

Teaching for Scripture Consulting - Essentials for Life
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TWO KINDS OF PROFIT

**The profit of the Word to our lives,
the profit of our lives with the Word**

1a. The profit of the Word

I Corinthians 1:9:

God *is* faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

God is faithful, He is reliable, He is trustworthy. That is not something He tries to be, that is not something He wishes to be, that is not something He is endeavoring to be. That is something He is. God is faithful.

I Timothy 1:15:

This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

In the *Working Translation* of this verse in "*A Journey Through The Acts and Epistles*" it says:

I Timothy 1:15: (WT)

The Word is faithful and worthy of all acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save the sinful, of whom I am chief.

Here it is talking specifically about the Word of God being faithful regarding Jesus Christ coming into the world to save sinners. It is wonderful that Jesus Christ's coming to save sinners is emphasized by saying that the Word is faithful, but the faithfulness of the Word applies to all the Word of God. The Word of God is faithful, reliable, trustworthy.

The Word of God is faithful. The reason the Word is faithful is because its Author, God, is faithful.

Psalms 62:11:

God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power *belongeth* unto God.

When we read "twice have I heard this" it is a way to emphasize "many times." God has spoken many times that power belongs to Him. God is powerful.

Hebrews 4:12:

For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Word of God is not an inert, lifeless word. It is not a weak and feeble word either. It is living and active and powerful. Because the Bible is the revelation of a powerful God, then the Word of God is a powerful Word.

There are many other characteristics and attributes of God that are transferred and reflected in His Word. The Word of God is the revelation of a God who is faithful, who is light, who is love, who does not lie, who is powerful, who is wise and so many other wonderful and magnificent characteristics and attributes that are the makeup of His Word.

II Timothy 3:16:

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God...

All the Scriptures, Old Testament, Gospels, New Testament, is given by inspiration of God. God is the One Who revealed His Word. It is His Word. Being a faithful God, His Word is faithful. Being a powerful God, His Word is powerful. Being a God who does not lie, His Word is True. Everything God Is, His Word is.

So when it says that all Scripture, all the Word of God, was given by God, was breathed by God, was inspired by God, we know that we can take that Word at "face value" or should I say "God's value," because everything God Is, His Word is.

verse 16:

...and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

When we read that the Word of God is profitable we know that is true because God is behind it. The Word of God is profitable, all of It, all the time. It does not have any ups and downs. It does not have any fluctuations. You don't need to wake up in the morning and check if the Word is still profitable. Because the Bible is the revelation of a God Who Is faithful, powerful, loving and so many other things, we can be absolutely sure that His Word is profitable.

1b. The profit of the Word to our lives

Now, the Word of God is profitable, but for it to be profitable to any of us we need to believe it consistently, we need to become faithful to His Word.

I Corinthians 4:1:

Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Paul and the people who were with him had proven to be faithful ministers of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. But the Corinthians believers had not proven themselves to be faithful to God and to Christ, and Paul writes to them that a requirement that needed to be found in a steward, an administrator of the things of God, was faithfulness.

verse 2:

Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

"Required" means something that is sought after, something that is looked for. A requirement in an steward, in an administrator, is that he or she might be found faithful. If faithfulness is something that has to be sought after, looked after, that means that being faithful, trustworthy, reliable, is not always present and is not always to be found.

God is faithful, that is something He is. But people are not born faithful. Faithfulness is not part of the genetic material of a person. Faithfulness in someone might be sought after but is not necessarily easy to find. Faithfulness is not something that comes by wearing a specific dress or suit or a specific title. If the Corinthians or any other child of God wanted to be a steward of the things of God, they had to invest the time and effort to consistently believe in God and become trustworthy.

I Timothy 4:6:

If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

A "good minister of Jesus Christ" has to be one of the most misunderstood concepts of our day and time. Many people today think that to be a "good minister of Jesus Christ" means to get involved in the social, political and moral challenges of the day. But the Word of God says that a "good minister of Jesus Christ" is someone who is nourished by the words of the right way of believing and by the good, accurate, teaching of the Word of God.

To be nourished by the words of the right way of believing and by the good, accurate, teaching of the Word of God is not something that is done once in a lifetime, or once a year, or once a month, or once a week... it is something that is done faithfully, consistently. That is the only way people can learn to know and believe and trust God and His Word.

verse 7:

But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself *rather* unto godliness.

The way you refuse food contrary to the Word of God is not by saying: "Thank you, but not right now... maybe later." The way you refuse it is: "No! Not today,

not tomorrow, never!" The reason we refuse words, ideas, philosophies, contrary to the Word of God is because no matter how intelligent and logical they sound, they are nothing more than profane and foolish. What you do instead is exercise unto godliness, unto developing a close, true, vital, personal relationship with God.

verse 8:

For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

(A very easy way to prove that bodily exercise profits for a little time is to count the calories you burn after you run for one hour and then subtract the calories contained on your favorite snack and you'll see that you are practically wasting your time...)

But godliness is profitable unto all things, now and forever. Godliness is not a once in a life-time "Oh! My life has been touch by God!" thing. To develop our relationship with God takes work, that is the reason we need to exercise unto godliness. God is always faithful, his Word is always profitable, He is always there... but our relationship with Him is not always the same. That is never His fault... it is up to us to keep and increase and improve our relationship with Him.

Godliness is not something magical or emotional. What matters in order to develop our relationship with God is not the emotional aspect of it, but the work we put into it, the commitment, the effort and time to develop that relationship. Our relationship with God is something very precious that we have to cultivate, guard, develop, and treasure.

verse 9:

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

Again, the Word is faithful and worthy of all acceptance.

II Timothy 3:16:

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

The Word of God is profitable, and I am so glad it says that it is profitable for doctrine, reproof and correction, because I know that the teaching of the right doctrine is not enough for me. I certainly need the reproof and the correction. God is so gracious and merciful and wise that when He revealed His Word He already included not only the doctrine, but the reproof and the correction.

I am also so glad that the Word of God says that it is profitable "for instruction in righteousness." It does not say that the teaching and the reproof and the correction of the Word of God is for instruction in condemnation and in sin, in fear and selfishness, but in righteousness. I may not know and understand and

believe everything that has to do with the righteousness of God, but I know I can go to the Word of God and learn about it, and I know that I am righteous now.

verse 17:

That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

The Word of God not only instructs me in the righteousness of God, but it teaches me that because of that justice in this day and time God has made available salvation and the gift of holy spirit to all those who confess the Lord Jesus and believe in their hearts that God raised him from the dead. Having the Word of God which is profitable and having the gift of holy spirit, which 9 manifestations are also profitable, I am completely equipped unto all good works.

As we saw that a "good minister of Jesus Christ" has to be one of the most misunderstood concepts of our day and time. The concept of "good works" is also very misunderstood in our day and time. For most people "good works" are taking care of the sick, helping the poor, getting involved in social programs or political activities and so on. People may get involve in all those activities if they want to and if they have the time and there may be some temporal benefit to them, as with the bodily exercise.

But those good works do not bring salvation and the deliverance God intended and has available to people, those good works do not let them know about redemption, and sanctification, and the righteousness of God. Those "good works" may bring a temporal relief to the receiver and satisfaction and even a feeling of accomplishment to the giver, but they have nothing to do with the things of the spirit and of eternal life.

As children of God, as we grow in knowledge and understanding and faithfulness to the Word of God, we have to be absolutely certain that we are not faithful and good administrators of a temporal and earthly human organization or cause, but we are administrators of the things of God, things that have to do with the precious and wonderful promises we have for this life and for all eternity.

Titus 3:8:

This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Again, here it is stated that the Word is faithful. As we are going to see the Word of God is faithful regarding the gift of holy spirit and other wonderful things available by the accomplishments of Jesus Christ. But right now I want to emphasize that those things that had to do with the gift of holy spirit and other things made available by the accomplishments of Jesus Christ had to be affirmed constantly so that they which had believed in God would make sure that they maintained good works.

It is possible for someone who has believed in God to stop being careful to maintain the "good works" that God intended to be accomplished with His Word and the gift of holy spirit. And as ironical as it may sound, one of the ways to stop doing the "good works" that God intended for His fully equipped children to accomplish, is by getting involved in another kind of "good works" like the ones I mentioned before.

Let's just read a few verses from the epistle to Titus but I encourage you to read the whole epistle to be delighted and to understand more this wonderful and profitable writing of the Word of God. Before I read I want to point out that even though this section and the whole epistle is revelation of God written by Paul to Titus, the context shows that the things Paul instructed Titus to do and to teach were good and profitable not only for Titus or for leaders, but for the people.

I also want to point out that I am going to read directly from the *Working Translation* that is contained in "*A Journey Through the Acts and Epistles.*"

Titus 1:1-4: (WT)

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the believing of God's chosen *ones* and the knowledge [*acknowledgement*] of the truth, which *is* according to godliness

in hope of eternal life, which God, Who does not lie, promised before the times of the ages.

He manifested His Word in its own times by heralding, with which I was entrusted in accordance with the command of God, our Savior.

To Titus, *my* true dear child according to the common believing. Grace and peace from God, the Father, and Christ Jesus, our Savior.

Then Paul instructs Titus to establish overseers, administrators of the things of God, and he mentions that one requirement was:

verse 9: (WT)

holding on firmly to the faithful Word in accordance with the doctrine [*what was taught*] so that he may be able to exhort with healthy teaching and to reprove those who contradict *it*.

Then, contrasting the people who were teaching nonsense as if it was the Word of God, Paul tells Titus:

Titus 2:1: (WT)

You, however, speak that which is becoming to healthy teaching.

Then, as the epistle develops, Paul tells Titus something really beautiful:

verses 11-13: (WT)

Moreover, the grace of God that brings salvation [*deliverance*] has appeared to all people,

educating us that we should deny ungodliness and worldly cravings and live soberly and justly and godly in this present age,

looking for the happy hope and appearing of the glory of the great God and of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Then the following verse says:

verse 14: (WT)

He gave himself for us so that he might redeem us from all lawlessness and that he might cleanse for himself a special people, zealots of good works.

Then verse 1 of chapter 3 speaks of "good works" again:

Titus 3:1 (WT)

Remind them to be subject to rulers and to authorities, to be obedient, to be prepared for every good work,

Then it says:

verses 4-8: (WT)

However, when the kindness and friendliness of God, our Savior, appeared,

not by works of justice that we did but according to His mercy, He saved [*delivered*] us through the washing of being born again and the renewing of holy spirit,

which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ, our Savior,

so that having been justified by that grace, we became heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Word is faithful, and I desire that you strongly affirm these *things* to the end that those who have believed in God may think carefully about maintaining good works. These *things* are good and profitable for the people.

Then the following verse offers a great contrast with what we just read:

verse 9: (WT)

On the other hand, avoid foolish controversies and endless genealogies and strifes and fights about the law, because they are unprofitable and futile.

Then verse 14 mentions "good works" again:

verse 14: (WT)

Let our *people* also learn to maintain good works for the constraining needs so that they are not unfruitful.

We see that this epistle speaks very loudly about the Word of God, the hope of eternal life, and "good works." It is very clear that "good works" do not have anything to do with social or moral or political causes and actions, it has everything to do with believing God and His Word.

When we believe the Word of God which we know is profitable, and especially in this administration of Grace when we believe the accomplishments of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that brought redemption and salvation, and we share that with others, that is "good works."

When we believe the Word of God concerning the gift of holy spirit and other things made available by Jesus Christ's accomplishments, and we operate the manifestations of the gift of holy spirit to bring deliverance to people, that is good works.

That is so much greater and bigger and bigger and greater than any "good works" based on social, moral, political or any other kind of activity that may bring some kind of short term benefit, but does not bring redemption and salvation and deliverance and eternal life to people. These things are really good and profitable for all people, and don't take my word for it: The Word of God is faithful.

Hebrews 4:2:

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*.

It did not profit them not because the Word stopped working or stopped being profitable, but because it was not mixed with faith, believing. The Word of God is always profitable, but the profit of the Word of God in our lives varies according to our acceptance and believing of that Word. It is the Word that matters.

I Thessalonians 2:13:

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

Again, the Word of God is profitable, but the profit of the Word of God in our lives varies according to our believing acceptance of that Word. Do we take it as the Word of men, or do we take it as the Word of God?

Acts 17:10-11:

And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

We can say that the Bereans, by going to the Word of God, gained an advantage with the things of God that not everyone had. By going to the Word they could profit from the Word of God... they could develop a closer relationship with God... they could believe the Word of God and learn to do the good works God wanted done.

The word "noble" means to be well born or of noble race. From God's point of view what gave them a "noble birth" so to speak was searching the Scriptures. Their "noble birth" was not because of their genetic constitution, their background, their race, their social status, their educational status. As far as God was concerned they were "noble" because of the way they received the Word of God. They were ready in their minds to search the Scriptures, they were willing to do it, they were eager to search the Scriptures.

Sometimes we read these verses thinking that their approach to the Word of God was one of doubt, one of skepticism, of wanting to prove the Scriptures wrong or Paul wrong. They were not trying to convince themselves that the Word of God was wrong... they were not even trying to convince themselves that the Word of God was right... they were trying to convince themselves with the Word of God.

They did not want to change the Word, they wanted to change themselves with the Word of God. It must have been such an exciting adventure for them to go to the Word of God daily and read it by themselves with ready and willing and eager minds and say: "Look, what Paul said about Jesus being the saviour does not contradict what Isaiah said or what David said... finally I am understanding these verses and I can say that what the Word of God promised has been accomplished!" "That is so wonderful! Let's read more..."

verse 12:

Therefore many of them believed; also of honorable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

They searched the Scriptures and therefore they believed. What made them believe were the Scriptures. They did not base their believing on experiences or on their philosophy of life. They did not base their believing on an emotional or magical life changing moment. They did not base their believing even on what Paul said just because Paul said it, but they based their believing on the Word of God.

The Word of God is always profitable, but in order for us to get that profit in our lives we must believe the Word of God, and in order to believe the Word of God we need to search the Scriptures... and as we do that and as we learn to operate the manifestations of the spirit and learn about the totality of the new nature we have as children of God with all of its rights, privileges and abilities, we not only develop a closer relationship with God but we then can be of profit to others.

2. The profit of our lives with the Word.

When people hear the word "profit" most of the time they think on something they get, not on something they give. Most people think on profit from the perspective of what they can get, not from the perspective of what they can do and give.

As the profitable Word of God becomes profitable to us, then we can take the next step and be profitable to others with the Word of God. First we need to learn that the Word of God is reliable, faithful, trustworthy, in order for us to become faithful, reliable, trustworthy with the Word of God.

In order to be of profit with the Word of God to others, we have to make up our minds to be profitable according to the Word of God, and we have to do it with the love of God and a heart of service with humbleness and thankfulness. The Word of God does not need to be checked against anything to see if it is profitable but we need to check ourselves according to the Word of God in order to be profitable to others the way God wants us to be.

In this administration of Grace, Paul is perhaps the greatest example of someone being profitable with the Word of God and the spirit of God to others.

Romans 1:15:

So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

Paul was ready, he wanted to, he was eager to preach the gospel. Remember when we read that the Bereans received the Word with all "readiness of mind". That is the same word that is translated "ready" here. How wonderful when teachers are ready to teach and people are ready to learn. Let's see the example of Paul.

Acts 20:17-18:

And from Miletus he [Paul] sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

The believers of Ephesus, which was in Asia, knew how Paul had been with them from the first day he arrived there. When Paul arrived to Ephesus he did not hide behind a desk, or moved into a monastery where he could be alone and undisturbed and become a "spiritual man". Paul had been constant in his walk with them, from the very first day.

From the very first day he arrived they knew he meant business. The first thing that is recorded in the Word about Paul's trip to Ephesus is that he found certain disciples and he asked them if they had received holy spirit when they believed. (Acts 19:1-2.)

When they said that they only knew the baptism of John the Baptist he made sure they received and manifested holy spirit. (Acts 19:3-6.) Then he started teaching those about "12 men" and he also started teaching in the synagogue about the kingdom of God for 3 months, then he separated those who believed from those who didn't and he taught them for two years. It is obvious that those people who learned went to speak the Word all over the place because everybody living in Asia heard the Word of God concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 19:7-10.)

Paul also ministered with the power of God and brought great deliverance to people. Amazing miracles happened. People were delivered from sicknesses and evil spirits. (Acts 19:11-12.) The result of all that teaching and ministering was that the name of the Lord Jesus Christ was magnified and the Word of God concerning the Lord Jesus Christ grew and prevailed mightily. (Acts 19:17,20.)

Having considered briefly the great accomplishments of Paul at Ephesus, the words of Acts 20:19 are so meaningful:

verse 19:

Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

So it was not easy, there were many pressures and temptations but Paul had the Word and had holy spirit and he served the Lord with all humility of mind. Not with naughtiness, not with a sense of superiority, not with fear and doubt either, but with humility of mind.

Did Paul have it easy? No. Did he break the first time they pressured him or when they tried to entice him? No, he stayed faithful. Did the pressures of life or the pleasures of life move him from the Word of God? And look at next verse:

verse 20:

And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you...

Paul did not hold back on reporting anything that was profitable unto them. That is the way we bring the profit of the Word of God to people. The way we bring

the profit of the Word of God to people is by not holding back on reporting anything that is profitable for them, but in order to do that we must know the Word of God accurately.

It does not say that he taught them everything he knew. It says that he did not hold back reporting anything that was profitable unto them. Paul's aim was not to show them how much he knew, but to make sure that he shared things with them that were going to be profitable to them. When he came to Asia, to the region of Ephesus, Paul had not only made sure that they were getting the right doctrine, but that they were getting the right doctrine concerning the administration of the grace of God including how to manifest holy spirit.

verse 20:

...but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

Remember Paul served with humility of mind. Paul did not say: "You know, I am Paul, I only teach to groups of at least 10,001 people..." "I only do mega-churches and I do not do houses... maybe a mansion or two if they're within the right zip code but regular size houses forget it, they are beneath me..."

verse 21:

Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

He did not have any problem teaching to Judeans or gentiles and it is significant what he puts as an example of his profitable teaching: 1. Repentance toward God. 2. Believing toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul knew that what people needed was to change their minds concerning the things of God in order to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul knew that was the profitable Word that they needed.

What was at the center of Paul's teaching to them? GOD and JESUS CHRIST.

It was not a developing working skills seminar or a believe in yourself seminar or a how to influence people seminar or how to become rich by using God's principles seminar... It was not a social gospel that he taught them. It was the Word of God concerning changing their minds toward God and believing in Jesus Christ.

The way you change your mind toward God is by believing the Word of God, seeing what the Bible teaches you concerning the God of the Scriptures. The way you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ is by learning from the Scriptures what they teach you about the accomplished work of our wonderful Lord and saviour. What Paul considered profitable to teach them was God and Jesus Christ. And when you do that it is not that difficult to keep a humble attitude.

At that time, as it happens today, there were some people that were preaching about themselves or that were presenting themselves as the great power of God... when people preach themselves it must be hard to stay humble and it must be so easy to think more of themselves... but if you teach God and Jesus Christ: It is going to be profitable to people. And you will keep a humble attitude because as a servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ you know that the servant is no greater than his master.

At that time also, there were people who were preaching about the issues of the day, but not Paul. Paul not only shared the Word of God with them, but he shared the specific Word that was going to be profitable to them... if they believed it. The center of Paul's teaching was GOD and JESUS CHRIST.

When Paul was with unbelievers who had not heard the Word of God yet, he would teach them about the things of God and about our Lord Jesus Christ. Once they were young believers that needed to continue to grow, then he taught them about the things of God and about our Lord Jesus Christ. Once they were faithful and mature believers, he taught them about the things of God and about our Lord Jesus Christ. And once they were leaders and of profit to other believers, he continued teaching them about the things of God and about our Lord Jesus Christ.

To grow in the knowledge of God and His Word and of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and the power of the holy spirit, is a never ending adventure in the instruction of righteousness that is profitable to our lives and that equips us for every good work so our lives can be of profit to others.

Paul was very profitable to the believers, and Paul knew that there were other believers that were profitable with the Word and the spirit of God and he wanted them either close to him or in other areas where they could minister and be of profit. He said of Onesimus when he sent him back to Philemon:

Philemon 10-13:

I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:

Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:

Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:

Onesimus was not profitable in times past, but now he was profitable. What Paul meant was not any kind of profit, but being profitable in the bonds of the gospel, in the things of God. Paul did not want Philemon to receive Onesimus because he

was going to be very profitable as a great chef, or as a great administrator of the business affairs of Philemon... if he was a great chef or administrator that was great, but what Paul sent Onesimus for was to be of profit in the bonds of the gospel, in the things of God.

2 Timothy 4:9-11:

Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:

For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Paul wanted faithful Timothy to come to him as soon as possible and he wanted him to bring Mark, because he was profitable to Paul for the ministry. Paul did not want Mark with him because he was a great social programs developer, or a very savvy political advisor, or a great enforcer of moral codes. He wanted Mark with him because he was profitable for the ministry.

I want to go once again to Acts 20 and read some of the verses that follow what we read already.

Acts 20:25-32:

And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I *am* pure from the blood of all men.

For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

What a wonderful man of God Paul was, because he knew the Word of God and he operated the manifestations of the spirit, he had a very clear idea who was just messing around and who really wanted to move the Word. He had a very clear idea of who were wolves dressed as sheep and who were really profitable and faithful believers who he could fellowship with and work together with in order to move the Word of God.

He knew that Timothy was faithful in the Lord (1 Corinthians 4:17.) He knew that Tychichus was a faithful minister in the Lord (Ephesians 6:21.) He knew that Epaphras was a faithful minister of Christ. He knew that Onesimus was faithful (Colossians 4:9.) But he also knew quite clearly about some of the people that had stopped being faithful and were teaching things contrary to the Word of God and leading people away from God to a false and empty "godliness" of "good works" of the flesh.

And Paul knew also, without being naughty or selfish, but with a deep humility and thankfulness to God, that God had counted him to be faithful and had put him in the ministry (1 Timothy 1:12.) And, very importantly, he knew that the Word he had taught needed to be committed to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also.

I want to close by sharing some verses of 2 Corinthians 6 and 2 Corinthians 10.

II Corinthians 6:1-7:

We then, as workers together *with him*, beseech *you* also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.)

Giving no offense in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:

But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in watchings, in fastings;

By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

It says "By the Word of truth, by the power of God." The Word of God is profitable, and the power of God manifested is profitable.

II Corinthians 10:3-5:

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

(For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

The Word of God and the power of God are all we need in order to bring deliverance to people and be of profit to people. We should never sell ourselves short of what is available in this very acceptable time, in this day of salvation.

I do not think I am wrong when I say that for the most part well meaning Christians, by not knowing the Word of God and by not manifesting the spirit that God gave us at the time of the new birth, have settled themselves in a comfortable golden cage where "good works" of the flesh and commandments of men and moral, social and political activities have carried them away from the things of God without they even being aware. That is what I call "the comfort of slavery."

We have to make up our minds to be faithful to the profitable Word of God so that it is profitable for us, and we have to make up our minds to be of profit to others with the Word of God and the spirit of God. That is an everyday decision and we can only be responsible for our own walk. We have to be faithful to His Word and be faithful with His Word.

Our weapons and our warfare are not of the flesh. We do not lower the Word of God or the spirit of God to the level of the "good works" of the flesh. We bring people up to the level of the Word and the greatness of the new birth and all the rights, privileges and abilities of the totality of the new nature.

We speak the Word of God in order to bring the redemption and salvation and deliverance that is available in this life and the knowledge of what is to come in the next, and we do it knowing that God backs up His Word with all His faithfulness, power, light, life, love. So, when we speak His Word, He is behind it. When we manifest the spirit, He is behind it. And that is the way we move forward in this life.