

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.