

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUND DOCTRINE PART 3: AVOIDING SHIPWRECK

**Text:** 1Timothy 1:18-20

Paul charges Timothy in the text, meaning he lays the responsibility upon him, according to the prophecies that came beforehand concerning him. The Spirit of God revealed things through the prophets of the early church that were to be both educational and an exhortation to help Timothy in the spiritual battles he would face. Paul's charge was concerning two points to avoid a shipwreck of faith. He said, "holding faith, and a good conscience, which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck". Then he uses two examples, Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom we find out later had gone in the ditch doctrinally, saying that the resurrection had passed already. Their blasphemies had overthrown the faith of other saints, not in the Lord, but in the resurrection. Paul said he had delivered them to Satan, meaning that he had excommunicated them from the local church.

The term "shipwreck" as pertaining to faith means they strayed from good doctrine and their faith in God was wrecked on the rocks of bad doctrine, so much so that the things they spoke were blasphemous. Blasphemy is speaking irreverently or reproachfully about God. A shipwrecked faith means a total collapse of confidence in the character or ability of Almighty God. Paul told Timothy to hold on to faith. Faith is an active, relational trust in God and His promises that goes beyond mere intellectual agreement. It is a persuaded conviction based on the character of God and the historical evidence of His actions. It embodies assurance, confidence, trust, reliance, and is a motivator to obedience. Hebrews 11 is a whole chapter dedicated to what the Old Testament saints DID by FAITH. Biblical faith goes way beyond intellectual assent. The devils believe and tremble and they don't have saving faith.

Any Christian's faith can be shipwrecked if they aren't grounded in sound doctrine about God the Father and His dealings with us.

- **God is good - Psalm 107:1-2** O give thanks unto the LORD, for *he is good*: for his mercy *endureth* for ever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy; **Psalm 107:8-9** Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

- **God is your giver - Matthew 6:11** Give us this day our daily bread. *We are to depend on Him for our daily needs.*
- **God is your guide - Psalm 37:23-24** The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth *him* with his hand. *The path we take and decisions we make need God's viewpoint if we want to go the right way.*
- **God is your guard - Psalm 27:1** The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? **Psalm 20:7** Some *trust* in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. **Proverbs 18:10** The name of the LORD *is* a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.
- **God is going to go with you through the difficult times of life** – The teaching that if you are faithful and obedient to God you will bypass difficult times, is false doctrine. Teaching that if you have enough faith, you will always be healthy and wealthy is false doctrine. Listen to what God promised Jacob when they met for the first time at Bethel: **Genesis 28:15** And, behold, I *am* with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. *God plainly said to Jacob "wherever you go in life, I'll be with you". Now to most people's minds that means a rosy highway filled with hallelujahs and honey buns. God was with Jacob in Laban's house and he got cheated for 20 years. He had a daughter that got a raped and sons that sold his favorite son Joseph into slavery. They lied to him about Joseph, leading him to believe he had been killed by a wild animal. His son Reuben laid with his concubine while Simeon and Levi destroyed an entire village of people after promising them peace if they would be circumcised. Did God lie? No, He took all of Laban's wealth away and gave it to Jacob. He protected Jacob from Esau when he came to him with 400 men. He multiplied his family rapidly and covered them in His protection while they sojourned in Canaan. He preserved Joseph through all his hardships to place him second to Pharaoh in Egypt so that while the surrounding regions were going hungry, Jacob and his family fared like kings every day.*
- **Life's difficulties develop us** – They allow God the opportunities to perform His promises. They bring us to greater dependence on God. They test our faith. They humble us and refine our character to be godlier. They give us testimonies to tell others about how awesome God is! God is not always going to take you around the trouble, sometimes you must go through it together.