

**Intro: Before I head home....**"Can you turn oven onto 425?" "Can you start boiling a big pot of water?" **Can you go ahead and start working on these things before I get there. So important they can't wait.** We're 5 years in. Eeeeeessshhh. **Paul wants to visit, but doesn't know when so he's writing this letter.**

**Thesis: "Live all of life with Faith & Thankfulness to the Glory of God"**

## I. Faithful Living In the Church

- A. **Still tying this into to previous 3 weeks (women/elders/deacons).**
- B. **How to conduct/behavior or organize yourself in the local church.** This isn't like: "Don't act like that in God's house!" "It's Lord's House." "Talk. Behave. This is a church!"
- C. **Why is it so important to Paul how the church is lead/organized?**
  - 1. **God's House - Same word.** About Family/Kingdom of God. He's in charge. Mission.
  - 2. **Pillar & Buttress of Truth - To make sure Truth isn't twisted/lost.**

**ILLUSTRATION: Pillar/Buttress/Beam.** Support. Hold it up. Load Bearing Wall. God's design. The Church was/is God's plan for preserving His Truth on earth. Communicating that Truth through His Word. **Good Beam? Rotten Beam? Weak Beam? Strong Beam? Church?**

## II. Faithful living in our Confession

- A. **Jesus is the Gospel.** His story is the mystery of godliness. Like Christ. Know Him?
- B. **Some will depart who looked faithful.** "Never of us." Deceived by liars/twisters.
- C. **Seared Conscience.** Again?! Why? God's tool of common grace to restrain sin.

**ILLUSTRATION: Branding/Cauterizing.** Kills Nerves. Desensitizes area. Permanent.

Calloused & Tough. Marks Slaves, Criminals and Fugitives/RunAways. Used for punishment.

- 1. **Some go against conscience willingly.** Others have bad/compromise conscience.
- 2. **Seared/Strong.** Sensitive/Trouble. Clear(Free)/Guilty. Good/Bad. Wise/Weak.
- D. **Some try to focus on external actions/obedience.** Attempt to pacify conscience.
- E. **Why Pastors/Elders/Deacons need a good conscience.** Wisdom. Advice. Honesty.

**APPLICATION: How's Your Conscience?** 1. Current hidden sins? 2. Past forgiven sins. Kids? Teens? Spouses? Parents? Employers? Employees? Tax Payers?

## III. Faithful Living with Thankfulness

- A. **Romans 1:18-23.** Pride/Selfish/Entitled/Sin makes unthankful. "We deserve more/better"
- B. **Marriage. Food. And all things.** With gratitude to the glory of God. "Eat or Drink"
- C. **This is a principle for life.** And for making decisions. "Can I do this with humility & gratitude and with a clear conscience to the glory of God." Drugs. Drink. Smoking. Food.
- D. **We need to obey the law of the land/leaders where God has placed us.**
- E. **St. Augustine all virtues can become vices:** Drink>Drunkenness. Intimacy>Perversion. Food > Gluttony. Rest>Slothfulness. Work>Busyness. Stewardship >Greed.

**APPLICATION: Do you have any vices?** Over-Indulgences? Good things that you've turned into idols or addictions? In a culture where drunkenness and promiscuity & perversion have been labeled as shameful sins/vices, there's another over-indulgence, addiction and idol that our culture, including the Church has turned a blind eye to. **Food idolatry/addiction.** The Bible calls it gluttony. It actually provides the same chemical responses/release in the body & brain, is used as a distraction and medication to deal with stress, pain, loneliness, or depression; and can cause just as many health risks and condition (if not more) as drug, alcohol, sex addiction. This is actually because we have an unhealthy, entitled view of food. Living to eat, instead of eating to live. Want healthy relationship with food. Not just eating/not eating food to be healthy.