

Biblical Leadership: A Study of 1st Timothy
Lesson 15 “Keep Your Confession”

I. Introduction - We are in a series on *1st Timothy*, which is a letter Paul wrote to Timothy in approximately 62 A.D. after he installed him as the pastor of the church in Ephesus.

A. This is personal letter, Paul wrote to mentor Timothy as Timothy took over one of the most significant churches in the 1st century (about 7 years after the revival that started the church). Paul wrote both to speak directly into Timothy’s life and also teach him how to address challenges the church was having (doctrinal, prayer, women, how to pick leaders, and how people handled money.)

B. We are called to make spiritual sons like Paul did with Timothy. Replication is the key to saturation.

C. In the last portion of this letter, Paul spends a lot of time talking about money.

1. He says the love of money is the root of all evil.
2. He then tells us to lay hold of (seize) eternal (zōē life) of God. These two concepts are connected because the biggest hindrance to discipleship is people’s pursuit of money (covetousness). We talked about that last week and illustrated it with the story of the rich young ruler.

II. Keep Your Confession - Tonight we are going to finish *1 Timothy 6* and talk about a key to staying in faith as we pursue eternal (zōē) life of God.

A. What do you do when circumstances don’t look good, you have more month than money, and it’s tempting to quit and go back into the ways of the world? We keep our confession! Our faith with follow will follow our confession. While generally we believe and then we speak, sometimes we have to speak and then believe because faith comes by hearing!

B. 1 Timothy 6:13-21

1. **Verses 13-14** Jesus kept his confession before Pilate in a really difficult situation when things didn’t look good - **John 19:37. This is the commandment Paul tells Timothy to keep! Whatever you do Timothy, keep your confession of faith of who Christ is and who He is in you!**
2. **Verse 15** God manifests/reveals His promises in His own time. Paul then reminds Timothy Jesus is the king of kings and Lord of Lords and the only mighty one (potentate). In comparison to Jesus, nothing and no one else has power!
3. **Verses 16** Jesus alone is immortal and is the givers of immortality (eternal life)

and dwells in unapproachable light. How does Paul know this? **Acts 26:12-15 Paul recalled His salvation experience where He saw Jesus as brighter than the son. He immediately declared Jesus Lord.**

- a. One of the ways to keep our confession strong in difficult seasons is remembering our testimony (past break throughs). This will get us into faith when we get into fear.
- b. Testimony comes from a Hebrew word *aydooth* that means to do again. When we recite a testimony we are inviting Jesus to perform the miracle again. **Revelation 19:10.**

4. **Verses 17-19** These verses we looked at last time shift back to money, which we have said is one of biggest hindrances to discipleship. People put their jobs and pursuit of money ahead of reading the word, coming to church, going to other meetings, etc so they can grow in God and experience zōē life.

- a. God's nature is to give us things richly to enjoy. A revelation of His nature will lead to a revelation of giving. (He wants us to have stuff, He just doesn't want stuff to have us.)
- b. We experience the eternal zōē life of God when we have a proper attitude toward money (This is why we must remember past victories as there will be times it looks like we have lack and we should pursue money more than pursue God ex: people quit tithing, get a part time job and miss church, personal alone time with the Lord, etc.). **This is how people become lukewarm.**

5. **Verses 20-21** Guard what was committed to your trust (faith in Jesus, divine calling to pastor the church in Ephesus) and avoid profane babblings/negative words/things that are not true/negative confessions. When we don't avoid speaking what is not true we will stray/drift from faith. Our faith will follow our confession.

C. Testimonies/Confessions - Me and Ashley in 2010, Marc and Mandy, Onyeje.

III. Conclusion - These testimonies of Jesus are the spirit of prophecy (they invite Jesus to do more of the same miracles).

A. Dismiss Online Audience

B. Break Into Small Groups

IV. Discussion Questions

1. What was your top takeaway from this teaching?
2. Tell about a time you declared a truth from scripture you wanted to believe, but really didn't believe yet and you saw a breakthrough. How did this impact you?

3. Each person share a testimony of a powerful breakthrough you saw in your life during a really difficult season. **After everyone shares, ask what was the impact of all of these testimonies on your heart?**
4. Almost all of are tempted to seek provision more than seek God. What is one practical thing you can do to seek God's kingdom first, before you seek provision?
5. Who or what are some places you need to guard yourself from so you don't hear and repeat negative words that bring destruction?