

Forewarned is Forearmed

I. Slide#1 Announce:

- A. Slide#2 Pastor *Sasha Ozeruga* from Kiev - works w/Jeff T w/Mercy Projects. (bro *Sergei* will translate)
1. Jeff T has worked together with pastor Sasha for 15 years.
 2. He helps M.P. to find staff & projects in the Ukraine.
 3. He has planted 5 churches & he is bishop over 38 churches (Assembly of God).

II. Intro:

- A. Slide#3 Title: (Præmonitus præmunitus) Slide#4 *Forewarned is Forearmed*
1. Slide#5 The USS Forrest B. Royal (used during the Korean War) - a gearing class destroyer, had this at its motto.
 2. *Forewarned is forearmed* (proverb) *prior knowledge of possible dangers or problems gives one a tactical advantage.*
 - a) Pre-Marital counseling (know your role b4 entering the commitment); Job Interview; Tests.
 3. In living *the authentic Christian life* you need **both** to **be Forewarned** & to **give forewarning**, to other saints following after you.
- B. Slide#6 Outline: Timothy's Visit; Timothy's Report; Paul's Prayer.

III. Slide#7 TIMOTHY'S VISIT (1-5)

- A. (1) No longer endure **it** - **what?** goes back to vs.17.
- B. Slide#8 Left **alone** in Athens - Paul, Timothy & Silas are in *Berea*. He dispatches **Silas** most likely to Philippi; **Timothy** goes to Thessalonica; & **Paul** heads to Athens alone.
1. Sometimes **ministry** is lonely. Sometimes **life** is lonely. Sometimes God calls us to *Go it Alone*.
 2. **What situation do you feel totally alone in right now? We've all experienced a time when we wonder why our spouse, or family, or church friends just aren't there for us. Maybe that's when God wants you all to Himself?**
 - a) Maybe the feeling is like the new *space drama* coming out called **Gravity** (w/Sandra Bullock & George Clooney) *She is floating out into space & she whispers, "anybody...please call me."*
- C. (2) So Paul sends **Timothy** his assistant - He wasn't sent to **survey** the church but to **support** them
1. **Timothy** - the right man for the job (3 things) *our brother; a minister of God; & our fellow laborer in the gospel.*
- D. He was sent for 2 things:
1. Slide#9 To **Establish** them - to support, to strengthen. *Lit. putting in a buttress for support.*

- a) **Providing support** - show buttress on a building (Washington National Cathedral).
 - b) **Slide#10,11** Ex.17:12 Aaron/Moses\Hur - *Aaron & Hur supported his hands*.
 - c) **In the Movie 42**, Jackie Robinson playing 1st base for the Brooklyn Dodgers is going to run right into the dugout, his team mate catches him, *supports* his body from getting hurt.
 - d) Sometimes God wants you to **go it alone** but other times he wants you to humble yourself & **accept help** from a church leader, or a friend. And in this case his “assistant”.
 - (1) **Can I speak to the fact that often on Sunday mornings & Wed nights some folks will only talk to me after service?** Some only want me to pray for them. I know *I’m their pastor*, I get that connection...but the other leaders have the same H.S. **Paul sent his assistant pastor**.
 - 2. **Slide#12** To **Encourage** them - to exhort, to comfort. *Parakaleo to come alongside*.
 - a) If you want to get better at **encouraging** others - **10 penny’s** in pocket illus.
- E. **Slide#13** (3) **Shaken** - means, a dog wagging its tail to allure(tease), to flatter, to draw aside from the right path.¹ (eg. female coyotes)
- 1. When it comes to **afflictions** (something that causes pain & suffering) don’t be lured away by it, **nor** surprised by it.
- F. **Slide#14,15** We are **appointed to this** - Afflictions come by Appointments. **God puts them onto your day planner**.
- 1. W.E.Vine said, **This indicates, not an ultimate destiny, but a temporary experience ordained as a means to an end**.
 - 2. **Trials** are not necessarily a sign of God’s **disfavor**, but are part of **every** Christian’s legacy.
 - 3. **When trouble comes, Christians often react by doubting that they are where God wants them to be**; they often think that they have **done** something wrong and that God must be **displeased** with them.
 - a) **Yet storms often come to believers to make them able to stand firm, rather than to blow them away**. {reporter pic leaning into wind}
- G. (5) Let me seam together regarding **the Tempter & your faith** in this verse.
- 1. When Satan sought to run Peter through the sifter, **what Did Jesus Do?** (Lk.22:31,32) He prayed for Peter...**but for what?** He **didn’t** rebuke Satan & pray to **stop it, but** prayed for his **faith would stand**.
- H. So, Jesus doesn’t give us a promise of **no suffering**, but He guarantees us **power to go through them & to grow through them**, if we’ll ask.

IV. **Slide#16 TIMOTHY’S REPORT (6-10)**

¹ Linguistic Key to the Greek N.T.

- A. Timothy has now **returned** & brought back such a great report & Paul is filled w/**Joy**.
1. What a relief for Paul, his work wasn't in vain. It stood **solid & secure**.
 2. **Slide#17** Their **Faith...intact**; their **love...evident**, their **trust** in God...**sure**.
 - a) **Is there any report better than that?**
 - b) I imagine Jesus sending Michael the arch-angel to see how you are doing (or CM) & he reports back...*well, just a whole bunch of Faith & Love.*
- B. **Slide#18** (8) **Stand fast in the Lord** - **Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.**
1. Don't lose your **spiritual balance & stability** from trials, or from tribulations, or from the tempter, or from affliction.
- C. **Slide#19** (9) **Thankfulness & joy** -
1. **Kaufmann Kohler** states in the *Jewish Encyclopedia* that no language has as many words for joy and rejoicing as does **Hebrew**. In the OT **13 Hebrew roots**, found in **27 different words**, are used primarily for some aspect of joy or joyful participation in *religious worship*. Hebrew religious ritual demonstrates **God** as the source of joy. **In contrast** to the rituals of **other faiths of the East**, Israelite worship was essentially *a joyous proclamation and celebration*. The good Israelite regarded the act of **thanking God** as the supreme joy of his life. Pure joy is joy in God as both its source and object. [joy in God]

V. **Slide#20 PAUL'S PRAYER (11-13)**

- A. **Slide#21** Barclay, *Paul carried his people on his heart to Gods Mercy Seat*.
1. And note in 11-13, for Paul **everything was GOD!**
- B. "We'll never know from **how much sin** we have been saved & **how much temptation** we've conquered...*all because* someone **prayed** for us."
1. "A young lady would take the **newspaper** w/her when she'd go to bed at night. She said she read the **notices of the births & I pray** for the little babies; & I read the **notices of marriage & I pray** that those who have been married may be happy; & I read the **announcements of death & I pray** that the sorrowing may be confronted."
 2. **Slide#22,23** "When we can serve people *no other way*, there is one thing we can still do...we can **pray** for them." Barclay
 3. John Buchan once described an **Atheist** as, "a man who has no *invisible* means of support."
- C. God just desires **holiness** from us (character is in view), **nothing complicated just obedience**. And we have *organized ourselves to death* grappling for this evading **holiness**.

1. We have *arranged, catalogued, charted, & classified* everything now.
But God doesn't want any more **blueprints**, He wants a **working Temple**;
God doesn't want any more **landscape plans**, He wants **fruit** out of His orchard.