take over. I am charging you to make sure that no bad doctrine comes into that church." That is quite a statement. That is quite an admission of a man being satisfied and comfortable with a young man's relationship with God and the Word of God, knowing what I know about Paul.

In our church, we have issues that this church stands on, and they are non-negotiable. We call them Bible doctrines, Bible principles. We know that they are laid out down through the New Testament for the church and for us as believers to go by. Through that, and my personality, and the way I have been trained, and the way I have been taught, we develop a philosophy of ministry. This church has non-negotiable items. Now there are things that if you believe about the Bible that I do not believe, no big deal. There are lots of negotiable items. Somebody says, "Well, I do not believe this or that," and it is fine. Every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. But there are things that have to be non-negotiable. You just have to be. By that, it produces a philosophy of ministry.

The path to leadership in this church is very simple. In other words, the first thing you do is you learn what the Bible says. You learn where this church stands. You learn and see my philosophy of ministry. If it is based on the Word of God, not by me telling you it is, but you searching it out in your own heart through the Word of God, then you align yourself up with that, and then you get my heart on ministry to the people that God gave us to work with together. From that point on, you guard this work just like I do. It is so simple. It is so basically simple. You do not have to run off and get a PhD. You do not have to know Greek and Hebrew. In fact, I prefer you did not. You do not have to have all of the things that they all say you have got to have. You have got to get just a couple of things down. Find out if I am the real deal when it comes to the book and my philosophy of ministry is biblical. If not, go someplace where it is and hook up. If it is, get in line, find out what God wants you to do. Get my heart for ministry, and then guard this work just like I do. Now, is that hard to understand? I think not. I think not.

That is my job as a pastor. That is why I take the personal time to teach and help you through your problems, whatever they may be. You can have all the time in the world with me that you want. For example, the person that wrote me the nice letter, "Hey, let us sit down. I want to help you. You have got me motivated. That letter encouraged me. I want to help you. I want to do, you have done your part, now let me do my part. Let me show you how it is supposed to be." That is my job as pastor because I know the danger of leaven coming in on bad doctrine into the church. There are only two things that I really get upset about. I mean, I do not care. There are things that if you do them, you are stupid. But as far as this church is concerned, on two things, I get upset about: one is bad doctrine, and two is you frustrating me with me working with young Christians because of your bad attitude. That is all I am really concerned about. Everything else is between you and God. When it comes to this work, you either get on board and we all pull it together, or as I said earlier, go start your own church. You can screw it up any way you want to. But in chapter one, we see Paul's confidence in young Timothy.

Then in chapter two, two great principle Bible concepts that a pastor needs to really teach his people. The first one is prayer. He says in 1 Timothy 2:1-7:

*1 Timothy 2:1I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;1 Timothy 2:2For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.1 Timothy 2:3For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;1 Timothy 2:4Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.1 Timothy 2:5For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;1 Timothy 2:6Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.1 Timothy 2:7Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.*

The first thing that a church needs to do, a pastor needs to begin to do, is talk to his people and teach them about prayer because we know the greatest thing we all should know about prayer is found in Romans 8:26-28, which is we do not know how to pray. So far, these have all been inward. Of course, if you come down through here, you will find the four different types of prayer, and you will find how that all lays out. Verse five talks about Christ as our mediator, talks about lifting up holy hands. You will want to get a definition of that. Go back to Exodus 17 with

Moses and the battle there with Amalek and all those guys, and you will see the type of that. Then it lays down the fact that after doctrine, the most important thing is prayer, learning how to pray.

Then the second great concept in chapter two, verses nine through 15, is the proper place of women in the church. Obviously, we know from the New Testament that women, in fact, it is laid out in 1 Timothy 2:12, that women are not to be pastors.

*1 Timothy 2:12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.*

Of course, in the society that we live in today, you see that when you talk like that, then you are a male chauvinist. Of course, that is simply not true. There are lots of things that a woman can do in a church. I am not a male chauvinist. I believe that if a woman works and does this job with a man, she should get paid as much. I think there are a lot of things women do better than men. In fact, the fact that a man is so stupid that he will... I think in a marriage relationship, husbands, there are things that your wife does that she will do better than you. Let her do it. Let her cut the grass. Let her wash the car. Let her do those things. Let her paint the house. I am just kidding.

But you see, there is a Bible principle involved here. The Bible says back in the garden, a woman was deceived. When the devil came to destroy mankind and everything that he did, he came to the weaker vessel. The Bible says that the woman is the weaker vessel. That is why she is to be under the authority of her father. That is why a woman growing up, I do not know if you know this or not, a woman growing up, she does not have her own name. You are Mindy, your first name. What is your last name? That is not your last name. Whose is it? It is your daddy's. You see, you do not have a last name. You are Mindy with your daddy's last name, you see. Then if you get married, you will have your husband's last name. You know why? Because a woman was not a direct creation, and she is always to be under the male authority.

Now that does not mean that when I say that, I can feel my own, into my fingers, "twin shoulder." That sounds so terrible. A husband is to treat her the right way. It does not mean that the husband says, "Okay, you are under my authority, you have got to do what I have got to tell you to do." It means that the husband, through the husband-wife relationship and the Word of God, knows how that whole thing plays out. The bottom line is in 1 Timothy 2:9-10, where the woman is to adorn and dress what is on the inside. 1 Peter 3:3-4 says that is the hidden man of the heart. Because she is not a direct creation. As long as she is under the authority of her husband, and as long as she is under the authority of a pastor, there is hardly anything she cannot do. Because as long as she submits herself to that authority, whatever the two authorities agree on for her to do, if she can do it well, then let her do it. But the Bible gives you some obvious things that she cannot do. She cannot pastor; she cannot be a deacon. But within the body of Christ.

You know what, we live in such a screwed up... This whole thing of The Da Vinci Code, when the book is out and beyond The Da Vinci Code, then it will be "Resurrection of the Alien Da Vinci Code." The thing, you know, that Mary and Christ were married, they produced a daughter, and the bloodline came through, and all this thing, you know. It is just so crazy. You know what,

all the women feminists, you know, and this whole thing is upside down. Let me tell you something. If you, ladies, if you lived in Europe right now and you did not have a job and you went in to get welfare, whatever the case may be, they would not give you welfare. Because you know what I would tell you? You say, "I cannot get a job, I cannot do this, I cannot do that." And you say, "I cannot work." And they will say, "Have you tried everything to get a job?" And you will say, "Well, yeah, I have tried everything. I tried to dare, I tried to be a secretary. What worked every well, I have done this, I have done that." And they will finally come down with this, "Well, look, we cannot give you the money." Why? "Because you can still get a job." "Well, what do you mean, cannot get a job?" "You can be a prostitute." See? That is how little they think of ladies in Europe. Prostitution over there is just another form of income. Therefore, when you cannot do anything else, we are not going to give you because you can still go be a prostitute. See how it works? That is Europe's mindset, amoral. If you go to the Middle East, they treat their dogs better than they do their wives. They beat them, they kick them, they torture them. Everywhere around the world, there are only two nations on the face of this planet that give the women their proper place. One of them is England, and the other one is America because they are the only two nations that both honored the book that honors women. If you cannot grasp that, you need a basic course in History 101. Of course, because the Bible has some great things to say about women and their place in the church, and you just have got to get it into perspective, and a young man as a pastor needs to know that.

#### IV. Administrative Charges: Qualifications and the Mystery of Godliness

Then we move into chapter three. We find in chapter three, three more charges to Timothy. Now these are administrative. See how the government of the church should work. In chapter three, he talks about the first two, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, he talked about the qualification for a pastor. Then in the second one, in 1 Timothy 3:8-13, talked about qualification for a deacon. Basically what he does here, and there are like 16 of them, you know, husband of one wife, blameless, vigilant, sober, good behavior, hospitality, you know, and all those things. You can read them for yourself. He goes through and he lays down that if in the church, in the three offices, we are going to talk about these, explain them a little bit later, you are going to find that basically the same qualifications are for the same for both, little variance, but not much. Because in a place of leadership, you have to have some of these, have these qualities. Well, obvious reason, we do not have to get into them. When we get closer to establishing our deacons, like we said, we are going to do, then we are going to go through this, and I will lay it all out for you.

Now the third thing in this great chapter is the great concept found in 1 Timothy 3:15-16, which lays out the nature of Christ and the truth it should stand for. He says in 1 Timothy 3:15-16, I am going to read verse 16:

*1 Timothy 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.<sup>1</sup>*  
*Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the*

*flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

I told you last week, there are seven mysteries given to the church. We looked at one last week called the mystery of iniquity. Here is another one, the mystery of godliness. This is key to the relationship of Christ in your life and the ministry. This is key to the success of any ministry, understanding this mystery and how this thing works, the process of God coming down to man. Always interested to me, this is one of the greatest verses in the Bible that talks about God becoming man. It said, "And without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh." Remember last week, I told you about the mystery of iniquity. I told you that basically the mystery of iniquity was to get you to be deceived through being disarmed and then becoming discouraged that you could not tell which the devil or God, which one was which. I remember I told you that the whole concept of the mystery of iniquity is how did the devil survive down through 6,000 years of mankind's history. Yet, you see a classic example in verse 16. "And without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh." You know what the new NIV says? It takes out "God" and puts in "he." You know why? Because they want to destroy God and put "he" in so that he can be the antichrist instead of God. Very subtle. It was not he who was manifested in the flesh; it was God was manifested in the flesh. Be not deceived, be not disarmed, be not discouraged.

## V. Warnings Against False Teaching and How to Combat It

Then in chapter four, two warnings, or really one warning against false teaching, and the second thing is two great concepts, how to deal with it. He says in 1 Timothy 4:1-3:

*1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 1 Timothy 4:2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 1 Timothy 4:3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.*

I cannot express to you how absolutely vital this issue is of false teaching and bad doctrine. Paul keeps making references to it. In fact, we are skipping over a lot of them just to get you the outline of the charges that show you how the book lays out. You can go through them on your own. He says in 1 Timothy 4:7:

*1 Timothy 4:7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.*

"Wives' fables" like husband and wives. That always used to bother me why that was. Then one day when I started studying church history, I started about all the old wives that came up with religions. Seventh-day Adventist, Mary White, somebody's wife. Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, somebody's wife. Unity, Emily Cady, somebody's wife. Charismatic Movement, Aimee Semple McPherson, somebody's wife. Old wives' fables, you see? Religions that have to do with the Bible that are just based on somebody making it up. The greatest proof about that is the fact that they all started in the 1800s. You could not find anybody on the face of this planet that

believed what Mary White believed or Mary Baker Eddy believed or Emily Cady believed or Aimee Semple believed anywhere in the history of the church before 1800, 1850. Why? Because they are old wives' fables. We are to guard against it. Guard against it.

*1 Timothy 4:10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.*

There is a great verse against predestination and Calvinism. God is the Savior of all men. Just about the time you wanted to make that "all men" only the elect, he puts that little comma there and says, "Oh, by the way, especially of those that believe," both groups. God is the Savior of all men, whether you are saved or lost, all men. He goes through this thing, and he tells that we have got to understand that in the last days, men are going to depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. The church needs to understand that and needs to know how to combat it.

The way you combat it is in the second thing in chapter four, how to keep false teaching from creeping into the church or the body of Christ. The answer to it is training of men and women for the ministry, understanding what the Bible says in 1 Timothy 4:11-14:

*1 Timothy 4:11 These things command and teach. 1 Timothy 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. 1 Timothy 4:14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.*

"These things command and teach." You have got to preach these things, and you have got to teach these things. You have got to have it both. In 2 Timothy 4:2, jumping ahead, he says:

*2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

Three things that you want to keep it from coming in and making it happen, what you do. He says, "Till I come," verse 13, "give attendance." Notice it does not say "give attention," "give attendance," do these things, attendance, be in attendance of these three things: reading, exhortation, and to doctrine. Simply put, read the book, preach the book, know the book. That is the job. My job is to get you to read the Word of God through those eight things I gave you: motivate, placate, generate, all of those things. You get somebody to read the book, you motivate him to read. The Holy Spirit of God motivates him to preach. Then you motivate him to learn the Word of God over and over and over. Notice it is not reading \*a\* book; it is reading \*the\* book. Pastors are famous today, and Christians too, of reading a book and then because they do not run that book by the book, they come up with another idea that has nothing to do with the Bible. The only final authority you have for everything you read is the Word of God.

Sunday morning, you know what we do? We teach you how to know the book. Thursday night, we teach you how to know the book. When you go down to the mission or you get in discipleship, you learn how to teach, you learn how to preach. Of course, the whole concept comes together as when God takes you to work and you work with people at work, and the

whole thing just bounces out, and as the church grows, you get more opportunities, and all things go. But it all comes back to reading the book, preaching the book, knowing the book, and me as pastor neglecting not the gift that is in you, seeing it before you do, helping build it, and to put you to the place where God wants you to be.

*1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*

Four things, and you better get these down: 1.) Take heed unto thyself. 2.) And unto the doctrine. 3.) Continue in them. 4.) In doing this, thou shalt save thyself, and them that hear thee.

The first point is take heed unto thyself. Never come to the place in growing spiritually where you ever do not consider everything as it comes through you. Always examine yourself first. Always. As a pastor, there are two things that you have to keep doing: you have to keep going, and you have to keep growing. There can never be a time in your life as a pastor where you quit going and you quit growing. The two go together. You always have to be out front. You always have to be the point lead. You always have to, because it is your responsibility, and someday you are going to give an account at the judgment seat of Christ, and the only way you can ensure that it comes out good. Because look what he says: "Save thyself." "Save thyself and them that hear thee." What does he mean by that? Here is a place where the word "save" does not mean salvation in the sense of being saved. This is about somebody that is already saved. But you see, the dilemma you get in when you do not follow the reading, the preaching, and knowing the Word of God, when you do not take heed to thyself in what you read, what you preach, and what you know, and you do not stay with the doctrine and continue in them, then what happens is you deceive yourself, and you deceive the people that listen to you. When you do this, you save yourself from being deceived. You save the people that listen to you from being deceived. Let me just throw it one step farther: you save yourself from being embarrassed at the judgment seat of Christ and the people that are listening to you. Incredible material in the book of 1 Timothy. Incredible material.

I have a friend of mine that his son, I think he is out of the Air Force at this point, but back in the 80s, he flew F-111s out of RAF Lakenheath in England. His dad was sending him my tapes. One time he came to Kansas City to visit his dad when he was on leave, and he took me out to lunch. He was telling me, in fact, he gave me a framed picture of his F-111 with his two shoulder patches on it. It was just a beautiful little thing. I still have it. He told me, we ate lunch. He said, "You are not going to believe this." He says, "We have three other jets. We have other F-111s in our squadron." He said, "We are all Christians." He said, "How did you like the Gaddafi raid?" I said, because that is when they, remember, they blew up Gaddafi or tried to kill him back there. He was on that raid. His flight was on that raid. He said, "By the way, Bob," he said, "How did you like the Gaddafi raid?" I said, "Well, you guys wish you would have got him, but you did, it was fine." He said, "Well, you know, you were on that raid with us." I said, "What are you talking about?" He said, "You know what?" He says, "The guys on my flight, the other three guys, we are all Christians." He said, "My dad started sending me your cassette tapes. We hooked up a deal with a little cassette player that after the missions, we can put your tapes in, and we listened through our inner-hedge comm between the planes that the other people cannot hear."

He said, "We listened to your tape on church history coming all the way back from the Gaddafi raid." I thought, "Well, wow, that is pretty neat. I like that idea."

So I asked him, I said, "You know what? I said, it has always amazed me, you guys being fighter pilots or any kind of pilots, because I know if I ever went to flight school to learn to fly a plane, I would be dead the first time the guy said, 'Take it up and fly it around and land it.' Me and flame flying, it just is not going to get it. It is not going to happen. I mean, I just do not see myself ever as a pilot." I said to myself, I said, "You know what? What was the hardest part of flight training?" Because you know, I have heard the stories, the Dilbert Dunker where they put you strapped in, they put you upside down in the water, and you have got to get out and all that stuff. I asked him, I said, "What was the toughest part of all your flight training?" Because you go through it for months. He said, "Well, the truth of the matter is, it never stops." He said, "But you are right." He said, "You know what? The toughest part of my training was the last month. Because the last month," he says, "you have got to do, you have got to do 100 missions in a flight simulator where they throw anything at you that can go wrong." He said, "One time," he said, "I was landing on an aircraft carrier at night in a simulator. All of a sudden, it started to snow, it started to rain, it started to thunder. I got a hurricane warning on the radar." He said, "My cockpit lights went out. The aircraft carrier lights went out." He said, "I have got to land this plane." He said, "The hardest part of my training was the last month where you had to spend 100 missions in a simulator where they threw everything at you that could go wrong to get you ready for what would happen when you got out there."

I thought to myself, "Wow." You know, that is what it is a lot like training young men and young ladies for the ministry. I like to see how people respond to things when things do not go the way they are supposed to. I like to see how they respond in every given situation. I have come to know this: somebody can talk about all they know about God and the Word of God in all my life. I have watched young men grow up. But I have learned it. The bottom line is this: if you do not do it here, you will never do it when you get out there. You are not going to suddenly go start a church someplace 10 years down the line, and then when you do not bring anybody to church here, you do not witness to anybody here, somebody is going to do it out there. It just does not work that way. As a pastor, you have to always keep going. You have to always keep growing. Because if you do not, you are going to deceive yourself, and you are going to deceive others. The worst-case scenario is at the judgment seat of Christ. Chapter four is an incredible chapter on the practicality of things in the ministry.

## VI. Practical Ministry: Widows, Elders, and Hidden Work

Then chapter five, and chapter five is just, and I am almost done here. Because you know there are only six chapters. Chapter five is the practical aspect of ministry for the pastor in the care of widows and the use of elders. Of course, the widow concept is simply the fact that, and here again, this is an administrative thing. It is a principle for caring for widows. In 1 Timothy 5:3-16, you find all the information here. The church is supposed to take care of widows who the Bible says are "widows indeed." The key being that they are destitute. They do not have anybody else to take care of them. The church's responsibility is to, if you have a woman that falls into this

category, that you as the church are to take care of her needs. Because she is destitute. Of course, there is some, you know, verse four talks about the fact that if she has relatives, that it is their responsibility to take care of her, not the church. She has to have been faithful, verse five, down through the years, you know, and praying and all those things. She has to be at least 60 years or older. She has to be in verse 10 of good report. In other words, she has been a faithful part of the ministry. Then he says in verses 11 through 16, you have got to be careful and do not, he said, do not let the church get abused in this because people will use it and abuse it. So that is why he lays down the strict administrative things of taking care of the widows. But it is the church's job, if a woman falls into this category where she has no visible means of support, she has no family, she has been in the church, she has done what is right, and she has followed the thing, that it is the church's responsibility to take care of her. If we ever find ourselves in that kind of circumstance, we will do exactly as the Bible says we are to do. That is what... I do not know of any church in the world that does that, of course, it is, you know, it may be just the fact that there are not a lot of people that qualify for it, and that may be. But the bottom line is, we have to follow what it says, and if we ever find ourselves in that situation where they meet the qualifications, then that is exactly what we will do.

Then in chapter five, he talked about the second great issue, and that is elders of the church and how to use them. Here is where I want to explain this because there are three offices within a local church: there are deacons, there are elders, and there are bishops, and a bishop is a pastor. Of course, now we are going to talk about the elder concept here, and then we are going to put it all together. In 1 Peter 5:1, the Bible talks about the elder being an overseer. An overseer, and here is how it works. You have a man that becomes the pastor. Now I know in our mindset today, it is all backwards, and it really does not bother me because it is all semantics and terminology, because we all know churches where you have the head pastor, then other guys are pastors, and they are all called pastors. I do not have a problem with that. I am just saying, but if you want to critique the way it is, here is how it works. You have one pastor. You have men that grow up that become part of the overall ministering with that pastor, who help oversee that ministry. They are the elders. Then you have men who are deacons, who follow the same kind of function, except they work on maybe another area or another level. But you are going to find that the elder is the one that works with the pastor, that he oversees, overseer, because he is supposed to see what the pastor sees, and he sees it and works with him. What he is getting ready to say here, he is laying down the qualifications that a pastor, and in this particular case, a position of an elder can be a paid position in the church. Deacons are not paid. What he is getting ready to say here is, in 1 Timothy 5:17, that an elder is worthy of double honor.

*1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.*

What does that mean? I have had people say, "Well, that means that you give him double honor of who he is." I guess that means you bow twice instead of once. I do not know. That is not what it is talking about. What it is saying here is this: he gets double honor. What does that mean? It means that he can make a living of what he does in the church, and it does not affect his reward at the judgment seat of Christ because, in essence, we are supposed to do what we do for God

without being paid. But there are certain positions in the church that can be paid, and while he labors, he does not violate anything at the judgment seat of Christ, and he can make a living by what he does at the same time.

Pastors, in 1 Timothy 5:18, pastors and elders are likened to oxen. They are yoked together.

*1 Timothy 5:18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.*

Of course, the Bible talks about 2 Corinthians 6:14, that we are not to be unequally yoked, and that means that the spouses are to be saved, and they work together. In fact, in the Old Testament, just to show you how the consistency of Scripture is, where the Bible says that we are not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers, and it is specifically making a reference here to being yoked as oxen, because they are yoked together for the work. In the Old Testament, Deuteronomy 22, it was a violation of law to yoke up an ox with an ass, and an ass is a picture of an unsaved man because of the principle in 1 Corinthians 6. So it just goes to show you again how that Bible is consistent. We saw that Thursday night when we came through the tabernacle. Just as the ox is allowed to eat while he treadeth out the corn, a pastor or elder can be paid by the church as needed as he works in the ministry. It is just one of those things. That is what he is doing here; he is laying this thing out.

Then in 1 Timothy 5:25, and 1 Timothy 5:25 is probably one of the greatest verses that you will not get today. But I am giving you this now, at this point in our church, I do not know of anybody in this church that can grasp the reality of what I am going to tell you because you have never been a pastor. But you need to know this and learn this because it helps you understand it someday if you ever do.

*1 Timothy 5:25 Likewise also the good works of some are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid.*

You know, one time I read a book on the Titanic, and it was an incredible book, very detailed book. It really went beyond the sinking. It showed, believe it or not, the iceberg that they hit. It still had the metal scrapings on the ice where the ship had cut across it. This was within like two weeks after the disaster. It brought about the point, which probably most of you already know, that when you are dealing with icebergs, if you see a gigantic ice peak sticking out of the water, 90% of that ice is still under the water. In an iceberg, only 10% of what you see, there is 90% that you do not see.

I tell you that illustration to tell you this, because some of you someday are going to make something successful nobody ever sees. It is all behind the scenes. I tell you that because of the fact that in young men, you know, all you see is the preaching, you see the Thursday night Bible study, you see when we go to Joplin or someplace else and you see me preach or some of the other guys preach or whatever, and that looks glamorous to you. But let me just say this to you, the real success of any ministry is not just done when you stand up here. The real aspect of the ministry is behind the scenes, the prayer, the tears, the frustration, the things that just happen. I am telling you, what goes on behind the scenes when nobody sees, and that is what he is saying

here, some things are seen now, and the things that cannot be seen, what he is saying, cannot be hid because they are going to show up at the judgment seat of Christ.

I say that because we live in a world where everything is showy and flashy. You know what, all my life I have watched, and I know this is true because I have seen it all my life. When young men come into that thing and they think that they see the glamor of the ministry and the thing that they want, and I never understood it, but the thing that they hold out for is if I can just get that ordination paper that says I am a pastor. Let me tell you something, let me tell you something right now, there is not a piece of paper on this earth that makes you a pastor. There is not a piece of paper on this planet that makes you a pastor. You see, but that is the glamor side of it. Most men that have them and want them and cannot wait to get them, five years later, are selling them on eBay secretly. Because the bottom line is simply this, it takes more than a piece of paper to make you a pastor. It takes you understanding that the majority of the work that you have got to do, nobody ever sees and nobody ever should. The majority of the things that you feel, the majority of things you have got to deal with and put up with, nobody ever sees and understands, nor should they.

Now I know full well telling you this, that nobody in this room can grasp it because you have never been there. Maybe you can sympathize with it to some degree, but if you have not been there, you do not understand what I am talking about in its full gravity. I am not saying it for any other reason than to tell you that if you ever get in that spot, you better realize that the success of ministry is what you have got to do when nobody is looking to make it work. It has nothing to do with just knowing the Bible well. That is an admirable quality, but that does not make a good pastor. It really does not even have anything to do with your ability to preach. That is an admirable quality, and you certainly need it. That does not make you a pastor. It is the ability that when nobody is looking and behind the scenes, you just keep on doing what you know that works, even in the face of severe adversity, to the place where it does not matter who knows or who does not know because you are not doing this for yourself or for somebody else, you are doing it because deep down in your heart, you have got a passion of what Christ did for you, and that is why you do it. Because any other way, any other reason, and you will start doing things to please people instead of pleasing God. That is one of the greatest verses on ministry that you will never grasp today. Sometimes you see it now, and that is what we look at as glamorous, but the real work is not the glamor. The real work is when nobody is looking, and you have got to sit there, help them through their problems, deal with your own frustrations, watch people who should know better, and you have to deal with it. Watch young Christians that you see the great potential in your life. Watch them pass by and go someplace. Those are the things that you have just got to understand are what the ministry really is. You do not get credit down here for everything you do, but brother, out there, if your attitude of heart is right and you did it for the right reason, you will get it at the judgment seat of Christ. Chapter four is an incredible chapter on the practicality of things in the ministry.

## VII. Correct Attitudes Toward Servants and Wealth

Then chapter six, and we are done. Last two great concepts and charges to Timothy, and then it has to deal with two kinds of people. 1 Timothy 6:1-5 deals with the correct relationship between servants and their masters. These are outward. 1 Timothy 6:9-21 talks about the correct attitude toward people of wealth and prominence. Of course, I have never fully understood this because for some reason, the fatal mistake that pastors make is the fact that they always cater to the rich and famous and the prominent people because they get this idea in their head that they have something better to offer than the common ordinary man. Let me tell you something. You take an x-ray of a poor person and a rich person; when you look at them, they are the same on the inside. Nothing changes. The fact of the matter is, I am telling you, you are not going to find too many people that can handle wealth well. There are some people that can, but they are few and far between. Riches usually destroy somebody. Of course, I know we would all like to be rich. We would all like to have that shot at it to try. You know, we all dream about winning the lottery, and all of this. But the truth of the matter is this, the Bible made you, God could make you win the lottery or give you a million dollars anytime he wanted to. If you have got to connive to get it, you better be careful because I am telling you, the illusion of success is that I have got to have it, and money will get it for me.

The Bible says that godliness with contentment is great gain. He says in 1 Timothy 6:5-6:

*1 Timothy 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. 1 Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.*

You see, there is a great principle in the Bible that you have got to learn that not too many wealthy people ever grasp. I clearly know that I have met very wealthy people who dealt with it well and did what they were supposed to do, but not very many. Because the greatest concept that you have got to get whether you are rich or whether you are poor is the concept taught throughout the Bible, and that simply is this: if you want to keep it, you have got to give it away. If you want to keep it, you have got to give it away. There is nothing on this earth, no car, no house, no nothing that should take your passion more than the mission that God has for you. Let us face it, riches destroy that concept. Riches gets into us, covetousness, and that is why the Bible says in 1 Timothy 6:10:

*1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

A guy said one time, "Well, that is not true, the love of money is not the root of all evil, but the root of all the money is covetousness." Not being satisfied is where you are at is the number one problem and the root of all evil. Because that is what the devil was. He was one thing, and he says, "I am not satisfied. I want to be like the most high God." When you are not satisfied with where you are at, with what you have got in the natural, and I am not saying you should not advance, I am not saying you should not have nice things. I have nice things, but there is nothing I have got that I cannot drop in a heartbeat if God shows me something else that I have got to do. You know why? Because godliness with contentment is great gain. For a pastor, there can never be anything that you want more than what God wants for you. Nothing. You have to come to the

place where you balance your life, you balance your finances, you balance everything about you that everything comes to a fine razor point to do one thing: that is the mission that God has called you to do. Because anything other than that will be the illusion of success.

Pastors, they are drawn to people of wealth, people of prominence, because they think that they are a shortcut. That I want to do this, we want to build a building, we want to go here, we want to have this. If I get two or three millionaires in my church, they will donate the land, I will preach a nice message, I will put the name, the first five pews after the kids, and all that, and we will get all the... Hey, let me tell you something. If that is the kind of things you have got to resort to to get the job done for God, you better go take tickets down at the theater someplace. Another great principle: God always pays for what he orders. God always pays for what he orders. There was not any one person ever in any ministry that will be the backbone of that ministry, that the ministry has to have their money, their talent, their ability to survive. Boy, you fall into that trap, and you are in trouble. Of course, these are great things for a pastor. These are the things, and lots of other things we did not get to today, that a pastor has to know. If you are going to be a leader in this church, your job, and I will leave you with this, is clearly, get in that book, find out if what we believe and what we teach is right, and if it is in your own heart based on what the Word of God says, then get my heart for people and the ministry, and get on board and begin to let God do in your life what he needs for you to do.

Every head bowed and every eye closed. I am going to be finished here in just a second, and we are going to be on our way. You have heard me say a lot of things today, and I had a lot of other things that I needed to say, time did not permit it, but that is okay, like I said. Some of you and I will be back in this book at great length at some point. But let me just say this to you, maybe you are here this morning, and you have never trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal Savior. Now I understand today that, you know, being here and being new to all this, it might add just a little bit of confusion of what we are all about, but put that aside right now, because I know that in the midst of all of that, I know that the Holy Spirit of God was speaking to hearts today, and I am sure that he spoke to you today. As simply as this, if you are here this morning and you do not know for sure that if you died right now that you would go to heaven, that is the most important question in your life at this point. Now there will be other important questions, but until you answer that question, there is no more pressing question. The question is this: do you know for sure that your sins have been forgiven? Do you know that if you would die right now, drop over dead, get killed in a car wreck going home? Whatever, do you know right now if you die right now?