

**9-13-20 BECOMING A TIMOTHY BY SEEKING THE THINGS OF THE LORD
MAKING THE WORK OF GOD LIKE YOUR OWN**

The other day I was praying, and as I was praying it struck me, that I am constantly praying for things that concern me. Now there is nothing wrong with that, but I wondered, what are the things that our Lord is concerned about that I don't even give a thought about? The truth is, we all are all wrapped up in our own lives, but has it ever occurred to you that there may be things that our Lord is concerned about that do not even enter our hearts and minds?

Paul made this amazing statement and observation, he said all seek their own, not the things which of Jesus Christ's. What are the things that you are concerned about this morning? Most of us, are concerned about many things, we have projects we are looking to do. We maybe have a vehicle that is acting up. Some are having financial problems, others, health problems, others family concerns, others have concerns about their employment, on and on we can go. So we pray about these things, and we should pray about them. But what about things that our Lord is concerned about?

What are the things which are Jesus Christ's? Most people don't even give those things a thought. Most people have no concern for those things.

As I was praying about all the things that were pressing upon me, I suddenly stopped and thought, I wonder what the Lord is concerned about and I wonder how the Lord must feel about the total neglect of taking thought for the things which are His.

It is a real strain to shift gears and try to meditate on what things God may be concerned about in this life. We are so wrapped up in things that we are concerned about that it is a real strain for us to even shift gears and think about the things our Lord may have a burden for.

Really, there is only one way, we can even come close to being concerned for the things which are the Lord's and that is that we love Him enough to even try! As we love the Lord we suddenly realize that there are certain things that our Lord is concerned for, and because of our love for Him we become concerned about those things.

The truth is, we are like little children. Little children have the mind of a little child.

I tell the story of how when my kids were small we used to go on vacation together, and we would be in a motel room, and it was a real treat for me to be able to watch cable news. We had antenna T.V. and only got three channels most of the time. So when we were in the room we were able to get all kind of Cable news networks and documentaries. So one night we were all gather around the TV and I was watching a news network, and all the kids were complaining saying, "Daddy, put on some cartoons, we don't want to watch the news." Now little Jessica was on my lap, she was the youngest of all the kids, and she pointed to her brothers and sisters, she was

probably only 4-5 years old, she pointed her finger at them and scolded them, and said, "ME AND DADDY WANT TO WATCH THE NEWS!" Now the truth is she was no more interested in the news than her brother and sisters were but because she wanted to please me and she could tell that I wanted to watch the news she said she wanted to watch the news.

So the truth is we are like little children and the truth is everything that concerns us in this life is spiritually like silly cartoons and kids stuff. There is only one way we can even be concerned for the things of the Lord and that is if we just love the Lord so much that we want to please Him.

Now Paul had a young disciple that was like my little Jessica, and he wanted to please the Lord and he learned to please the Lord from the Apostle Paul. And note what Paul says about Timothy.

Philippians 2:20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.

Philippians 2:21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

I. NOTICE OUR TEXT STATES THE FACTS AS PAUL SEES THEM:

ALL SEEK THEIR OWN.

1. All, means all except Timothy. Everyone else that Paul could think of except Timothy.

Paul could not think of another person like Timothy.

Paul said, everyone else was busy with their everyday problems and affairs. Only Timothy seemed to have a genuine concern for things which were Jesus Christ's.

Imagine, of all the disciples and people that Paul led to the Lord, he could only point to Timothy as having this kind of heart and mind.

2. Timothy's are always in the smallest minority.

People like Timothy will always be the smallest minority. Most people are too wrapped up with the distractions of this life to be concerned for the things which pertain to the Lord's work. In our natural state we are no different.

3. Everyone that sets out to be a Timothy will feel like they are all alone.

ELIJAH SAID IT MANY TIMES:

I Kings 19:10 And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and

slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

I Kings 19:14 And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

The Lord had to correct Elijah, he was not the only one that did not compromise. We may feel alone in our service for the Lord but be sure that the Lord is never without a remnant. As bad as it gets still there will be a remnant.

I Kings 19:18 Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

If you are going to be a Timothy, you are going to feel all alone.

Don't depend on others to be zealous for the Lord, or you will be discouraged.

So often this deters people from being Timothys. Most people decide to do what everyone else is doing, seek their own.

Look at how the whole world is being manipulated during this time of political correctness.

JESUS SAID IT:

John 16:30 Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.

John 16:31 Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe?

John 16:32 ***Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own,*** and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

YOU AND GOD NEED TO BE A MAJORITY: You cannot be a Timothy if you are not willing to serve God single heartedly and alone if necessary.

NOTICE OUR TEXT SAYS ALL SEEK THEIR OWN.

II. WHAT ARE THE THINGS WHICH ARE OUR OWN?

Our personal family.

Our personal homes.

Our personal Jobs.

Our personal hobbies.

Our personal property.

Our personal bank accounts.

We all have physical needs in this world, but the Lord said this is the way we should live.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

The Lord knows what we need.

He can take care of our families, our homes, our employment situation, our finances.

The Lord gave a parable about people that only seek their own.

Luke 14:16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:

Luke 14:17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.

Luke 14:18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

Luke 14:19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

Luke 14:20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

Luke 14:21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

Luke 14:22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

Luke 14:23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

Luke 14:24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

When the Lord asks us to do something, so many make excuses. Note it says, the Lord was angry about their excuses.

I wonder if the Lord may be getting angry with our excuses, why we cannot do the things He has called us to do!

Lets not make excuses why we cannot serve the Lord and do what He wants us to do.

In Israel, they made excuses why they couldn't keep the feasts of the Lord, they made excuses why they could not keep the sabbath year, they made excuses and finally the Lord was tired of their excuses and brought judgment.

III. WHAT ARE THE THINGS WHICH ARE JESUS CHRIST'S?

A. * His Church Which He Came To Build:**

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

B. * His Church Which He calls His bride *****

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Jesus is one with His church and what you do for His church you do for Him.

Acts 8:3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

Acts 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

Acts 9:1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

Acts 9:2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

Acts 9:3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

Acts 9:4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

Acts 9:5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

What you do against His church you do against the Lord Himself.

C. HIS FLOCK WHICH HE WANTS TO FEED AND PROTECT:

John 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

His sheep are what makes up His church.

D. DIFFERENT PARABLES ILLUSTRATE WHAT ARE THE THINGS WHICH ARE JESUS CHRIST'S.

- a. Jesus Said, I must be about my father's business.
That business was wrapped up with the temple work.**

Luke 2:46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

Preaching teaching the word of God.

b. LEADING THE WOMAN AT THE WELL, SOUL WINNING.

John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

c. HELPING THE SICK AND NEEDY.

Matthew 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

This involved distribution of food, goods, and housing, etc.

d. JESUS CLAIMED THAT EVEN GIVING A CUP OF COLD WATER TO A PREACHER WAS PART OF HIS WORK.

Matthew 10:42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

IV. WHAT IS THE LESSON THAT WE NEED TO LEARN?

We need more people that will take an interest in the work of the Lord as if it were their own.

1. The Spiritual needs of the people of the assembly we need to adopt as our own.

Take an interest in one another.
Love one another.
Pray for one another.
Help one another.
Go out of our way for one another.

People hurt in this Church, we need to take an interest as if they were our own family.

2. The Physical Needs Of The Place of Assembly:

How would you treat the furniture of this Church, if it were your own?

How concerned would you be about getting enough money to pay the oil bill if it were your own bill?

If this building were yours, how concerned would you be about repairs that are needing to be done, etc.?

Would you want lights left on, doors left open and unlocked?

When I first came to the church I got new locks for all the doors of the church. I had a fellow criticize that and said, he thought the church should be left unlocked. He was a contractor and I asked if he locked his truck with all his tools at night, he said yes. I said why, he said because their were valuable tools in his truck. Then I said, how much more valuable is that which is in God's house?

How much different do you care for your own house than for the house of the Lord?

3. WE NEED TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE WORK OF GOD:

How concerned are we for the finances of the work of God?

HEAT, how concerned would you be for your own heat?

Someone once said, the church has a lot of money to do anything it needs to do, it is just in the accounts of the members.

V. PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

Philippians 2:20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.

Philippians 2:21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

We need more Timothy's, who will take an interest in the work of God, like their own.

People who will take on a job, and be faithful to it.

People who will take the welfare of the assembly seriously.

But many people will say Pastor, I have my own problems, and I can't take on more, I am barely keeping my self afloat.

Philippians 4:15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

Philippians 4:16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

Philippians 4:17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

Philippians 4:18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

As you serve Christ with a greater vigor, as you take an interest in the work of God as if it were your own, as you care for the things of God with a personal interest:

Then God will supply all your needs.

PROBLEM: There is an attitude.

The Church is this organization, that you visit, and leave behind as you walk out those doors.

The Church is somebody else's responsibility.

Reflected in our attitude about needs of the assembly: Let the Church pay for it.

Let the Church buy it.

I've heard people say, that's Frank Bissol's church, or that is so and so's church. No this is the church of Jesus Christ!

Why not take it as your own? When it is your own you think about how you are going to pay for it.

If you needed a new appliance for your house, what would you do?

You'd look to see if you have enough money, to buy it and if you didn't you'd save up for one. So for your OWN house this is what you do.

But for the Church what do we do? We just complain, and expect the money to be there or are content to do without what is needed. This is what it means all seek their own and not things of the Lord:

Why do you not think about:

Turning off lights as you leave.
Picking up papers as you leave.

When you see a need, take it upon yourself, to ask me about doing something about it.
PAINT, CLEAN, FIXING SOMETHING.

MAKE THE WORK OF CHRIST LIKE YOUR OWN.

Next Saturday we have our fall work day, how many will be too busy with their own houses to come out? So the beat goes on.

ALL SEEK THEIR OWN.

INVITATION:

When I first came to the church I remember this one man that would always be going around turning off the lights, closing windows, that man was Selwyn Schmitt. I remember when the Church needed a new septic system, and we needed a site for a leach field, he took it upon himself, to try and find a site that would perk.

He borrowed a huge gas operated auger to test holes. Day after day he bore holes and perked them to see where we could get a good perk. He was out there all alone for hours.

Selwyn was a Timothy, but he graduated to Heaven and now we need more Timothy's. There are very few like him. Will you be a Timothy?