

Hold Fast the Pattern **By Russ Earl**

Paul writes to Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:13-15 "*Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me...*"

Paul was writing to Timothy to continue to hold to the pattern of sound words. He was to continue to hold to them, and teach them so that others would hear the sound doctrine as well. He was continuing in the things he had heard from Paul in times past. The faithful words of Paul, the words that followed the pattern set forth in the word of God.

Paul delivered those words to Timothy in faith that he would pass them on. He desired for Timothy to preach and teach those sound words that were given to him according to the pattern.

He gave those words to Timothy in not only faith but in love also. He gave them to him because he cared for Timothy and the work in which he was involved in. He gave these words to him out of love. Not in a spirit of correction but in a spirit of exhortation and love for Timothy.

What did Paul commit to Timothy? "That good thing" the Holy Spirit was committed to him. The Spirit dwelled in him and also dwells in us, though differently from the miraculous sense that it dwelled within Timothy.

Why was Paul yet again, encouraging Timothy to "hold fast the pattern"? He was encouraging Timothy because of the false teachers already in the world at that time. Paul was warning Timothy of those in Asia for example. He tells Timothy not to be like them and to hold fast to the pattern that he had committed himself to.

There were many who were trying to teach their "pattern" and their way of doing things. Paul was encouraging Timothy to "hold fast the pattern" with which he was entrusted with from God and from Paul. Timothy being a young evangelist needed such reminders and warnings as we all do from time to time. Timothy had been keeping to the pattern up to this point and Paul is merely encouraging him to continue to do so.

We also, need such reminders and encouragement at times. Just because we are striving to do what is right doesn't mean we do not need further encouragement to keep up those good works. When we encourage the faithful to remain faithful, then the workers of Christ will only work that much harder and be that more focused on doing the will of the Father.

Timothy was a young evangelist so there is no doubt that he didn't have a hard time simply because of his age. This is may have been one reason why Paul desired to exhort and encourage Timothy. He didn't want anyone being successful in causing Timothy to err. Thus, Paul found it important to encourage Timothy to "keep on keeping on". He was to keep doing what he was doing. Isn't that what we are supposed to be doing? Encouraging one another and building one another up so that we don't lose heart, so that we too "keep on keeping on".

Let's not grow weary and falter, but instead let's take the encouragement of Paul to young Timothy and apply to our lives today. Let's keep hold of the pattern set before us, and let's keep working hard and doing the will of the Father. "*Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.*" Let's do what Paul wanted Timothy to do, "Hold Fast".