

“Faithful Men”
2 Timothy 2:2
(Preached at Trinity, March 6, 2022)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Paul has told Timothy to press on, to continue faithfully fulfilling his calling. He summarized the charge in **Verse 1** – “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”
2. Paul also told Timothy of the importance of maintaining and defending the truth against the rising tide of heresy. He said in **2 Timothy 1:13 NAU** - “Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”
3. Paul continues to stress the importance of maintaining doctrinal standards. He uses the expression “these things.” He is referring to apostolic teaching. He has used the expression over and over in these letters to Timothy.
1 Timothy 3:14 NAU - “I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long”
1 Timothy 4:6 NAU - “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.”
1 Timothy 4:11 NAU - “Prescribe and teach these things.” “command”
1 Timothy 4:15 NAU - “Take pains with these things; be *absorbed* in them, so that your progress will be evident to all.”
1 Timothy 5:7 NAU - “Prescribe these things as well, so that they may be above reproach.”
2 Timothy 2:14 NAU - “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.”
4. Paul closed out **chapter 1** by contrasting those who had been disloyal to the Gospel to one who had been loyal – faithfulness versus unfaithfulness. Onesiphorus had been faithful to Christ and the Gospel. He put into practice the things he had been taught. Like Paul, Timothy had experienced many who had forsaken the faith. They had turned against the truth and against Timothy’s ministry. But there were also many who had remained faithful.
5. In **Verse 2** Paul tells Timothy to look to these faithful men. Teach them and train them. Equip them to rightly handle the Word of Truth and then send them to teach and instruct others. Paul is implying the great value of God’s Word. It’s like a treasure that must be protected and preserved. Paul tells Timothy to entrust it to these faithful men.
παράτιθημι – commit, entrust – literally: to place beside
It is a form of the noun found in **2 Tim. 1:12** – “which I have entrusted” - παραθήκη
Which means a deposit, a trust or thing consigned to one's faithful keeping
Paul is telling Timothy to deposit these truths with faithful men.

6. Paul gave a similar charge to Titus –
Titus 1:5 NAU - "For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,"
7. It should be noted that Timothy himself had demonstrated this faithfulness.
1 Corinthians 4:17 NAU - "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."
8. This in no way reduces or degrades the value of faithful women
- A. The women were of great value to Paul's ministry
 1. Paul gave commendation to Phoebe who served faithfully
Romans 16:1-2 NAU - "I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea; ² that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well."
 2. The value of Priscilla and her husband could not be overestimated
Romans 16:3-4 NAU - "Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴ who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;"
 3. Lydia showed Paul great hospitality in Philippi.
 4. And, of course, women played a major role during the earthly ministry of Christ. It was the women who were the first to see the resurrected Jesus.
 - B. One of the qualifications of pastors and deacons is that their wives be faithful
1 Timothy 3:11 ESV - "Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things."
 - C. Older women are valuable to the church in teaching the younger women –
Titus 2:3-5 NAU - "Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, ⁴ so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored."
 - D. There are many untapped opportunities in our own church for women's ministries
 1. Welcoming committee for sending cards to visitors
 2. Hospital ministry – sending get-well cards or flower arrangements.
 3. Shut-in ministry – nursing homes etc.
 4. Prayer groups
 - E. There are certain offices that women must not hold
8. I believe these "faithful men" refer primarily to the ministry. Those who are gifted to teach others, including the training of other teachers.
 This morning I want us to look at the nature of these faithful man.
 Who is this faithful man that can be entrusted with so great a trust? As we examine him we must remember that these things truly apply to every believer. Every believer, men and women are responsible for faithfully passing down the Word to those under their care. Remember, after Paul told Titus to ordain elders, he told him to remind older women of their ministry of the Word to younger women. And younger men and women should also grow in their knowledge of the Word so they can teach others.

- I. He is first and foremost one who is faithful to God – they are “faithful men”
- A. God demands absolute faithfulness
Exodus 20:3 – “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”
1. The faithful man trusts all his ways to God.
Proverbs 3:5-6 NAU - "Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight."
 2. He is not self-willed but submits to God
- B. He is faithful as a servant of God
1. Previously we served sin and Satan - Now we serve God with all our heart
 2. The faithful man has committed all that he has to God
 3. The faithful man is no longer at his own disposal but God’s – He has vowed himself to God
- D. He walks in the way of holiness – He should be blameless – He fears to do anything that would dishonor his Savior
1. He wants to tread in the paths of Christ. Christ is glorious, marvelous, altogether lovely, our precious Cornerstone.
 2. To the faithful man, Jesus excels all of the beauties of this world
- E. He will stand up for the honor of God
1. Though all the world forsake Him the faithful man stands for His honor.
 2. He does not remain silent when God’s name is reproached.
- II. He is one who is faithful to the church of God
- A. God has given him oversight of the church as the body of Christ
1. The faithful man is faithful to the people of God
 2. Jesus laid His life down for the church
Ephesians 5:25 – “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;”
 3. We all have a high responsibility to strengthen one another
1 Thessalonians 5:11 NAU - "Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing."
This is particularly true for the Pastor – it is part of his function
Ephesians 4:11-12 NAU - "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;"
- B. The faithful man is faithful to the institution of the church
1. It is the pillar and ground of the truth
 2. The faithful one seeks to strengthen the church—to manage and maintain it well now and for the future.
 3. The faithful man is faithful to the ministries and activities of the church

III. He is one who is faithful to the truth

Titus 1:9 NAU - "holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict."

- A. The faithful man protects the truth at all costs
 - 1. It will always be unpopular - If we are dogmatic in holding to Biblical truth we will be labeled as intolerant, unloving, insensitive, or even unchristian.
 - 2. It was because of Paul's calling to preach the truth that he was in prison
V. 12 – "For the which cause I also suffer these things"
 - 3. It is a sacred trust given to us
- B. This must be handed down to faithful men
 - 1. Faithful to believe it
 - 2. Faithful to protect it
 - 3. Faithful to proclaim it

IV. He is one who is faithful to his family

- A. A failure here disqualifies a man from ministry
 - 1. He must be faithful in ruling his house
1 Timothy 3:4 NAU - "*He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity*"
 - 2. He must be faithful to his wife
1 Timothy 3:2 – "the husband of one wife" - A one woman man
 - 3. The lives of his children must demonstrate his faithfulness to his family
Titus 1:6 KJV – "If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly."
- B. The faithful man has learned the importance of balance
 - 1. God reigns supreme in all things
 - 2. He must give himself to promote the health and wellbeing of the church
 - 3. He must dedicate himself to the truth
 - 4. He must also find time for his family – balance is essential
 - a. Few men in our generation have found this balance
 - b. They are either guilty of paedolatry or neglect
Read "Cats in the Cradle" by Harry Chapin

Conclusion:

On a more general level, these things apply to every believer. We must all be considered faithful

1. Faithfulness applies to both pastors and church members.
 - a. Pastors who are faithful to preach the word faithfully, who are faithful to the souls of their flock, faithful in watching over them reproving and exhorting them.
 - b. Faithful church members who faithfully believe on the Lord Jesus Christ
2. It should be remembered that we are all responsible to each other to faithfully hold to the truth. God's Word has been entrusted to us all.

My child arrived just the other day
 He came to the world in the usual way
 But there were planes to catch, and bills to pay
 He learned to walk while I was away
 And he was talking 'fore I knew it, and as he grew
 He'd say "I'm gonna be like you, dad"
 "You know I'm gonna be like you"

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
 Little boy blue and the man in the moon
 "When you coming home, dad?" "I don't know when"
 But we'll get together then
 You know we'll have a good time then

My son turned ten just the other day
 He said, thanks for the ball, dad, come on let's play
 Can you teach me to throw, I said-a, not today
 I got a lot to do, he said, that's okay
 And he, he walked away, but his smile never dimmed
 It said, I'm gonna be like him, yeah
 You know I'm gonna be like him

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
 Little boy blue and the man in the moon
 "When you coming home, dad?" "I don't know when"
 But we'll get together then
 You know we'll have a good time then

Well, he came from college just the other day
 So much like a man I just had to say
 Son, I'm proud of you, can you sit for a while?
 He shook his head, and he said with a smile
 What I'd really like, dad, is to borrow the car keys
 See you later, can I have them please?

And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon
Little boy blue and the man in the moon
"When you coming home, son?" "I don't know when"
But we'll get together then, dad
You know we'll have a good time then

I've long since retired, my son's moved away
I called him up just the other day
I said, I'd like to see you if you don't mind
He said, I'd love to, dad, if I can find the time
You see, my new job's a hassle, and the kids have the flu
But it's sure nice talking to you, dad
It's been sure nice talking to you
And as I hung up the phone, it occurred to me
He'd grown up just like me
My boy was just like me
Songwriters: Sandy Chapin / Harry F. Chapin
Cat's in the Cradle lyrics © Warner Chappell Music, Inc

