

INTRODUCTION

The Lord Jesus Christ is the amazing, unique man, the one man ever to live utterly blameless, entirely above reproach. There is no thing anyone could rightly say that would justly lay any blame on him. As He walked this earth, He always loved God with all His heart, mind, soul, and strength, and always loved His neighbor as Himself. This already is accomplished, and shall continue forever.

By the work of His Holy Spirit in me, I believe in Him, trust Him, depend on Him to be the mediator between God, who is perfect, and me, since I am sinful, and cannot be right with God on my own bad record. I trust in what the Bible says, that by the blood Jesus shed on the cross, and by the perfect life He lived, the guilt of my sins is blotted out, and I am counted blameless before God because I am reckoned to be in Christ through faith. Again, this already is accomplished, and shall continue forever as the Lord Jesus keeps me in His hands, and shall never lose me.

He has promised that He is coming back here to get me one day. On that day, whether I am still alive, or whether I have died, He will raise me up changed, so that there no longer will be any sin in me. I never will sin again for all eternity, but will live forever blameless, above reproach. This will be accomplished one day in the future, and also will continue forever.

Those three things of which I just spoke: the righteousness of Jesus Christ Himself, and His righteousness imputed to me through faith, and the righteousness He will cause me to enjoy when He comes again, all are truths I believe, and in which I rejoice, and from which I take great comfort.

But that still leaves the matter of my actual conduct or behavior during this life, the life I am living right now. My own conduct troubles me. In the innermost man, born again by the Holy Spirit, I love God's law, I love Him, I love other people. But the devil, the world, and my very own flesh tempt me to all kinds of selfish, unloving, sinful things. And far too often, I succumb to those temptations, at least in my thoughts, often in my speech, and often, too, even in my actions.

But, by God's grace at work in me, I continue to repent of those sins. I aspire to live a blameless life, to live in righteousness, to love God and to love other people. No matter how many times I fail in those things, I find the Holy Spirit still is in me working by His power to sanctify me.

So, having stumbled, I rise again and press on toward the finish line, to win the prize to which the Lord Jesus calls me.

Many times, the love that God has shown me moves me to love other people, whom He has created in His image, and for whom Jesus Christ has shed His own blood.

I know that children will follow my example, whether I want them to or not. So, I long to be blameless, above reproach, so that the example I set will be good for children to follow.

I know that unbelievers will notice how I live, whether I want them to or not. So, I long to be blameless, above reproach, so that my light will so shine before men that they will see my good deeds and glorify my Father in heaven.

I know that the church needs pastors and deacons in the future, but that only men judged to be blameless, above reproach, can rightly be chosen for office. So, I long to have an abundance of men who are blameless, so this church and others can be well pastored by qualified elders and well served by qualified deacons.

In the pastoral epistles, Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus about how one ought to conduct himself in the congregation of the living God, the Holy Spirit speaks to the churches about how to go about becoming what we long to be: blameless, above reproach. Interestingly, it revolves around the little phrase "these things." Actually, in the Greek New Testament, it is just the one word "these." But in our English Bibles we have it as "these things."

As we continue in 1 Timothy chapter 4, we come to that phrase "these things" in today's verse. I'm taking this opportunity to show you our Lord's will for us, His disciples and His church, what He has provided as the means by which we become blameless, above reproach, as shown in the several references to "these things."

TEXT

1 Timothy 4:6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.

BODY

I. The Authors of the Bible Were Inspired by God To Write Us These Things

1 Timothy 3:14 **These things [G5023 *tauta*]** I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly

- A. The human authors of the Bible, men such as Moses, Isaiah, Matthew, Luke, John, Paul, Peter were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write the very word of God
- B. The scriptures of the Bible are rich with different subjects, telling us all we need to know about life and godliness
 - 1. gospel doctrines about repentance and forgiveness of sins, about eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ, about the resurrection of the dead when the Lord Jesus comes back
 - 2. moral instruction for daily living
 - a) husbands, love your wives
 - b) wives, submit to your husbands
 - c) children, obey your parents
 - 3. procedures and principles for operating the local church
 - a) ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper
 - b) choosing of officers
 - c) behavior in worship
 - 4. warnings not to give heed to deceitful doctrines, such as commands to abstain from foods
 - 5. admonitions not to be afraid or to be anxious, based on precious promises that He always will be with us, and that He is coming back again
- C. The apostles would have liked to visit every church; and they travelled a great deal visiting many; but they couldn't be everywhere; and when their time was up, they went home to be with the Lord; so they wrote us letters, epistles; and **these things** the apostles wrote to us are the perfect word of God that our Lord Jesus has provided us

The authors of the Bible were inspired by God to write us **these things**

II. **These Things** Are Good For Us

- A. Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. **These things [G5023 *tauta*]** are good and profitable to men.
 - 1. ESV excellent and profitable
- B. By “these things” the apostle means the things Paul wants Titus to affirm constantly
- C. Here the word “good” is not *agatha*, but *kalos*, beneficial
- D. These things are good or beneficial specifically for helping us who have believed in God to maintain good works
- E. Other things do not have that quality, of being good and profitable.
 - 1. some are harmful, being untrue, deceitful
 - 2. others are not harmful *per se*, but are not profitable, or profit only little, for this life only

The authors of the Bible were inspired by God to write us **these things**
These things are good for us

III. The Pastors of the Churches Are Solemnly Charged To Devote Themselves to **These Things**

- A. 1 Timothy 4:15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.
 - 1. GEN These things exercise, and give thy selfe unto them
 - 2. KJV Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them
 - 3. ESV Practice these things, immerse yourself in them
 - 4. CSB Practice these things; be committed to them
- B. 1 Timothy 5:21 I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe **these things [G5023 *tauta*]** without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.
- C. Certainly every disciple of Jesus Christ has the right to devote himself to these things
- D. But it is the duty of the office of pastor for a man to devote himself to these things

The authors of the Bible were inspired by God to write us **these things**

These things are good for us

The pastors of the churches are solemnly charged to devote themselves to **these things**

- IV. The Worshipers In the Congregations Are To Receive Instruction In **These Things**
- A. 1 Timothy 4:6 If you instruct the brethren in **these things [G5023 tauta]**, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.
 - 1. GEN, KJV put the brethren in remembrance of these things
 - 2. ESV put these things before the brethren
 - 3. CSB point these things out to the brothers
 - B. 1 Timothy 4:11 **These things [G5023 tauta]** command and teach.
 - 1. GEN warne and teache
 - C. 1 Timothy 5:7 And **these things [G5023 tauta]** command, that they may be blameless.
 - 1. GEN warne them of
 - 2. KJV give in charge
 - D. 1 Timothy 6:2 And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort **these things [G5023 tauta]**.
 - 1. ESV Teach and urge these things
 - 2. CSB Teach and encourage these things
 - E. 2 Timothy 2:14 Remind them of **these things [G5023 tauta]**, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.
 - 1. GEN, KJV Of these things put them in remembrance
 - F. Titus 2:15 Speak **these things [G5023 tauta]**, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.
 - 1. ESV Declare
 - 2. CSB Proclaim
 - G. 2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit **these [G5023 tauta]** to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.
 - 1. while the pastors instruct the whole congregation in these things
 - 2. they especially commit these things to those faithful men who can be trusted to teach others
 - H. Summary: the brothers and sisters are to receive from the pastors
 - 1. instruction on these things
 - 2. warning about these things
 - 3. teaching of these things
 - 4. exhortation in these things
 - 5. reminders of these things
 - 6. proclamation of these things

The authors of the Bible were inspired by God to write us **these things**

These things are good for us

The pastors of the churches are solemnly charged to devote themselves to **these things**

The worshipers in the congregations are to receive instruction in **these things**

CONCLUSION

- V. The Result of Instruction In **These Things** Is That the Disciples May Be Blameless
- A. Not that we may achieve a state of sinless perfection in this life
 - B. But that our lives, imperfect as they are, still will be lives of good works, done in love, which will testify to the truth of the gospel that we believe
 - C. So, make sure you have a good view of:
 - 1. the holy scriptures
 - 2. the church's pastors; their main work
 - 3. the church's meetings
 - D. Pray for and be supportive of these as of great importance.
 - E. Revive in yourself the aspiration to live as blameless or above reproach.
 - F. Check that this is where your hope for such a blameless life lies.
 - 1. As you admire Jesus Christ Himself, and trust in His righteousness for your justification.
 - 2. So also admire His word about these things, and trust His plan for your sanctification.

~~Dillon~~ Jeff: Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Matthew 1:21-23

~~Andrew~~ Jeff: Scripture Reading - Psalm 39:4-8a

Thad: Congregational Prayer

~~Allison~~ Rita - Prelude

~~Allison~~ Rita - Trinity 147 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Rita - Trinity 741 "Teach Me the Measure of My Days"

Rita - Trinity 186 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

1689.7.1 ...which he hath been pleased to express by way of covenant.

Genesis 6:17-22

Genesis 17:1-7

Genesis 19:3-8

Jeremiah 31:31-34

You see that God's voluntary condescension is by His making covenants.

We know there is a covenant where that term is expressly used.

In the Puritan theological tradition, the understanding that God deals with us by covenants is used as a system for understanding His dealings with us even when the term covenant is not expressly stated in the Bible. Thus, the system is often called, "Covenant Theology."

put the brethren in remembrance

G5294 *hupotithēmi*

Strong

to place underneath, that is, “figuratively) to hazard, (reflexively) to suggest: - lay down, put in remembrance

Thayer

- 1) to place under
- 2) metaphorically to supply, suggest

GEN, KJV: If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things

NKJV: If you instruct the brethren in these things

ESV: If you put these things before the brothers

CSB: If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters

Calvin:

By this expression he exhorts Timothy to mention those things frequently; and he afterwards repeats this a second and a third time; for they are things of such a nature as it is proper to call frequently to remembrance.

Geneva:

propound these things diligently to the churches

Poole:

if by thy preaching publicly, and by thy more private instructions of Christians at Ephesus, thou teachest them these things

Henry:

The apostle would have Timothy to instil into the minds of Christians such sentiments as might prevent their being seduced by the judaizing teachers. Observe, Those are good ministers of Jesus Christ who are diligent in their work; not that study to advance new notions, but that put the brethren in remembrance of those things which they have received and heard. Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though you knew them, 2Pe_1:12. And elsewhere, I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance, 2Pe_3:1. And, says the apostle Jude, I will therefore put you in remembrance, Jud_1:5. You see that the apostles and apostolical men reckoned it a main part of their work to put their hearers in remembrance; for we are apt to forget, and slow to learn and remember, the things of God.

Hawker:

to put the brethren in mind of those great truths Paul had before been delivering to him

VWS:

The verb only here and Rom_16:4. Lit. to put under; so almost without exception in lxx. See, for instance, Gen_28:18; Gen_47:29; Exo_17:12. So Rom_16:4. Hence, metaphorically, to suggest, which is, literally, to carry or lay under.

JFB:

rather as Greek, “If thou suggest to (bring under the notice of) the brethren,” etc.

RWP:

Present middle participle of *hupotithēmi*, to place under, to suggest, old and common verb, here only in N.T., “suggesting these things to the brethren.”

2 Peter 1:12-13 NKJV For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,

2 Peter 3:1-3 NKJV Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), 2 that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, 3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,

Jude 1:3-5 NKJV Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. 4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. 5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

these things G5023 *tauta* these

JRY:

Analyzing Paul's frequent use of this word, I understand him to mean by it:

- what he had just been writing about
- more broadly, everything he writes to Timothy and Titus

Observe this progression:

Paul has written these things

1 Timothy 3:14 **These things [G5023 *tauta*]** I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly;

- inspired by the Holy Spirit to write the very word of God
- gospel doctrines about repentance and forgiveness of sins, about eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ, about the resurrection of the dead when the Lord Jesus comes back
- moral instruction for daily living
 - husbands, love your wives
 - wives, submit to your husbands
 - children, obey your parents
- procedures and principles for operating the local church
 - ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper
 - choosing of officers
 - support of the poor
- warnings not to give heed to deceitful doctrines, such as commands to abstain from foods

Pastors are to meditate on these things and devote themselves to them

1 Timothy 4:15 Meditate upon **these things [G5023 tauta]** give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

Pastors are to observe these things without prejudice or partiality

1 Timothy 5:21 I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe **these things [G5023 tauta]** without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

Pastors are to tell these things to the church, to the brothers

1 Timothy 4:6 If you instruct the brethren in **these things [G5023 tauta]**, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.

1 Timothy 4:11 **These things [G5023 tauta]** command and teach.

1 Timothy 5:7 And **these things [G5023 tauta]** give in charge, that they may be blameless.

1 Timothy 6:2 And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort **these things [G5023 tauta]**.

2 Timothy 2:14 Remind them of **these things [G5023 tauta]**, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.

Titus 2:15 Speak **these things [G5023 tauta]**, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

Pastors are to commit these things to faithful men who will be able to teach others

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit **these [G5023 tauta]** to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

These things, when repeatedly taught, are good for us

Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. **These things [G5023 tauta]** are good and profitable to men.

Other things do not have that quality, of being good and profitable.

-some are harmful, being untrue, deceitful

-others are not harmful per se, but are not profitable, or profit only little, for this life only

The results Paul expects and promises

The brothers will be blameless

1 Timothy 5:7 And **these things [G5023 tauta]** give in charge, that they may be blameless.

Timothy will be a good minister of Jesus Christ

1 Timothy 4:6 If you instruct the brethren in **these things [G5023 tauta]**, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.

Here are the verses in which Paul tells Timothy or Titus to teach “these things”

1 Timothy 4:6 If you instruct the brethren in **these things [G5023 tauta]**, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.

1 Timothy 4:11 **These things [G5023 tauta]** command and teach.

1 Timothy 5:7 And **these things [G5023 tauta]** give in charge, that they may be blameless.

1 Timothy 6:2 And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort **these things [G5023 tauta]**.

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit **these [G5023 tauta]** to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:14 Remind them of **these things [G5023 tauta]**, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.

Titus 2:15 Speak **these things [G5023 tauta]**, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

1 Timothy 3:14 **These things [G5023 tauta]** I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly;

1 Timothy 4:15 Meditate upon **these things [G5023 tauta]** give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

1 Timothy 5:21 I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe **these things [G5023 tauta]** without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

1 Timothy 6:9-11 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11 But you, O man of God, flee **these things [G5023 tauta]** and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

2 Timothy 1:8-12 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in **the sufferings for the gospel** according to the power of God, 9 who has

saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, 10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11 to which I was appointed a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. 12 For this reason I also suffer **these things [G5023 tauta]**; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. **These things [G5023 tauta]** are good and profitable to men.

The things immediately preceding, about apostasy and false teachers	The whole body of things so far mentioned in this epistle
Clarke: Show the Church that, even now, there is danger of this apostasy; put them on their guard against it; for the forewarned are half armed.	
Barnes: Of the truths just stated. They are, therefore, proper subjects to preach upon. It is the duty of the ministry to show to the people of their charge what “is” error and where it may be apprehended, and to caution them to avoid it.	
VWS: those mentioned 1Ti_4:4, 1Ti_4:5	
JFB: namely, the truths stated in 1Ti_4:4, 1Ti_4:5, in opposition to the errors foretold, 1Ti_4:1-3.	
Ellicott: The “things” of which he was to put the brethren in mind were those practices connected with that foolish, false asceticism alluded to in 1Ti_4:3-5.	

Carroll:

1. the matter of his preaching
2. his athletics in teaching and practice
3. his own example
 - a. in himself heartily believing
 - b. in character and life
 - c. in diligent study and practice
 - d. in stirring up by exercise any spiritual gift

What are we to delight in?

What are we to approve of, or disapprove of?

What are we to raise young men in?

What is good for us? What do we need?

What will lead to sinners being saved?

What things are common around us, but are not mentioned here, or elsewhere in the scriptures?

- Pageantry

- Attraction of large crowds

- Humor

- Political activism

- Social action

- Administration of programs and facilities

If you do this you will be a good minister - implies that if you do not do this, you will not be a good minister.

If you are served this, you are being served well.

If you are not being served this, you are not being served well.

You are to be, first and foremost, a servant of Jesus Christ.

We studied in chapter 3 about what qualifies a man to be made a pastor.

Now we study what a man who has been made a pastor is to do.

