

2 Tim. 3:16, the Bible is THE sole authority for the church: Can't be broken, Jn.10:35. "It is written," Mk. 11:17. Traditions don't nullify the commands of God, Matt. 15:3-5. Jesus' response in temptation, Matt. 4:1-11. Immutability of Scripture, Luke 16:17.

The shepherds must commit to preaching the Word and the church must commit to obeying it.

This Week's Message in the form of a sentence: The Proclaimed Word of God is:

The highest priority: V13, "I charge you," and V14, "to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach." Meaning: To protect the Word of God. Paul delivered the "whole counsel of God," Acts 20:20, 27. 2 Tim. 4:1-2, "charge you...in season and out of season... with complete patience." Patience means: repetitively, over and over. 1 Tim 1:18, "charge you;" 1 Tim. 4:6, "carefully followed." 1 Tim. 4:16, "be watchful," careful." 1 Tim. 6:20, "Guard." 2 Tim. 1:14, "keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells within you." 2 Tim. 2:15, "rightly divide [handle] the Word of God."

Remember the church of Sardis, Rev.3:1-6, they were dead, but looked alive. Proclaim the Word.

In front of the highest witnesses: V13, "in the presence of God." The giver of life to all things, Eccl. 12:1, "Creator;" "Preserves Life," Neh.9:6; God Our Redeemer, Psalm 49:15. Paul telling Timothy that God will protect Timothy until Timothy's work is done.

V13, Jesus' testifying before Pilate and made the good confession. Jn. 18, that we hear Jesus' voice and the truth that He is God, never wavered, spoke the truth., and gave His life for us. James 1:19-22, "swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath," "receive with meekness the implanted word." We do this because God witnesses how we handle the Word of God.

With the highest commitment: V14, "until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ." Phil.2:15-16, "holding fast the word of life." How soon? Rev. 22:12, "I am coming quickly." How long? Be faithful until death. 1 Tim. 6:15 tells us, "...which He will manifest in His own time." Live as if He is coming tomorrow.

There are justified reasons to leave a church, but the believers in the church of Smyrna were told to remain faithful until death even in great suffering, Rev. 2:8-11.

To the Glory of God in the highest: from Luke 2:14, "Glory to God in the highest." 1 Tim. 6:15, "He who is the blessed," this is about God the Father, the all sufficient one, high above all, who has total peace and joy in His work and all of His ways and the Word He has given to us.

- **Sovereign:** V15: "Ruler," all powerful, it is intrinsic to Him, no rivals, no threats, no equals. Is. 43:11-14, there is no savior besides God. God the Father sent God the Son to save us.
- **King of kings, and Lord of lords:** V15: normally seen in Scripture as a title of Jesus, but in this context, it is about the Father as seen in Deut. 10:17, "God of gods and Lord of lords;" Dan. 2:47, "God of gods, the Lord of kings." Rom.8:38 & Dan.10:13 shares about the created principalities and angels in human and heavenly realms under God's control.
- **Alone Immortality:** V16: He is deathless, is self-existent, the fountain of life, Psalms 36:9.
- **Unapproachable Light:** V16, He allows whom He wills into His presence. Nothing can add to Him. His glory was covered by a cloud on Mt. Sinai, Ex. 24:15.
- **Invisible God:** V16, impossible to see God unless He allows it. How did God show His glory to Moses in Ex. 33:17-19 and Ex.34:6? By speaking to Him in words!!
The Word of God manifests God's glory.

- **To Whom be Honor and Everlasting Power:** V16, a response to an IF/THEN statement. God is all of these things and is worthy of all honor and dominion. We must worship God properly by always proclaiming and defending God's place above all things: Deut. 4:35, 39; 32:39; 1 Sam.2:2; 2 Sam. 7:22; 22:32; 1 Kings 8:23, 60; 2 Kings 19:19; 2 Chron. 6:18; Neh. 9:6; Ps. 18:31; 86:10; Is. 37:16, 20; 43:10; 44:6, 8; 45:5, 21-22; 46:9; Dan. 4:34; Joel 2:27.
 - The God of gods, the Sovereign of all, deserves honor, glory, and worship, because there is no other beside Him.

Further Discussion and Application

How could you describe the time and effort each week you spend to learn and study the Word of God? How highly do you value the preached Word of God? How have you seen Jesus' prayer in John 17:17 fulfilled in you as you have learned and been taught the Word of God and His truth?

Keeping the commandment unstained requires rightly placing God above that we have and hold dear in this life. How can we rearrange our lives to properly put God above all things in our lives? What things need to go so that this can happen? What things do we need to prioritize in life to grow in this area?

Our duty as a Christian and a believer is to worship God. Paul told Timothy to continue to be faithful until Jesus appears. This was Paul telling Timothy that death or the return of Christ was the basis for stopping this command to be faithful to proclaim the truth of God and the Gospel of Jesus. How do you keep the worship of God in the forefront of your mind and life? How do we show that we fear God? What areas in our lives do we need to study to faithfully know and proclaim His word?

Steve gave an example of two people and the weightiness of the feeling they have right before they walk down the aisle to be married. How can we regularly remind ourselves of the weightiness of honoring the LORD in all we do? What Scriptures have we memorized or the passages we can turn to in order to stir us up and remind us? Write a few of those passages below. Share these with your spouse or another to begin.