

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

“Guidance from God”

October 16, 2016

We are living in the last times. These are the times when many will turn their ears away from the truth and listen to myths. They will as it says in the Scripture let their itching ears hear what they want to hear. Here we see the key to myths and false teachings. We hear what we want to hear. The center of our hearing is the focus upon ourselves and our needs, our wants and our desires. Therefore we call this the politically correct society because they are focusing upon their needs, wants and desires. We are accused of not loving each other if we don't accept each other and our beliefs and actions. This is how the politically correct society forces us to conform to their thinking and way of acting. For example, it is wrong to give in to the use of drugs because we can't change people. Wrong is wrong and we need to say so.

As our text says that when we listen to God's Word, it teaches us, rebukes us, corrects us and trains us in right thinking and right actions. We don't like it when someone tells us that we are wrong. We don't like it when someone challenges us to change our ways. We don't like it especially if we will be rejected because we are not going along with the crowd. God's Word is doing all those things because God wants us to follow the path that leads to heaven rather than the

path that leads to hurting others by our words and actions. Of course we have to humble ourselves before God to listen and follow His Word.

Look at Trump and Clinton. They are hurting our nation by not living in God's ways. If either of the two had followed God, we would be excited to vote. Now we have to hold our nose and vote because neither candidate lives by God's Word. If nothing else, they are filling our minds with gossip that always tears down the other candidate. Sadly we find this a violation of the 8th Commandment. Of course both sides have violated the 6th Commandment. Trump violated the 6th commandment at least through his words and Clinton by defending her husband. In addition both candidates show us their greediness and therefore violate the 7th, 9th and 10th. When so many commandments are being violated then we also know that they are violating the 1st commandment as well which is to put God above all things.

Of course all of us are guilty as much as they are guilty. When we allow our needs, wants and desires to govern our lives, then we too are violating many of the commandments. In our faith, we live in God's undeserved grace and mercy. In our faith, Christ on the Cross at Calvary brings daily forgiveness to our sins. In our faith, He leads us to our home in heaven above In our text, Paul is encouraging Timothy to strength his faith walk for the Lord using the Word of God as his guide.

The Word of God is given to us by God. The Word of God is used by the Holy Spirit to give guidance to our footsteps through life. God does not sit up there and ignore us or laugh at us. Through His guardian angels and the work of the Holy Spirit, He gives guidance to our lives. Our world throws wars and rumors of wars at us. Our world throws earthquakes, hurricanes, tornados and all the other nastiness of nature at us. Our world throws all of the sinful people at us that seek to hurt us or even kill us with words and actions. Our world throws even the decay of our bodies at us to destroy our relationship with our God. The Holy Spirit gives us guidance to keep us from being distracted by the world and our sinful flesh so that we can continue on the path to heaven.

Notice that in our text Paul encourages Timothy to preach the Word of God. Likewise Paul encourages Timothy to encourage with the Word of God. More Paul encourages Timothy to preach with great patience and careful instruction. We are the priesthood of all believers. While that does not give most of us a pulpit to preach the Word of God from, it does give each of us the responsibility to share the Word of God with each other. Of course those who realize that responsibility need to heed the advice of Paul to Timothy. We are to share the Gospel with great patience and careful instruction. We are to try and do our best not to give offense. We are to live in His undeserved grace and mercy when people accuse us of giving

offense as we let God sort it out. Where we have done wrong, we confess it and receive His forgiveness even when people are unwilling to forgive us. Amen.