

Through the Bible

TIMOTHY I

Zac Poonen



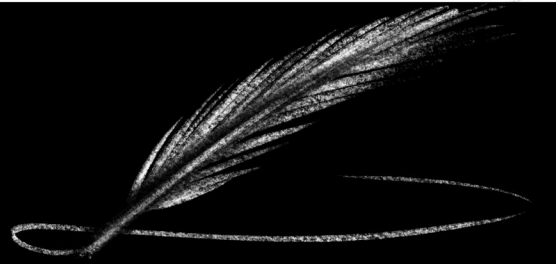
Illustrations by Vinay Kuruvilla

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CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

69, PARADISE ENCLAVE, BELAHALLI
KANNUR POST, BANGALORE - 562 149
INDIA

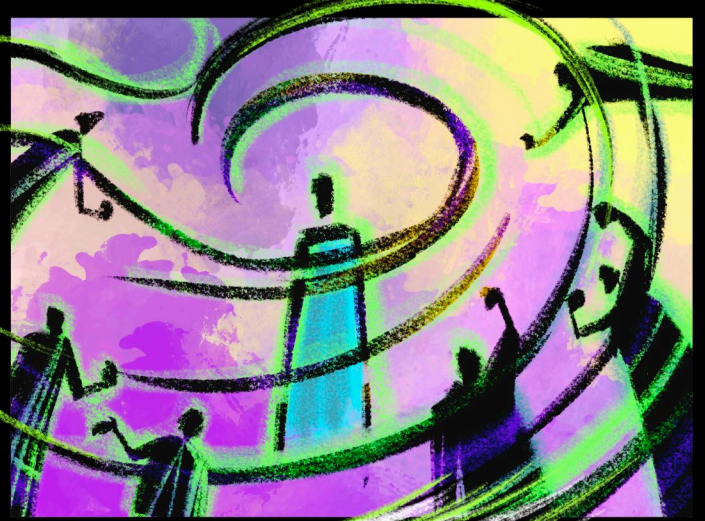
1 TIMOTHY



THE THEME IN 1 TIMOTHY IS THE **CHURCH** AND ITS **SHEPHERDS** -- THE **ATTITUDE** SHEPHERDS AND LEADERS OF THE CHURCH SHOULD HAVE, THE WAY THEY SHOULD **LIVE** AND THE WAY THEY SHOULD **CONDUCT** CHURCH MATTERS.



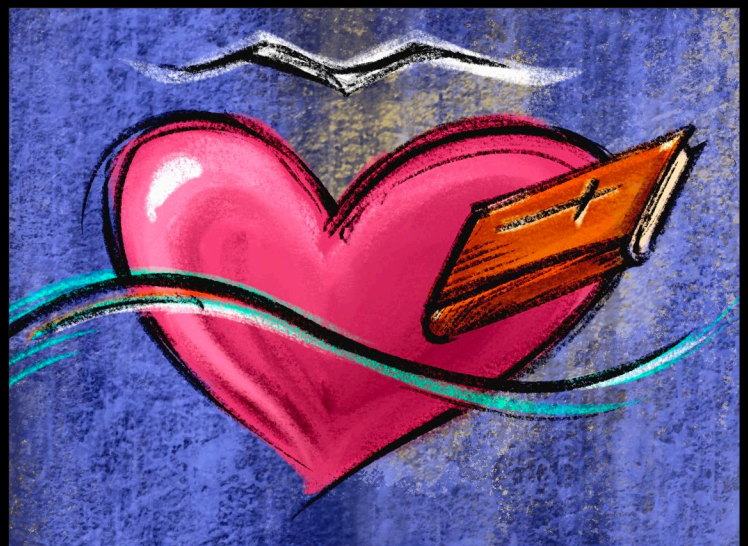
FIRST OF ALL, PAUL SAYS "DON'T ALLOW PEOPLE TO PREACH **STRANGE DOCTRINES** IN YOUR CHURCH" (1:3).



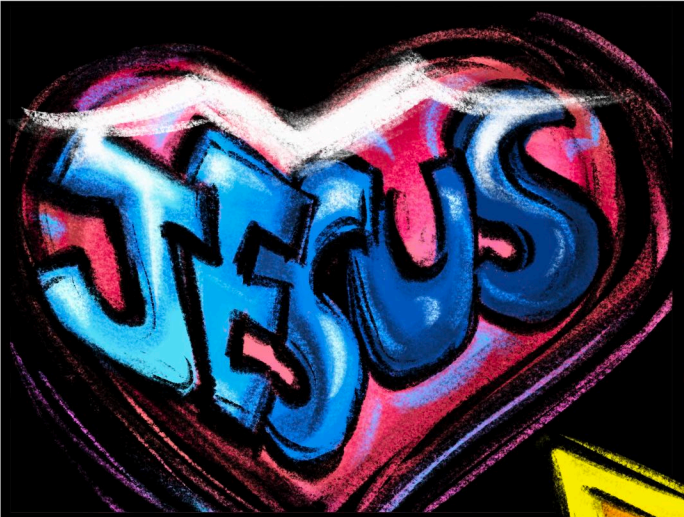
PAUL ALSO TOLD TIMOTHY **REPEATEDLY** IN BOTH HIS LETTERS, "DON'T GET INVOLVED IN **ARGUMENTS** AND **DISPUTES** ABOUT **GENEALOGIES** AND **SPECULATIONS**".



SPECULATIONS REFER TO MATTERS **NOT MENTIONED** IN **SCRIPTURE**, SUCH AS WHO **CAIN'S WIFE** WAS. WE **DON'T** NEED TO KNOW THE ANSWER TO SUCH MATTERS, BECAUSE IT **WON'T** HELP US IN ANY WAY.



PAUL THEN REMINDS TIMOTHY OF THE **PURPOSE** OF ALL HIS **TEACHING**: IT IS TO GET PEOPLE TO **LOVE** FROM A **PURE** HEART, A **GOOD CONSCIENCE** AND A **SINCERE FAITH** (1:5).



A PURE HEART IS A HEART THAT LOVES GOD TOTALLY -- A HEART THAT HAS NO PLACE FOR ANYBODY OR ANYTHING OTHER THAN GOD.



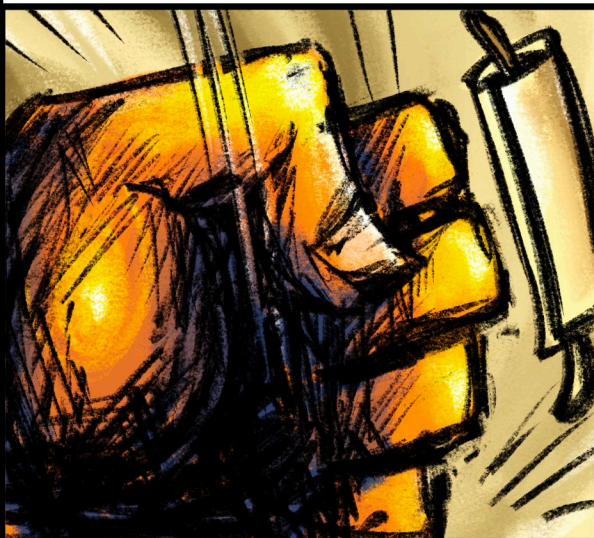
PAUL MENTIONED HIS OWN "GOOD CONSCIENCE" WHEN HE STOOD FOR TRIAL BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST (ACTS 23:1) AND BEFORE FELIX (ACTS 24:16).



THE SINCERE FAITH THAT PAUL MENTIONS HERE IS A FAITH THAT CAN TRUST IN THE LORD IN THE DAILY TRIALS OF LIFE, AND NOT JUST A FAITH THAT TRUSTS HIM TO FORGIVE OUR SINS AND TO TAKE US TO HEAVEN.



PAUL WARNS TIMOTHY IN 1:6 THAT "SOME PEOPLE HAVE STRAYED AWAY FROM THESE FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS" -- AND THAT HAS LED THEM TO FRUITLESS DISCUSSIONS AND ARGUMENT.



"THEY WANT TO BE TEACHERS OF THE LAW BUT THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY ARE SAYING AND THE MATTERS ABOUT WHICH THEY MAKE CONFIDENT ASSERTIONS."



PAUL SAYS ABOUT THE LAW: "WE KNOW THE LAW IS GOOD IF YOU USE IT LAWFULLY. BUT THE LAW IS NOT MADE FOR A RIGHTEOUS MAN" (1:8, 9). WHY WILL YOU NEED A LAW THAT SAYS, "DON'T COMMIT MURDER," WHEN YOU ARE NOT EVEN ANGRY WITH PEOPLE? A RIGHTEOUS MAN DOESN'T NEED THE 10 COMMANDMENTS, BECAUSE HE IS LIVING IN THE SPIRIT AT A FAR HIGHER LEVEL.



"THE LAW IS MADE FOR THOSE WHO ARE **LAWLESS, REBELLIOUS, UNGODLY SINNERS** AND A LOT OF THINGS LIKE THAT, AND ANYTHING ELSE IS **CONTRARY TO THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF THE BLESSED GOD**" (1:9-11).

"I THANK CHRIST **JESUS** OUR LORD WHO HAS **STRENGTHENED** ME BECAUSE HE CONSIDERED ME **FAITHFUL, PUTTING ME INTO THE MINISTRY**" (1:12). EVEN THOUGH GOD **SOVEREIGNLY** CALLS PEOPLE TO HIS MINISTRY, HE **TESTS A MAN BEFORE HE PUTS HIM INTO THE MINISTRY.**



PAUL SAYS, "HE (**CHRIST**) PUT ME INTO THE MINISTRY" (1:12). IT **WASN'T ANY MAN WHO ORDAINED PAUL.**

"EVEN THOUGH I WAS A **BLASPHEMER, A PERSECUTOR**" (1:13). GOD PUTS **CONVERTED SINNERS WHO WERE ONCE WICKED** INTO THE MINISTRY.



EVERY **GODLY PERSON WILL ACKNOWLEDGE** THAT THE **CLOSER HE GETS TO GOD** THE MORE HE IS **AWARE OF SIN** IN HIS OWN LIFE, BECAUSE **GOD IS SO HOLY.**



IN **1 CORINTHIANS 15:9**, ABOUT **10 YEARS BEFORE HE WROTE 1 TIMOTHY**, PAUL SAID, "I AM THE **LEAST OF THE APOSTLES.**" **FIVE YEARS LATER IN EPHESIANS 3:8**, HE SAYS, "I AM THE **LEAST OF ALL THE BELIEVERS.**" **STILL FIVE YEARS LATER WHEN HE WROTE 1 TIMOTHY HE SAYS, "I AM THE WORST OF ALL THE SINNERS IN THE WORLD."**

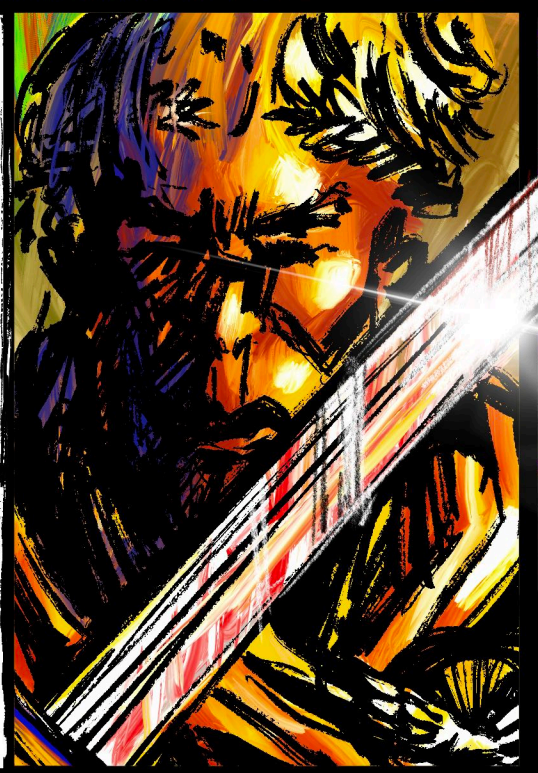


IN 1:18, 19, PAUL URGES TIMOTHY, "FIGHT A GOOD FIGHT, KEEPING FAITH AND A GOOD CONSCIENCE WHICH SOME HAVE REJECTED AND HAVE SUFFERED SHIPWRECK." MANY LOSE THEIR FAITH WHEN THEY DON'T STAND UP FOR THEIR CONVICTIONS.



AMONG THE ONES PAUL NAMED AS EXAMPLES WERE HYMENAEOUS AND ALEXANDER. BUT PAUL WAS NOT AFRAID OF NAMING PEOPLE WHO WERE LEADING OTHERS ASTRAY.

IN 2:1, PAUL SAYS, "I WANT YOU TO PRAY AND GIVE THANKS FOR ALL MEN." THE RULER OF ROME WHEN PAUL WROTE THIS LETTER, WAS NERO, ONE OF THE WORST OF ALL ROMAN EMPERORS, ONE WHO PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS AND WHO LATER ON CHOPPED OFF PAUL'S HEAD. YET THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYS THAT WE MUST PRAY FOR SUCH LEADERS.



WHAT ARE WE TO PRAY FOR? WE ARE TO PRAY THAT GOD WILL RESTRAIN THE FORCES OF DARKNESS AND PREVENT THEM FROM HINDERING HIS PURPOSES ON EARTH.



WE CAN INFLUENCE THE GOVERNMENT FAR MORE BY PRAYER THAN BY GETTING INVOLVED IN POLITICS.

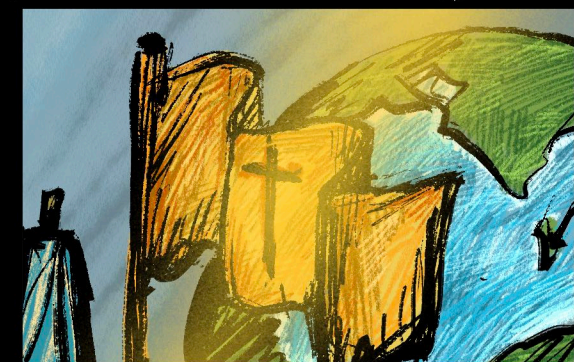


IN 2:4, PAUL SAYS THAT "GOD WANTS ALL MEN TO BE SAVED AND TO COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH."



GOD HAS NOT PREDESTINED ANYONE TO GO TO HELL.

IN 2:5, WE ARE TOLD THAT "THERE IS ONE GOD AND ONE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MEN, THE MAN CHRIST JESUS". HE IS 100% GOD AND HE ALWAYS WAS. BUT ONCE HE TOOK HUMAN FORM, HE IS FOREVER 100% MAN AS WELL.



JESUS IS DOING HIS PART FAITHFULLY IN HEAVEN, REPRESENTING US BEFORE THE FATHER. WE MUST DO OUR PART FAITHFULLY REPRESENTING HIM FAITHFULLY HERE ON EARTH.



FROM 2:9 ONWARDS, THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKS ABOUT THE DISCREET AND MODEST WAY WOMEN SHOULD DRESS AND CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN THE CHURCH.

PREACHERS IN SOME CHURCHES EMPHASISE THE 'NOT WITH GOLD' PART IN 2:9, BUT DO NOT EMPHASISE THE 'NOT WITH EXPENSIVE CLOTHES' PART. THEY WILL TELL A SISTER TO REMOVE HER 800-RUPEE EARRINGS, BUT WILL SAY NOTHING ABOUT HER 10,000-RUPEE SAREE! THE EMPHASIS IN THIS PASSAGE IS TO AVOID ALL DISPLAY OF WEALTH WITH GRAND CLOTHES AND JEWELLERY.



IN THE CHURCH MEETINGS, "A WOMAN MUST QUIETLY RECEIVE INSTRUCTION." (2:11). SHE SHOULD NOT TRY TO TEACH AND SHE SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY POSITION OF AUTHORITY OVER MEN -- AS A PASTOR OR AN ELDER.



SHE CAN TEACH LITTLE CHILDREN AT HOME AND IN A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS.



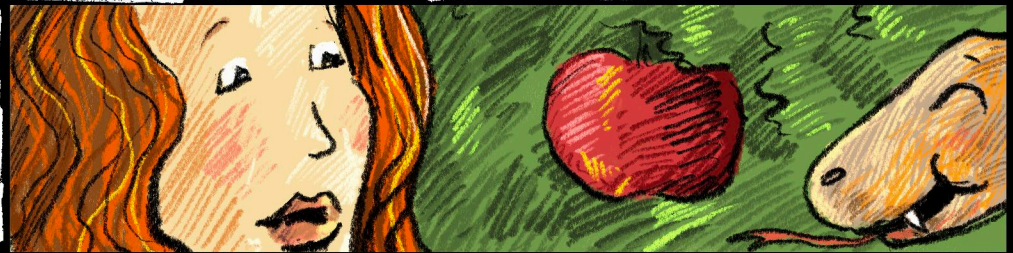
WOMEN IN THE CHURCH CAN HAVE A GREAT MINISTRY



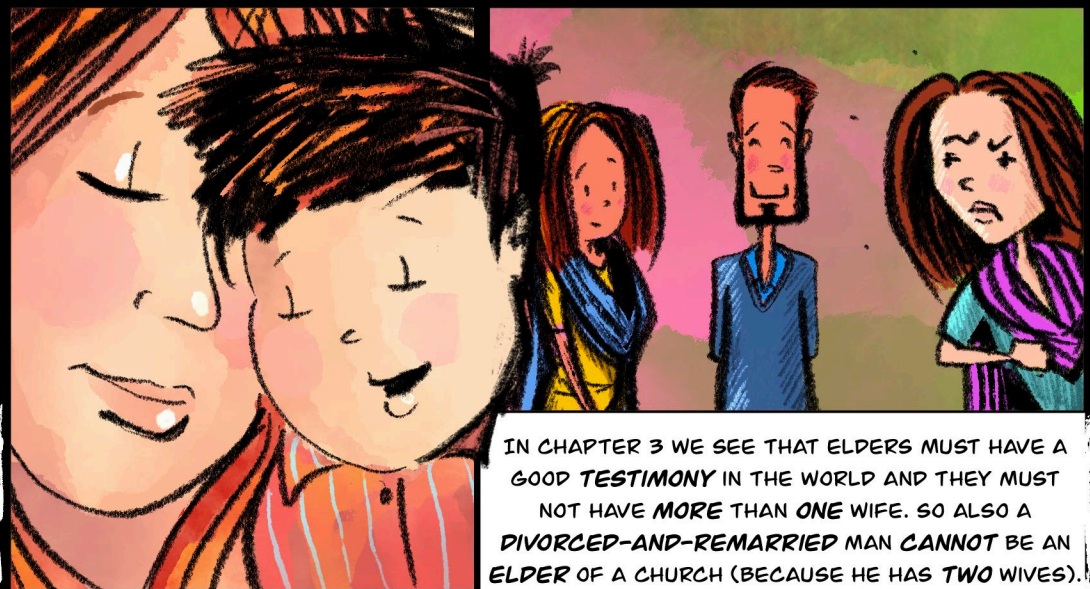
SHE CAN EVEN BE AN EVANGELIST OR A MISSIONARY AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO UNCONVERTED MEN AND WOMEN.

- IN COUNSELLING OTHER SISTERS AND IN EVANGELISM TO REACH OUT TO WOMEN.

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO AUTHORITY IN THE CHURCH, IT WAS ADAM WHO WAS CREATED FIRST AND THEN EVE (2:13). AND SECONDLY, IT WAS EVE WHO WAS RECEIVED, NOT ADAM (2:14).



MOTHERS ARE THE ONES WHO ARE MORE AT HOME WITH THEIR CHILDREN THAN FATHERS. SO THEY CAN HAVE A GREAT INFLUENCE ON THEIR CHILDREN AND TRAIN THEM TO BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS. HERE, IT GOES ON TO SAY, "WOMEN WILL BE PRESERVED THROUGH THE BEARING OF CHILDREN IF THEY CONTINUE IN FAITH AND LOVE AND SANCTITY WITH SELF-RESTRAINT" (2:15).



IN CHAPTER 3 WE SEE THAT ELDERS MUST HAVE A GOOD TESTIMONY IN THE WORLD AND THEY MUST NOT HAVE MORE THAN ONE WIFE. SO ALSO A DIVORCED-AND-REMARRIED MAN CANNOT BE AN ELDER OF A CHURCH (BECAUSE HE HAS TWO WIVES).



AN ELDER MUST BE TEMPERATE, WISE, RESPECTABLE, HOSPITABLE, ABLE TO TEACH, NOT A LOVER OF WINE. HE MUST NOT BE ONE WHO WANTS TO LIVE A SELFISH, COMFORTABLE LIFE. HE MUST NOT BE AN ARGUMENTATIVE MAN, BUT GENTLE. AND ABOVE ALL, HE MUST BE FREE FROM THE LOVE OF MONEY.



AN ELDER MUST BE ONE WHO CAN CONTROL HIS OWN CHILDREN WELL. IF A MAN CANNOT KEEP HIS CHILDREN AT HOME UNDER CONTROL HOW CAN HE TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSE OF GOD?



NEW CONVERTS MUST NOT BE MADE ELDER BECAUSE THEY CAN FALL INTO PRIDE (3:6).



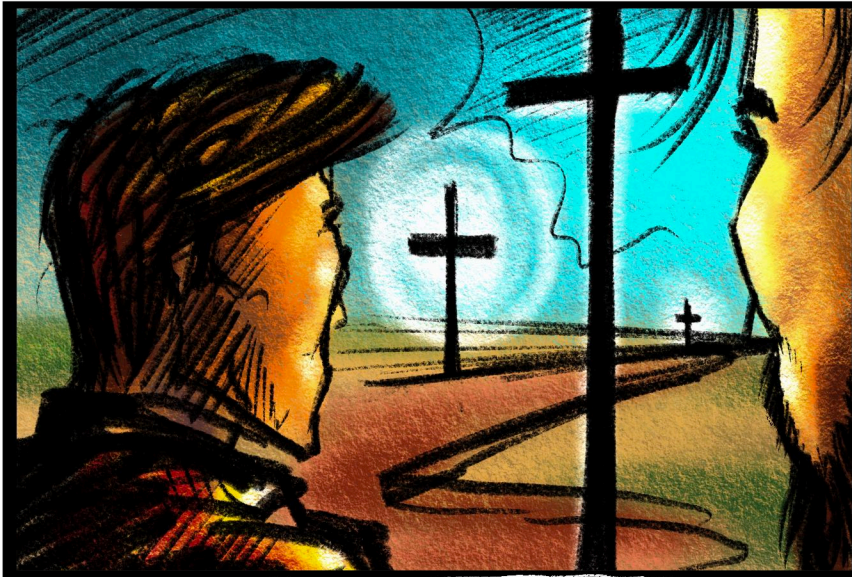
ELDERS ARE THE ONES WHO ARE THE SPIRITUAL LEADERS OF THE CHURCH. BUT THERE ARE MANY NON-SPIRITUAL RESPONSIBILITIES LIKE HANDLING FINANCES AND OTHER PRACTICAL MATTERS. FOR THIS, WE NEED "SERVANTS". THIS WORD "SERVANT" IS MUCH TO BE PREFERRED TO THE DIGNIFIED WORD "DEACON" (WHICH IS DERIVED FROM THE GREEK FOR SERVANT)



SUCH SERVANTS ALSO MUST NOT BE DOUBLE TONGUED (3:8-10). THAT JUST MEANS THAT THEY SHOULD NOT SAY ONE THING TO ONE PERSON AND ANOTHER THING TO ANOTHER PERSON. THEY MUST ALSO BE SINCERE AND UPRIGHT.



IN 3:11, PAUL SPEAKS ABOUT WOMEN-SERVANTS IN THE CHURCH. WOMEN ALSO CAN BE GIVEN MANY MINISTRIES OF SERVICE IN THE CHURCH, OTHER THAN SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP AND TEACHING MEN. THEY MUST NOT BE MALICIOUS GOSSIPS. THE GREEK WORD TRANSLATED AS "MALICIOUS GOSSIPS" HERE IS "DIABOLOS", WHICH IS TRANSLATED AS "DEVIL"

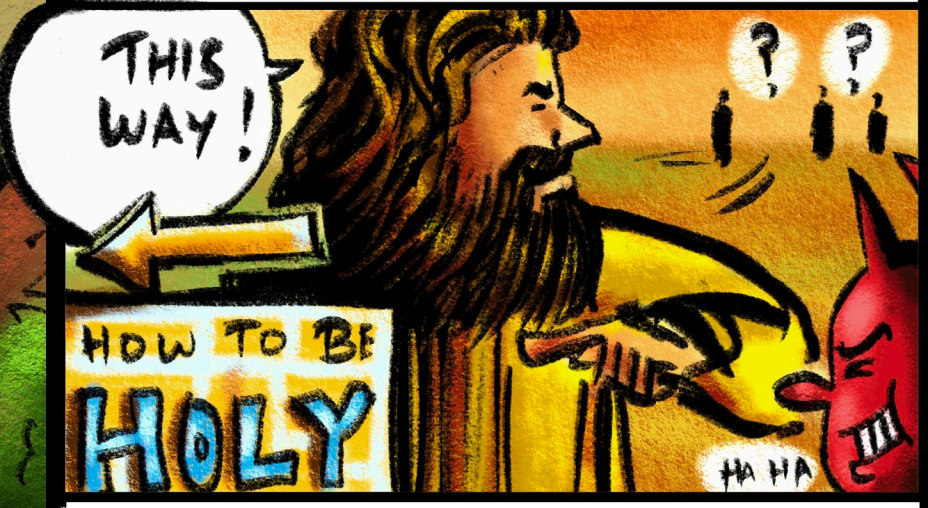
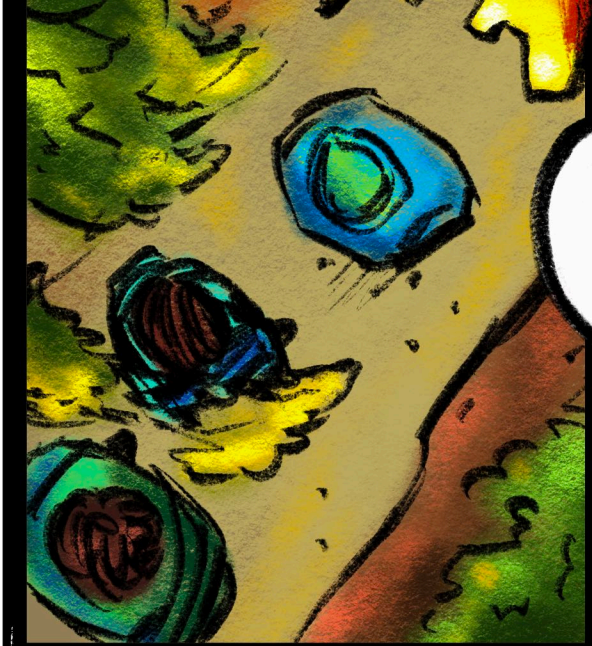


IN 3:15, 16, PAUL MOVES ON TO A VERY IMPORTANT TOPIC. THIS IS THE GREAT MYSTERY OF **GODLINESS** - CHRIST COMING IN **OUR FLESH**. THERE WAS ONE MAN WHO CAME IN THE **FLESH** AND WALKED ON THIS EARTH AND WAS **TEMPTED EXACTLY LIKE US** AND YET LIVED A **GODLY LIFE**. THAT IS WHY **WE** CAN ALSO LIVE A GODLY LIFE.

JESUS CAME IN THE FLESH AND HE WAS **VINDICATED BY THE SPIRIT** (3:16). THAT MEANS THE **HOLY SPIRIT EXAMINED EVERY AREA** OF HIS LIFE AND SAID IT WAS **100% PURE**.



PEOPLE **BELIEVED** ON HIM IN THE **WORLD** WHEN HE WAS HERE ALSO. AND HE WAS **TAKEN UP TO GLORY**. THIS IS THE **SECRET OF GODLINESS**, AND THIS IS THE **WAY WE HAVE TO GO TOO**.



HE WAS **BEHELD BY ANGELS**. ANGELS **WATCHED** THIS GREAT MYSTERY OF GOD **BECOMING FLESH** AND **WALKING** ON THIS EARTH AS A **MAN**, BEING **TEMPTED** AND **OVERCOMING** IN ALL AREAS.

BUT IN **CONTRAST TO GOD'S** METHOD OF HOLINESS, THE **HOLY SPIRIT** SAYS THAT IN THE **LAST DAYS** **MANY** CHRISTIANS WILL **FALL AWAY** FROM THEIR FAITH BEING **DECEIVED** BY **DECEITFUL SPIRITS** (OPERATING THROUGH **PREACHERS**) WHO WILL PREACH SOME **OTHER METHOD** OF HOLINESS (4:1).



THESE NEW DOCTRINES WILL BE CALLED "DOCTRINE OF DEMONS". IN THE LAST DAYS, SOME WILL TEACH THAT **CELIBACY** IS THE WAY TO GODLINESS. AND SOME WILL TEACH THAT THE WAY TO A GODLY LIFE IS THROUGH **AVOIDING** CERTAIN TYPES OF **FOOD** -- AVOIDING **MEAT** OR BY **FASTING** AND BY **DISCIPLINING** ONESELF!!

THE WAY TO A GODLY LIFE IS THROUGH **ALLOWING** THE LIFE OF CHRIST TO BE **MANIFEST** IN **OUR FLESH**, BY **PARTAKING** OF **HIS NATURE** AND **FOLLOWING** HIS **EXAMPLE** IN THE **POWER** OF THE **HOLY SPIRIT**.



THE **HOLY SPIRIT** WILL SHOW YOU THE **LIFE OF JESUS** AND **TRANSFORM** YOU INTO THAT **LIKENESS**. THIS IS THE **TRUTH** THAT **EVERY CHURCH** MUST BE A **PILLAR** AND **SUPPORT** OF.



OTHERWISE, WE WILL PRODUCE A **CHURCH** WITH A LOT OF **GOOD RULES** AND **REGULATIONS** BUT WILL PRODUCE **LEGALISTIC PHARISEES**

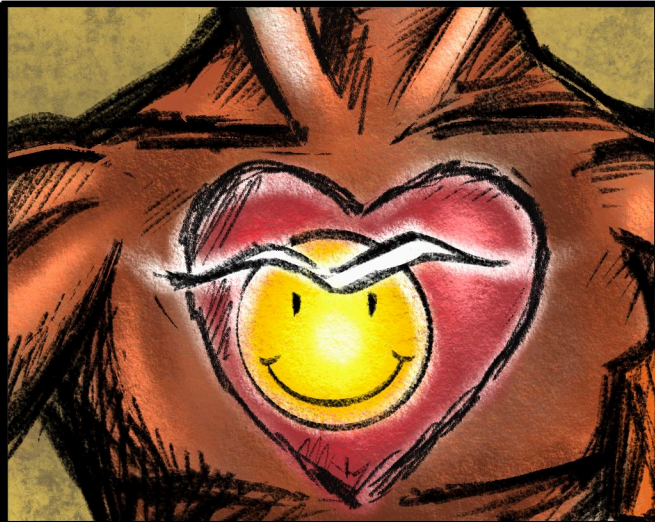


PAUL GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE **REASON** WHY MANY ARE **DECEIVED** IN THIS MATTER, IS BECAUSE THEY HAVE **HYPOCRISY** IN THEIR LIVES (4:2). THEY HAVE THE **SPIRIT OF LYING** IN THEM AND THEIR **CONSCIENCE** IS **BAR**.

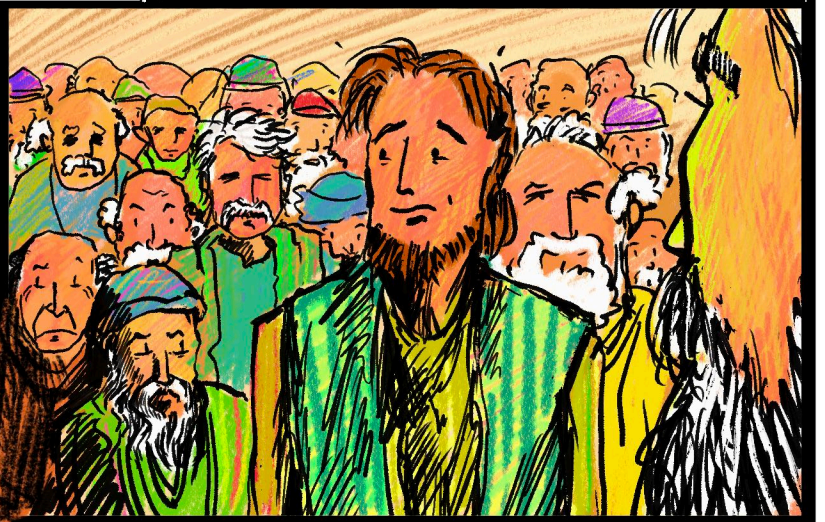


PAUL SAYS, "DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME WITH ALL THESE **WORLDLY STORIES** WHICH ARE ONLY FIT FOR **OLD WOMEN** BUT RATHER DISCIPLINE YOURSELF FOR THE PURPOSE OF **GODLINESS**." (4:7).

SO PAUL IS NOT AGAINST DISCIPLINE. BUT BY ITSELF, **BODILY DISCIPLINE** AND **PHYSICAL EXERCISE** CANNOT MAKE ANYONE **GODLY**.



GODLINESS ON THE OTHER HAND IS **PROFITABLE** IN **THIS LIFE** AND IN THE NEXT. WE CAN BE **PHYSICALLY HEALTHIER**, IF WE ARE **FREE** FROM **JEALOUSY, BITTERNESS** AND **ANGER**.



PAUL TELLS TIMOTHY NOT TO LET ANYONE LOOK DOWN ON HIM BECAUSE OF HIS **YOUTH** (4:12). A **YOUNG PREACHER** CAN FEEL **INTIMIDATED** BY **OLDER PEOPLE** IN HIS CHURCH, PARTICULARLY IF SOME OF THEM ARE **RICH** AND **INFLUENTIAL** PEOPLE.

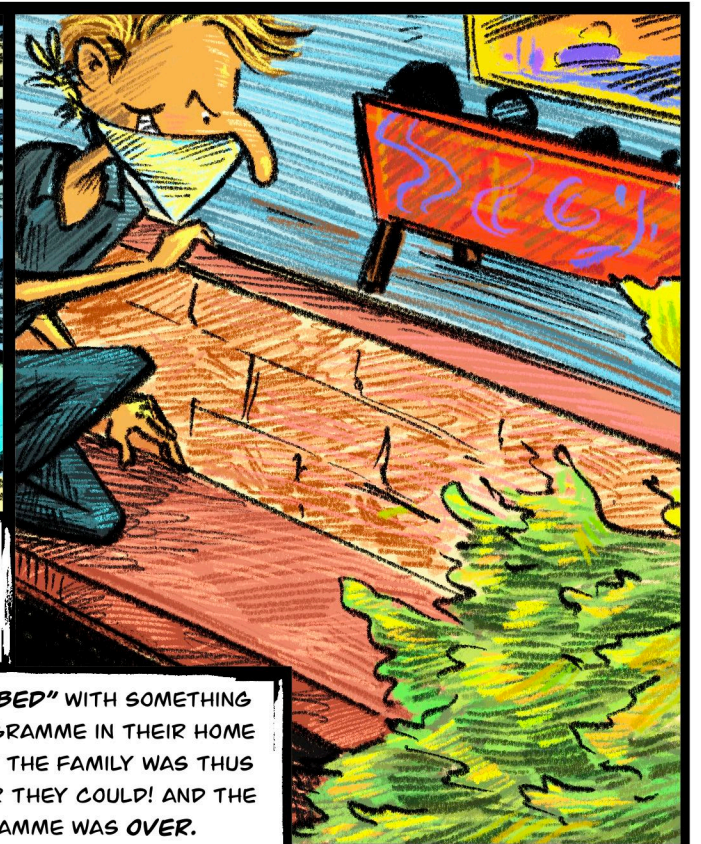
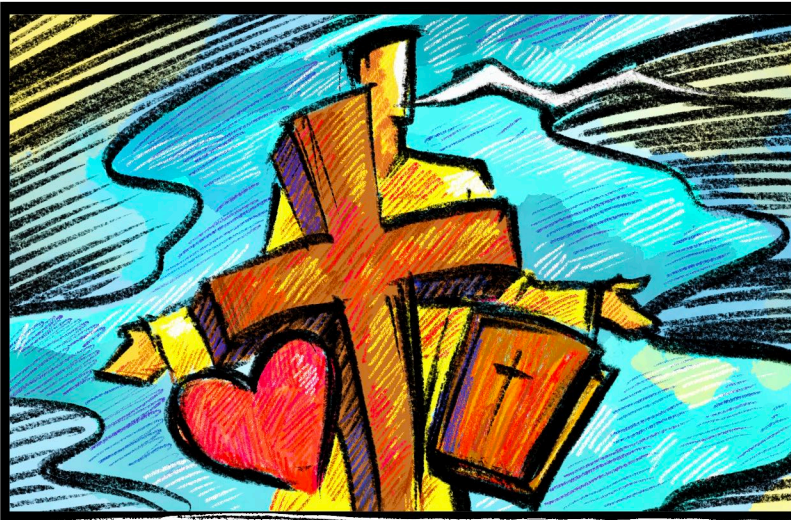
PAUL URGES TIMOTHY NOT TO ALLOW THEM TO **INTIMIDATE** HIM, BUT TO BE AN **EXAMPLE** BY HIS LIFE, IN THE **GODLY** WAY HE SPEAKS, IN THE WAY HE **CONDUCTS** HIMSELF, IN HIS **LOVE** FOR THEM, BY HIS **FAITH** IN THE **MIDST** OF ALL HIS **TRIALS**, IN THE **PURITY** HE HAS IN HIS LIFE AND IN EVERY AREA.



4:13 EMPHASISES **PUBLIC READING** OF THE **SCRIPTURES**, BECAUSE IN THOSE DAYS, BELIEVERS DID NOT HAVE **BIBLES**.

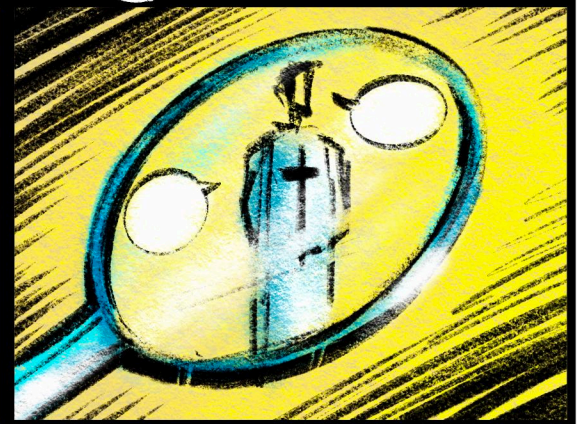
THEN PAUL REMINDS TIMOTHY THAT HE NEEDS SOMETHING **MORE** THAN A **GOOD LIFE** AND **SCRIPTURE-KNOWLEDGE**. "BE A **GOOD EXAMPLE** AND GIVE **ATTENTION** TO **SCRIPTURE**" (4:12, 13). THAT IS GOOD, BUT "DON'T **NEGLECT** THE **GIFTS** OF THE **HOLY SPIRIT**" (4:14).





IN 4:15, PAUL URGES TIMOTHY TO "TAKE PAINS WITH THESE THINGS." ONE TRANSLATION OF THIS VERSE READS, "BE ABSORBED IN THEM." WHEN YOU ARE ABSORBED WITH THESE THINGS YOUR **PROGRESS** WILL BECOME EVIDENT TO EVERYBODY.

LET ME GIVE YOU A **NEGATIVE** EXAMPLE OF WHAT "BEING ABSORBED" WITH SOMETHING CAN MEAN. A FAMILY WAS WATCHING A **POPULAR TELEVISION** PROGRAMME IN THEIR HOME AND TOTALLY **ABSORBED** WITH IT. SOME **THIEVES** WHO **KNEW** THAT THE FAMILY WAS THUS **OCCUPIED**, QUIETLY GOT INTO THEIR HOUSE AND **STOLE** WHAT- EVER THEY COULD! AND THE FAMILY **NEVER KNEW** ABOUT THE THEFT UNTIL THE TV PROGRAMME WAS OVER.



IN THE SAME WAY, BUT IN A **POSITIVE** SENSE, WE CAN BE SO **ABSORBED** WITH **JESUS CHRIST** AND HIS **WORD** THAT THE **TEMPTATIONS** OF THIS WORLD **DON'T ATTRACT** US SO MUCH. AND WE **WON'T** BE **CHASING** AFTER THE MANY THINGS THAT **WORLDLY** PEOPLE CHASE AFTER.

IN 4:16, PAUL URGES TIMOTHY TO PAY **CLOSE** ATTENTION TO TWO AREAS: HIS **LIFE** AND HIS **TEACHING**.

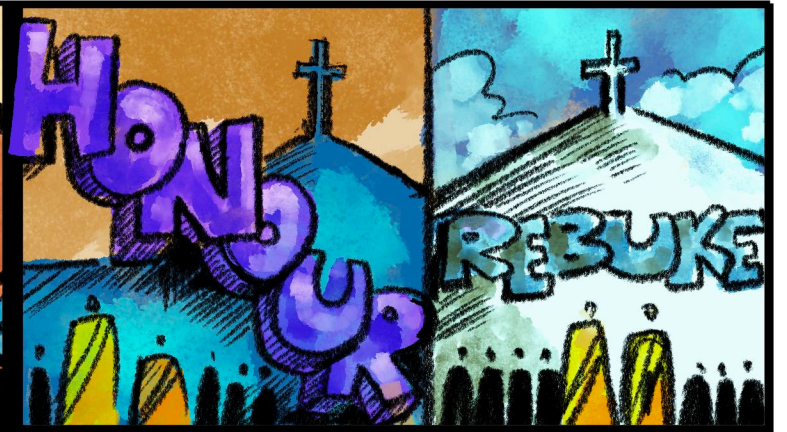


IF WE PREACH ABOVE THE LEVEL OF OUR LIFE, WE WILL BE **HYPOCRITES** AND **GOD** WILL NOT BEAR **WITNESS** TO OUR **WORDS**.

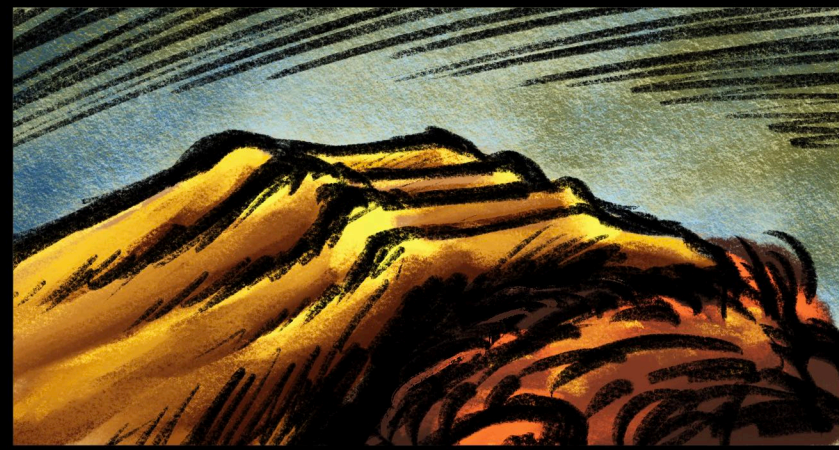
IN 5:1, PAUL EXHORTS TIMOTHY THAT SINCE HE WAS A **YOUNG MAN**, HE SHOULD ENSURE THAT HE ALWAYS SPOKE **RESPECTFULLY** TO **OLDER** PEOPLE AND THAT HE TREATED **OLDER WOMEN** LIKE **MOTHERS** AND **YOUNGER WOMEN** AS HIS OWN **SISTERS**, IN ALL **PURITY**.



IF A BELIEVER DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR HIS OWN FAMILY, HE IS WORSE THAN AN UNBELIEVER (5:8).



(IN 5:17-22) ELDERS GET DOUBLE HONOUR -- BUT IF THEY SIN, CONFIRMED BY AT LEAST TWO OR THREE WITNESSES, THEN THEY MUST BE REBUKED OPENLY BEFORE THE CHURCH.



PAUL WARNS TIMOTHY NOT TO SET APART ELDERS ("LAY HANDS") TOO SOON. PROVE A MAN FIRST BEFORE SETTING HIM APART AS AN ELDER. THUS TIMOTHY COULD KEEP HIMSELF FROM BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SINS OF ELDERS WHOM HE APPOINTS (5:22).



IN 5:23, WE SEE TIMOTHY ALSO HAD A "THORN IN HIS FLESH". HE HAD FREQUENT PAIN IN THE STOMACH. SO PAUL URGED HIM TO TAKE A LITTLE WINE AS A MEDICINE. NOT ALL SICKNESSES ARE CURED EVEN IN THE MOST GODLY OF MEN



IN 6:4, PAUL WARNS TIMOTHY NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS.



THEN HE URGES TIMOTHY TO ALWAYS BE CONTENT WITH WHATEVER GOD HAS PROVIDED FOR HIS EARTHLY NEEDS. HE WARNS HIM OF THE DANGERS THERE ARE IN PURSUING AFTER WEALTH BEYOND ONE'S NEEDS (6:6-10).



MONEY IS A GOOD SERVANT BUT A TERRIBLE MASTER.

THOSE WHO LONG FOR IT WILL RUIN THEMSELVES AND HAVE MANY PROBLEMS, FOR "THE LOVE OF MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL SORTS OF EVIL".



IN THIS AREA, WE ARE EXHORTED TO "FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT AND TO LAY HOLD OF ETERNAL LIFE" (6:12). ETERNAL LIFE IS THE LIFE OF GOD HIMSELF. TIMOTHY WAS URGED TO SEEK TO POSSESS MORE AND MORE OF THAT LIFE. THIS IS IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO SEEKING TO LAY HOLD OF MORE AND MORE MONEY.



WE ARE URGED TO "REMEMBER THE CONFESSION JESUS MADE BEFORE PONTIUS PILATE" (6:13). THE CONFESSION JESUS MADE TO PONTIUS PILATE WAS, "MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD."

RICH CHRISTIANS ARE URGED NOT TO TRUST IN THEIR "UNCERTAIN RICHES" BUT TO SHARE THEIR WEALTH WITH THE POOR AND NEEDY AMONG THE BELIEVERS (6:17).



IN CONCLUSION, PAUL URGES TIMOTHY TO "GUARD THE SACRED DEPOSIT ENTRUSTED TO HIM" BY GOD AND TO STEER CLEAR OF ALL WORLDLY CHATTER AND ARGUMENTS (6:20).

