

“Who is to Study Theology?”

2 Tim. 2:1-8

Knowing Him and Making Him Known

Without a theologically educated fellowship, the church will drift from its divine mission and become a rudderless ship. We believe the local church exists to glorify God through the teaching ministry. **Without the teaching ministry, the present is in peril of leading the future into extinction.** For Christianity to continue each generation must pass on its mantle to the next generation. Each generation is a bridge between two people, those who have proceeded, and those who are to follow.

I would like us to consider 2 Timothy 2 in the answering of our question, “Who is to study theology?” Paul exhorts Timothy to hold fast to the Word and to pass it on to the next generation. “Every Christian must look on himself as a link between two generations.” It is the Word Timothy is to preach.

I. The Pattern for Faith’s Perpetuation (vv.1, 2)

A. The pattern of grace (v.1)

1. Because grace sustains (2 Cor. 12:9)
2. Because grace instructs (Titus 2:11,12)
3. Because grace comforts (“Grace and peace”)

B. The pattern of disciple-making (v.2)

1. We are to keep what we have learned
2. We are to communicate what we have learned

It is not simply passing it on, but rather training the next generation to be able to train the next generation. This cycle needs to be perpetuated. This is the meaning of “disciple making” in Matthew 28:19.

Continued on the other side...

- a. Our toil is to labor in the Word (“study”).
- b. Our test is to be proven true (“approved” “not ashamed”).
- c. Our title is that of a worker.
- d. Our task is to cut it straight (“rightly dividing the Word of truth”).

A proper hermeneutic will result in three fundamental tenets.

A consistently literal hermeneutic vs. spiritualizing and allegorizing
The separation of Israel and the Church vs. every promise in the book being mine
A doxological philosophy of life vs. a soteriological philosophy

II. The Picture of Faith’s Perpetuation (“How am I to be doing it?” [vv.3-7])

A. The dedicated soldier (vv.3, 4)

B. The law-abiding athlete (v.5)

C. The hardworking farmer (v.6)

III. The Purpose of Faith’s Perpetuation (“Why Am I to Do it?”)

So that the next generation will receive the mantle.