

Subject: Motivation of the Man of God, Part 1

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:13-16

Having already dealt with the marks of the man of God, Paul concludes his letter to Timothy by reminding him of the motivation of God's man. These are closing words, important words. It seems that Paul was about to close this letter in 6:16 with the doxology about God and then "Amen," but then he continues a few more verses and actually closes with a another thought in verses 20-21 and the final "Amen."

In reading and studying this first letter to Timothy, it becomes evident that Paul really loved Timothy, the church that Timothy served as pastor, and the truth that served as a foundation for that church (3:15). Paul has made it clear that both the pastor and the church must be committed to the truth because God's truth is the basis of all that we believe, what we do and don't do, and what we preach and teach.

Paul ends this letter the same way he began, with a call to commitment. The man of God must be faithful in the light of Christ's return, God's glorious character, and the sacred trust he has given to him. In these final words, Paul is dealing with the motivation of God's man.

1. THE MAN OF GOD IS MOTIVATED BY THE LORD'S APPEARING (vs. 13-14)

Paul gave Timothy a charge, and in that charge he reminded him of the human witnesses and the divine witnesses. One day Timothy would give an account, as will all believers. He mentions the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord's return. Right now we cannot see Him. He is in heaven and out of our sight, but one day He will appear, and when He appears it will be a time of evaluation and rewards. The word "appearing" comes from a word that means "to shine upon," and from which we get our English word, "epiphany." Jesus described His appearing in Matthew 24:27 *For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.* This is His coming to set up His kingdom and rule on earth. He describes it again in Matthew 24:30 *And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.* The man of God has an eternal perspective. He knows that one day Christ will come in His glory and that keeps him going.

- 1 Corinthians 4:1-5¹ *Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.*² *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*³ *But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.*⁴ *For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.*⁵ *Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*
- 2 Timothy 4:8 *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

- **1 Peter 5:4** *And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.* Players and coaches go all out to win the Vince Lombardi trophy, but in the end, what will it matter?

2. THE MAN OF GOD IS MOTIVATED BY THE LORD'S ATTRIBUTES (vs. 15-16)

Paul reminds Timothy of the glory of God as he mentions several of God's attributes:

- **God's wisdom** – God controls all events and He will decide the right time for Christ to make His appearance. Jesus reminded the disciples of this, **Acts 1:7** *And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.*
- **God's blessedness** – He is full of blessing within Himself and therefore He is the source of all our blessings. This is sometimes called God's self-sufficiency. He is self-existent ("I AM") and self-sufficient. He depends on no one or nothing outside of Himself to make Him blessed. He doesn't need us or any other creature, but we all need Him.
- **God's sovereignty and power** – He is the only Potentate. He is potent or has all power and authority. He is King of kings and Lord of lords. He rules and reigns over all men. **Daniel 4:35** *And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?*
- **God's immortality** – This means He cannot die. He is eternal. He had no beginning and will have no end. **1 Timothy 1:17** *Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.* It's comforting for us as mortal men to know that God is immortal. **Deuteronomy 33:27** *The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.*
- **God's holiness** – God dwells in perfect light. This refers to His absolute perfection and holiness. **1 John 1:5** *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.* When we speak of God's holiness, it means that God is separate. He is separate in two ways. He is separate from all creatures and He is separate from all corruption and sin. He is in a class by Himself. When you think of the angels and even the special angels described around God's throne, these majestic creatures are more like a worm that crawls on the ground than they are to God. **Isaiah 6:1-3** ¹ *In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.* ² *Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.* ³ *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.* They have six wings and four of them are used for covering their faces and their feet. God is unapproachable. At times God revealed Himself, but no one has ever seen or can see God in all of His glory.

God is worthy of all honor and power. He is worthy of our praise and worship. God's man is to live and serve in such a way that God will be glorified. That's all that matters. Every man of God should live by the words of John the Baptist: "He must increase, but I must decrease."

A. W. Tozer wrote this: “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” It’s also the most important thing about the church. Tozer said: “Always the most revealing thing about the Church is her idea of God, just as her most significant message is what she says about Him or leaves unsaid, for her silence is often more eloquent than her speech.” A high view of God gives us a high view of worship and serving God. How can we know the God of the Bible and not be motivated to live for Him? Go back and read through the entire letter of First Timothy again and look for the attributes of God and Jesus Christ.