

Engaging the World

Part 4

March 11, 2018

I **SLIDE** Personal attacks

A) How do you handle personal attacks?

- 1) What is your response when people attack you and say not-so-nice things about you?
- 2) Jesus did not attack people; He attacked the lies
- 3) He did not want to crush those who opposed Him; He wanted to save them
- 4) I need to apologize.
 - a) At the end of the message, I said the Oscars was a show where we find "lovers of themselves"
 - b) That was not right; it is easy to fall into this trap

B) **SLIDE** Our mission

- 1) Grow up spiritually
- 2) Learn to live in the Kingdom of God and teach others how to live in the kingdom
- 3) **Ephesians 4:14-15 (NIV)** ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.
- 4) Winds of teaching and deceitful scheming and fake news
- 5) We are to fight the good fight not an imaginary fight
- 6) **SLIDE** Jesse Duplantis

II Paul's Second Letter to Timothy

A) Timothy

- 1) Timothy is going into a hostile world to speak the truth
- 2) So, let's look at a few of things Paul wrote

B) **SLIDE 2 Timothy 1:5-10 (NIV)** ⁵ I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

1) **SLIDE** Fan into flame the gift of God

a) God has given each of us gift

b) **1 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV)** Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

c) We cannot sit around and expect the gift to work on its own

d) We have to fan our gifts into flames

e) Living as an occasional Christian and living on our own is like to trying to keep a candle lit in a tornado

f) We might find a shelter and remain there to keep our flame burning, but...

g) **SLIDE - ship picture**

h) **SLIDE** Paul tells us that each of us is responsible for fanning our gifts into flames

i) We are to take that candle, feed it and nurture it until it becomes a roaring flame that no storm can put out

j) Fellowship, movie night, Bible study, personal devotions, serving, classes, sharing, and more serving

k) We do not become the focus; the flame is the focus

l) No matter how old we are, where we are, what we are, we all have to fan our gifts to keep them burning because, like Timothy, we are going into a world that is awash in darkness

C) **SLIDE** ⁷ For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

1) Timothy may have felt unqualified, hesitant, out-classed, timid

2) Some of us may feel that way right now when it comes to sharing the truth

3) Any of us feel timid because of our age, background, education, family, lack of knowledge?

- 4) Timidity
 - a) Cowardice
 - b) Fearful
 - c) Timid
 - d) Reticent (quiet, silent)
- 5) Instead, God has given us
 - a) A spirit of power
 - i) Intrinsic power or natural power that comes with accepting Jesus through the Holy Spirit
 - ii) Power to confront the lies without attacking people
 - iii) Power to continue when the world does attack us
 - b) **SLIDE** Of love
 - i) Agape - God's love for us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ
 - ii) Unconditional love
 - iii) This love can only come by the blood of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit
 - iv) This is the love that guides our words - in all situations
 - c) Of self-discipline
 - i) Sound mind
 - ii) A sober mind, one that is not muddled by drink, greed, selfishness, desire, etc.
 - iii) Self-discipline to say no to the world, no to its ways, and no to the flesh and emotions
- D) **SLIDE** This is important
 - 1) God has not given us a spirit of timidity
 - 2) That comes from the enemy and the world
 - 3) Instead, He has given each of us power, love, and self-discipline
 - 4) He has given us those traits because He loves us and because we cannot survive in a wicked world without them

III **SLIDE** A big "Therefore...."

A) Therefore...

- 1) Since God has given each of us power, love, and self-discipline, Paul tell us
- 2) **2 Timothy 1:8** - ⁸ So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,
- 3) Do not be ashamed to testify
 - a) To witness
 - b) To make our faith and belief known
 - c) We testify based on our own intimate or personal knowledge of the gospel and Jesus Christ
 - d) Every person who is saved by the blood of Jesus has a testimony
 - e) Every person who accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior has a personal story to tell
 - f) Every one of us has numerous testimonies of Jesus' touching our lives
 - g) We are not to be ashamed to testify because of what others say
- 4) **SLIDE** Timothy is not to be ashamed of Paul
 - a) We are not to be ashamed of Jesus, the gospel, or our relationship with Him
 - b) In addition, we are not to be ashamed of one another - because of dress, way of speaking, singing voice, YouTube videos, etc.
 - c) Do not be ashamed of me because my office is another storage room
 - d) Children, do not be ashamed of your parents because they raise you according to God's standards and not the world's standards or because of their jobs or because of anything
 - e) Husbands and wives, do not be ashamed of our spouses for their faith or the way they worship

- 5) **SLIDE** We are to stand up for what is right and good
 - 6) We are to stand up for each other
 - 7) We are to do what is right because it is right
 - 8) We are to bless and not curse
- B) **SLIDE** So, Paul tells us to join with him in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God
- 1) What an invitation!
 - 2) There is no way we can live for Christ, tell the truth in love, or live in the kingdom of God without suffering
 - 3) We are not to compare our sufferings to Paul's or to anyone else's
 - 4) In light of the animosity toward Jesus and His word, opposition to our faith has grown
 - 5) That means if we accept Jesus' command to go into the world and make a way in our wilderness, we will suffer
 - 6) We can do this because we are sustained by the Power of God
- C) **1 Peter 3:8-22 (NIV)** ⁸ Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. ⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. ¹¹ He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." ¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." ¹⁵ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ It is

better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹ through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison ²⁰ who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand--with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.