

**Message #37****I Timothy 6:13-16**

The Apostle Paul, in his second letter to the Corinthians, talked about something he called the “daily pressure upon” him for the care of the churches (II Cor. 11:28). When one is in leadership, there is a tremendous weight and a tremendous amount of strain that rests heavily on a man who takes his responsibilities seriously.

**THE MINISTER HAS BEEN GIVEN A VERY SERIOUS CHARGE BY GOD TO GOVERN HIMSELF AND GOD’S CHURCH IN GOD’S WAY UNTIL JESUS CHRIST RETURNS.**

The Church is much bigger than you or me. The Church is God’s Church and it is His will and Word that must govern it.

**CATEGORY #1** – The charge is serious. **6:13**

The verb “charge” is one that refers to an order or a command.

**Prepositional Phrase #1** - The charge is made “in the presence of God.” **6:13a**

The preposition “in the presence” is one that literally means this charge is being made to Timothy in the sight, in the face of God.

Paul wanted Timothy to realize that it was God who gave him his physical life (John 1:3) and his spiritual life (Eph. 2:1). Timothy had been dead in his trespasses and sins and God had reached into his personal world and gave him life. Timothy did not earn life nor deserve life; God gave it to him. Timothy, then, was highly accountable to God to obey the charge because his very life had been given to him by God.

I Kings 9:3 says concerning the temple in Jerusalem—“My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.” Today, we are the temple of God (I Cor. 6:19). God’s eyes are on us perpetually. We live our lives “in the presence of God.”

**Prepositional Phrase #2** - The charge is made “in the presence of Jesus Christ.” **6:13b**

The coordination conjunction “and” gives coequality to the charge before God and the charge before Jesus Christ. This is just another proof that Jesus Christ is fully God.

The statement about Christ was that He testified a “good confession before Pontius Pilate.” When we study what Christ actually did before Pilate, we learn certain things that are very helpful. Jesus Christ had earned a tremendous reputation by the time he got before Pilate. When He was questioned and quizzed by him, Christ boldly stood His ground (Matt. 27:11; John 18:33-37). Pilate’s conclusion was “I find no guilt in this man” (Luke 23:4).

Paul wanted Timothy to realize that this charge was made in the presence of one who had literally been on this earth and succeeded in ministry. Jesus Christ was personally watching the ministry of Timothy. He needed to earn a good reputation and he needed to boldly defend the faith because Christ, who had done both, was watching him.

The thought that God is monitoring our lives should do at least two things for us:

- 1) It should prevent us from doing sinful things (Ex. 20:20).
- 2) It should comfort us because of God's care and guidance (Deut. 8:1-5).

**CATEGORY #2** – The charge is specific. **6:14**

The specific charge to Timothy was that he “keep the commandment.” This is very emphatic in the original, meaning Paul truly wants Timothy to know and obey this.

There have been at least eight views as to what this means:

- 1) The commandment given to Timothy at his baptism.
- 2) The commandment given to Timothy at his ordination. I Tim. 4:14
- 3) The commandment given in verses 11-12.
- 4) The commandment to persevere in his faith and ministry I Tim. 4:16
- 5) The commandment to obey everything written in this letter.
- 6) The commandment to which includes everything Timothy has been entrusted with since his salvation and since knowing Paul. II Tim. 2:2
- 7) The commandment which includes obeying everything in the Bible. II Tim. 3:16
- 8) The commandment to preach God's Word, live by God's Word and govern God's church by God's Word.

**Prepositional Phrase #1** - Timothy is to keep this commandment without stain. **6:14a**

The word “stain” refers to a spotless, unstained purity. The particular word used here has in view moral purity (Smith, p. 414).

**Prepositional Phrase #2** - Timothy is to keep this commandment without reproach. **6:14b**

The word “reproach” is the one which refers to having a good reputation that has been earned (Smith, p. 36). This is a qualification for an elder (3:2).

**Prepositional Phrase #3** - Timothy is to keep this commandment until Christ appears. **6:14c**

God's people and God's church are to be governed by God's Word until the Church Age ends at the appearing of Jesus Christ. The “appearing” of Christ refers to the Rapture, when He appears and believers are caught up to meet Him (II Tim. 4:1; John 2:28). The “kingdom” of Christ refers to His second coming when He literally puts His feet on this earth (II Tim. 4:1).

God demands that His leaders preach and teach His Word, live His Word and govern His church by His Word until Jesus Christ ends the Church Age at the Rapture, when He appears.

**(Fact #1)** - Jesus Christ will appear at the proper time. **6:15a**

The Rapture will not be one minute before or behind the right time; it will occur at exactly the proper time.

**(Fact #2)** - Jesus Christ is the blessed One. **6:15b**

What this actually means is that Jesus Christ is the only one who can bring blessed happiness to lives and to the world.

**(Fact #3)** - Jesus Christ is the only Sovereign One. **6:15c**

There is only one Being who is classified as sovereign in the Bible, and that is God. He has no rivals when it comes to his sovereignty (Is. 46:11). Jesus Christ is the only sovereign who has appeared on this earth and who will appear again. Jesus Christ is coming and He is the Sovereign God!

**(Fact #4)** - Jesus Christ is the King of Kings. **6:15d**

This is a title that means Christ is the sovereign ruler and power over all other rulers and powers—He is the King of Kings.

**(Fact #5)** - Jesus Christ is Lord of Lords. **6:15c**

This title means that Jesus Christ has ultimate power and authority over everything. Literally He is the Master of the universe and everything in it.

**(Fact #6)** - Jesus Christ alone possesses immortality. **6:16a**

The only one who can give eternal life is Jesus Christ.

**(Fact #7)** - Jesus Christ dwells in unapproachable light. **6:16b**

This point really drives home the fact that Jesus Christ is God. Unapproachable light may be understood as unapproachable holiness in which there has never been anything dark (i.e. I John 1:5-7). Deity presently has invisibility.

**(Fact #8)** - Jesus Christ has eternal honor and dominion. **6:16c**

One may willingly give Him honor and glory today, or one may be forced later. It is serious business to lightly esteem God's Word or Church. A leader better take His ministry seriously, for God does and will!