

Through the Bible

TIMOTHY II

Zac Poonen



Illustrations by Vinay Kuruvilla

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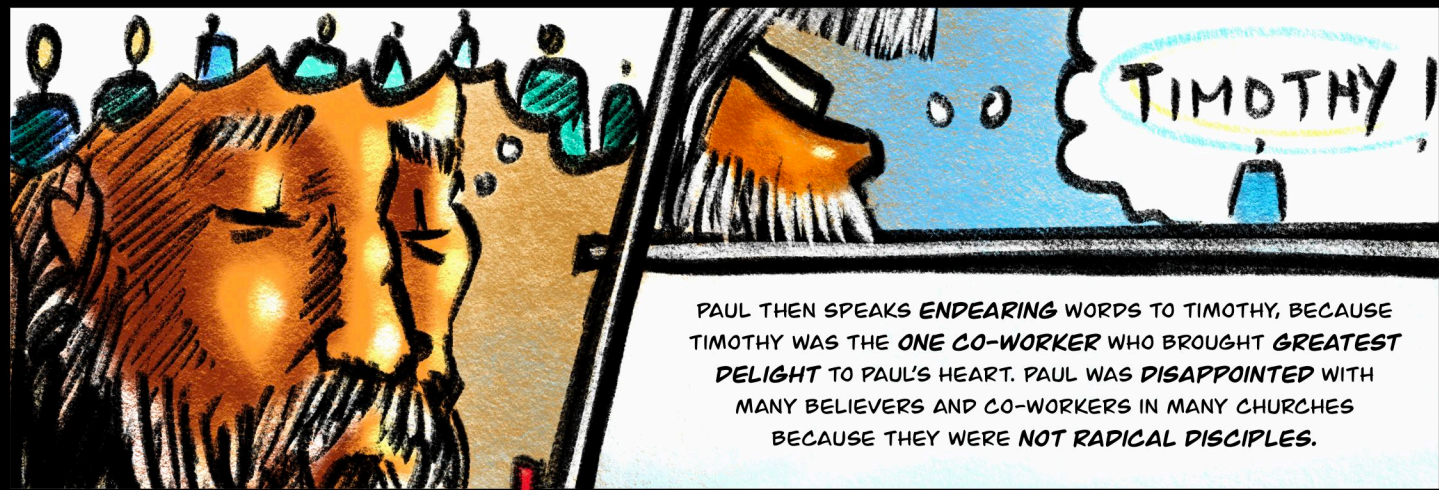
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

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2 TIMOTHY



THIS IS THE **LAST** LETTER THAT PAUL WROTE. HE KNEW THAT HE WAS GOING TO **LEAVE** THIS WORLD SOON AND BE WITH HIS **LORD**. I THESSALONIANS HE HAD SAID, "**WE WHO ARE ALIVE WILL BE CAUGHT UP.**" AT THAT TIME, HE HAD FELT THAT HE WOULD BE ALIVE WHEN **JESUS RETURNED**. THAT IS THE WAY **EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD LIVE**. BUT **12 YEARS LATER**, WHEN HE WROTE THIS, HIS **LAST LETTER**, HE SAYS, "**THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE HAS COME**" (2 TIMOTHY 4:6).



PAUL THEN SPEAKS **ENDEARING** WORDS TO TIMOTHY, BECAUSE TIMOTHY WAS THE **ONE CO-WORKER** WHO BROUGHT **GREATEST DELIGHT** TO PAUL'S HEART. PAUL WAS **DISAPPOINTED** WITH MANY BELIEVERS AND CO-WORKERS IN MANY CHURCHES BECAUSE THEY WERE **NOT RADICAL DISCIPLES**.

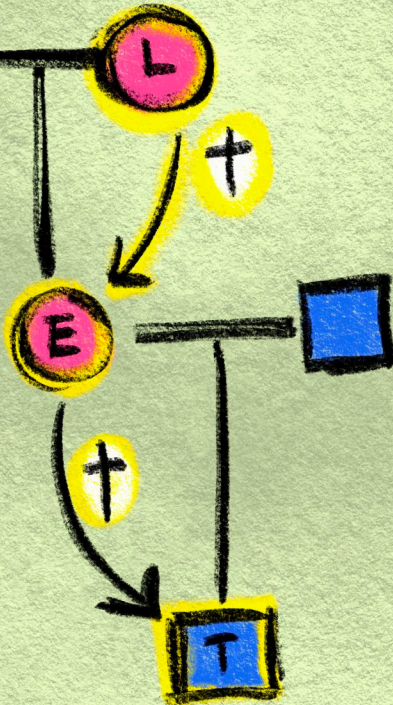


TIMOTHY'S **GRANDMOTHER LOIS** WAS THE **FIRST** PERSON THAT CAME TO **FAITH** IN THAT FAMILY (1:5). HIS GRANDMOTHER TRANSMITTED HER **FAITH** TO HIS **MOTHER, EUNICE** -- AND SHE TRANSMITTED IT TO **TIMOTHY**.



TIMOTHY'S FATHER WAS **GREEK** (ACTS 16:3). HER **HUSBAND** WAS PROBABLY A **RICH BUSINESSMAN**, WHO HAD **NO TIME** FOR GOD. SO **EUNICE** HAD TO RAISE TIMOTHY **SINGLE HANDEDLY**.

IN MOST CASES, WE HAVE OBSERVED THAT **FIRST-GENERATION** CHRISTIANS ARE **STRONGER** IN FAITH AND IN **DEVOTION** TO THE LORD THAN **SECOND-GENERATION** CHRISTIANS WHO GREW UP IN **BELIEVING** HOMES. BUT **TIMOTHY** WAS AN **EXCEPTION**. HE WAS A **THIRD-GENERATION** BELIEVER WHO WAS **DEVOTED** TO THE LORD.



BUT **TIMOTHY** HAD **MORE THAN FAITH**. HE ALSO HAD **SPIRITUAL GIFTS** AND **PAUL** REMINDS HIM OF THIS, "I WANT TO **REMINDE** YOU OF THE **SPIRITUAL** GIFT YOU RECEIVED WHEN I **LAID HANDS** ON YOU."

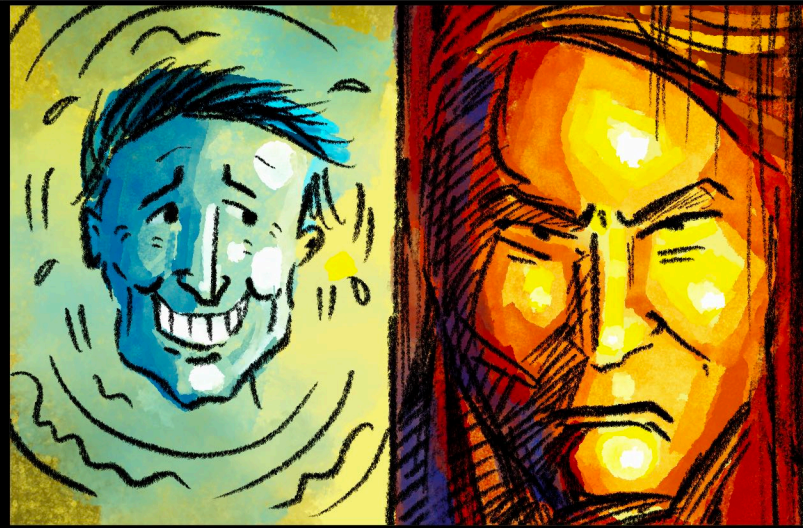
THE **HOLY SPIRIT** IS NOT A SPIRIT OF **TIMIDITY**. **PAUL** URGED HIM TO **STIR UP** THAT **GIFT** AND TO **KINDLE** IT **AFRESH**, TO KEEP THE **FIRE** **BURNING**. WE HAVE TO KEEP **SUPPLYING** THE **FUEL** -- A LIFE **TOTALLY** **SURRENDERED** AT ALL TIMES TO **GOD'S WILL**.



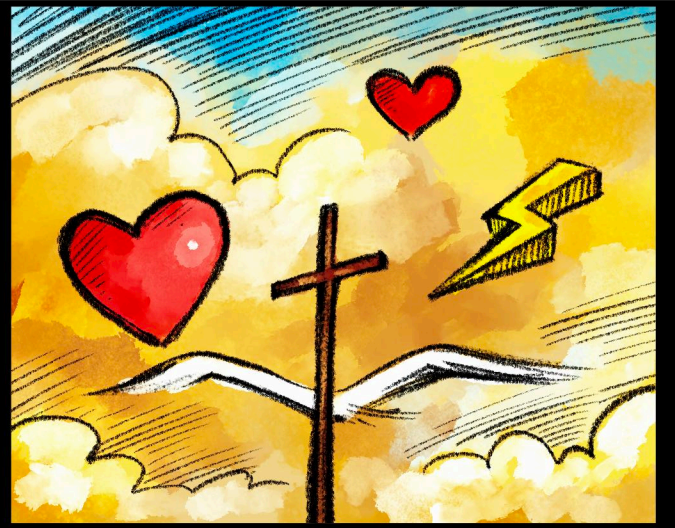
I HAVE SEEN PEOPLE WHO WERE **GENUINELY ANOINTED** BY **GOD** WHO ARE **SPIRITUALLY DEAD** ONE YEAR LATER. THE **FIRE** IS **GONE**. **WORLDLY** INTERESTS AND **PRIDE** HAVE COME IN AND **TAKEN** THE **FIRE** AWAY. THEY ARE NOW RUNNING AFTER **MONEY** AND A **COMFORTABLE** LIFE, AND HAVE **LOST** THE **FIRE** OF **GOD**.

PAUL THEN WENT ON TO SAY, "GOD HAS **NOT** GIVEN US A SPIRIT OF **TIMIDITY**" (1:7). **PAUL** WAS A **FIERY** PERSON NATURALLY. **BARNABAS** AND **TIMOTHY** HOWEVER WERE **TIMID**. **GOD** PUTS A **FIERY** PERSON **ALONG** WITH A **TIMID** PERSON IN A **MINISTRY** BECAUSE THEY CAN KEEP EACH OTHER **BALANCED**.





SO TO SOME WE SAY, "DON'T LET YOUR **NATURAL TIMIDITY** TAKE OVER YOUR LIFE." TO OTHERS, WE HAVE TO SAY, "DON'T LET YOUR **NATURAL HARDNESS** TAKE OVER YOUR LIFE."



PAUL SAYS, "GOD HAS GIVEN US A SPIRIT OF **POWER, LOVE AND OF DISCIPLINE**" (1:7).

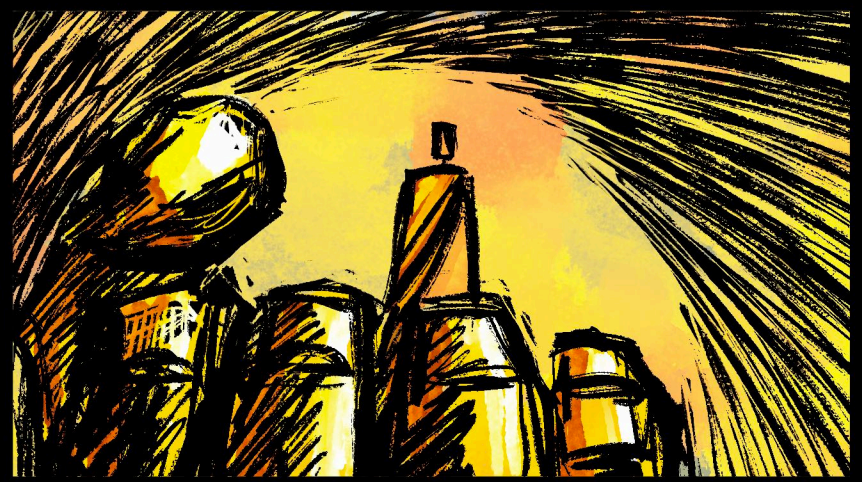


THE **GREATEST** SERVANTS OF **GOD** IN THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH WERE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ALLOWED THE **HOLY SPIRIT** TO **DISCIPLINE** THEIR LIVES. THEY WERE DISCIPLINED IN THEIR **SLEEPING** HABITS, IN THEIR **EATING** HABITS, IN **PRAYER** AND IN **STUDY** OF THE SCRIPTURES. THEY WERE **DISCIPLINED** IN PUTTING **GOD FIRST** ABOVE ALL THEIR **EARTHLY** DESIRES.

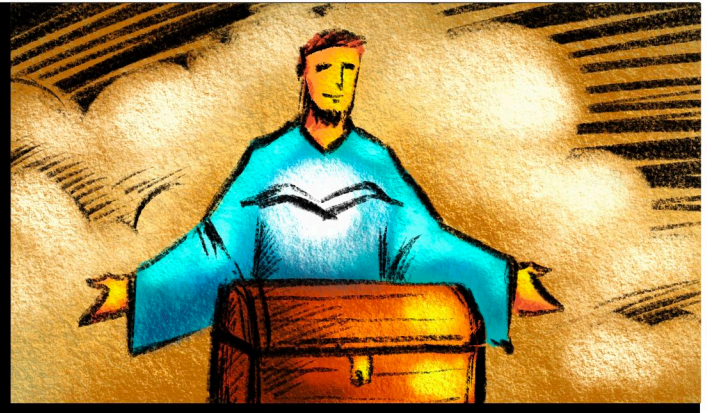
PAUL GOES ON TO SAY, "DON'T BE **ASHAMED** OF ME, I AM A **PRISONER**" (1:8). MANY BELIEVERS WERE **PROUD** TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE APOSTLE PAUL WHILE HE WAS **PLANTING CHURCHES** AND DOING **MIRACLES**. BUT NOW THAT HE WAS A **PRISONER**, THEY **DIDN'T** WANT TO **ASSOCIATE** WITH HIM BECAUSE IT WAS **SHAMEFUL**.



BUT THOSE WHO STUCK WITH **PAUL** TILL THE **END** WERE THE ONES WHOM **GOD APPROVED** AND WHO HE USED TO BUILD HIS **CHURCH**.



THEN IN 1:12, PAUL SAYS, "I **KNOW** WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED AND I AM **CONVINCED** THAT HE IS ABLE TO **GUARD** WHAT I HAVE **ENTRUSTED** TO HIM UNTIL THAT DAY" (1:12). HE WAS **CONFIDENT** THAT THE **LORD** WOULD **PRESERVE** HIM UNTO THE **END**.



"DON'T EVER LOWER THE STANDARD" IS PAUL'S NEXT EXHORTATION TO TIMOTHY (1:13). IT IS BETTER TO HAVE A CHURCH WITH 3 DISCIPLES THAN WITH 300 COMPROMISERS.

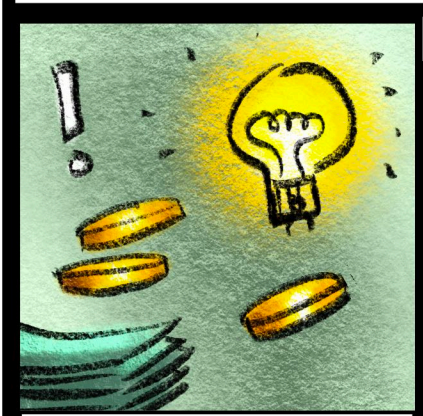
WE MUST GUARD THIS STANDARD THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO DWELLS IN US, BECAUSE IT IS A SACRED TREASURE. (1:14)



PAUL TELLS TIMOTHY THAT MANY BELIEVERS IN ASIA MINOR HAD "TURNED AWAY FROM HIM" (1:15). THEY DIDN'T WANT TO GET INTO TROUBLE WITH THE ROMANS.

BUT ONESIPHORUS STAYED ON AND WAS NOT ASHAMED OF PAUL'S CHAINS (1:16). WHEN ONESIPHORUS WAS IN ROME, HE EAGERLY SEARCHED AND FOUND HIM. (1:18)

PAUL TELLS TIMOTHY, "WHATEVER YOU HEARD FROM ME ENTRUST TO FAITHFUL MEN WHO WILL TEACH OTHERS ALSO" (2:2). THERE WE SEE PAUL'S BURDEN TO REACH THE FOURTH GENERATION WITH THE GOSPEL.



GOD HAS NEVER LOOKED FOR CLEVER MEN OR RICH MEN, BUT ONLY FOR FAITHFUL MEN.

FIRST OF ALL, A TRUE SERVANT OF GOD MUST BE A FAITHFUL TEACHER OF GOD'S WORD. SECONDLY, A SERVANT OF GOD MUST BE A SOLDIER, WHO DOES NOT GET ENTANGLED WITH THE AFFAIRS OF THIS WORLD BUT IS DETACHED FROM IT (2:3, 4). HE LIVES IN THE WORLD BUT RECOGNISING AT ALL TIMES THAT HE IS NOT OF THE WORLD.



A TRUE SERVANT OF GOD ALSO WILL HAVE HIS MIND SET ON ESTABLISHING THE VICTORY OF CHRIST IN THE TERRITORY OF SATAN. IN ORDER TO DO THAT, HE WILL SEEK TO BE FREE FROM ATTACHMENT TO EARTHLY THINGS.



THE THIRD PICTURE HE USES HERE IS THAT OF AN ATHLETE (2:5). A TRUE SERVANT OF GOD MUST BE LIKE AN ATHLETE WHO RUNS ACCORDING TO THE RULES.



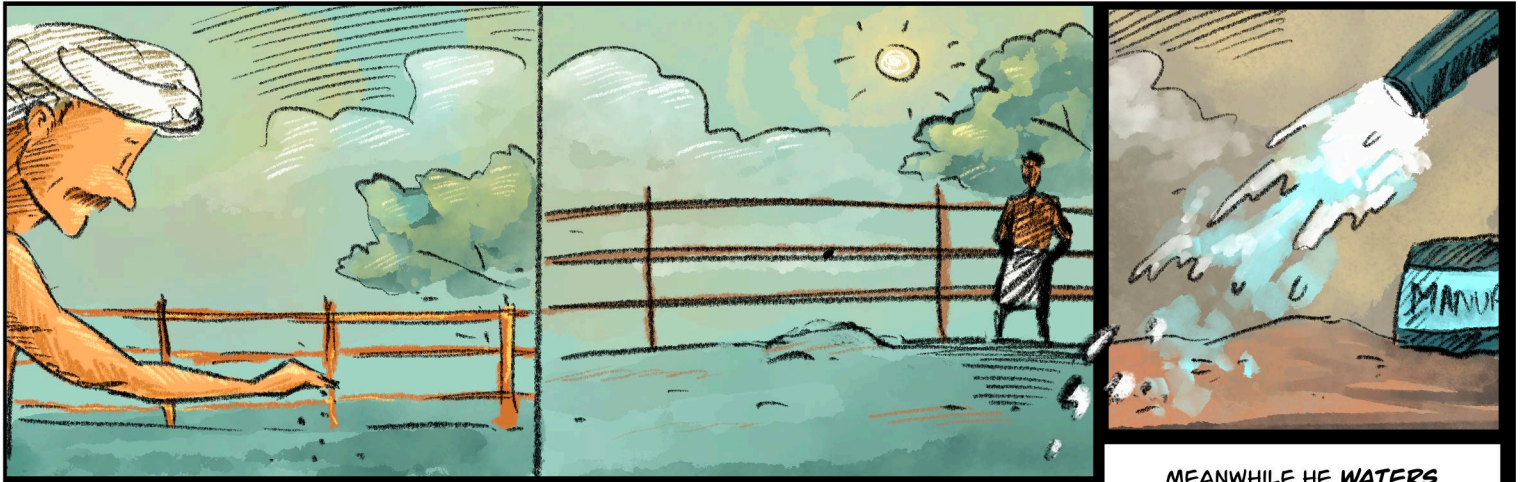
CONSIDER AN OLYMPIC EVENT SUCH AS THE 50 KILOMETRES WALK. THE WALKERS HAVE TO WALK THROUGHOUT THAT EVENT AND NOT RUN EVEN ONE STEP. BUT 50 KILOMETRES IS A LONG DISTANCE, AND I CAN IMAGINE THAT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, WHEN PEOPLE ARE NOT WATCHING, SOME WALKERS WOULD BE TEMPTED TO RUN A LITTLE BIT.

BUT THERE ARE HIDDEN VIDEO CAMERAS WATCHING THE WALKERS ALONG THE WAY. AND IF A WALKER CHEATED AND CAME IN FIRST, HE WOULD BE DISQUALIFIED AND GET NO MEDAL.



SO THERE MUST BE NO CHEATING IN THE LIFE OF A SERVANT OF GOD. THERE MUST BE NO FALSE REPORTING OF THE RESULTS OF OUR MINISTRY. YOU WILL NEVER HAVE TO TELL A LIE IN THE LORD'S WORK. IT IS ONLY IN THE DEVIL'S WORK THAT PEOPLE HAVE TO TELL LIES. WE MUST BE ABSOLUTELY HONEST.





FOURTHLY, WE MUST BE LIKE **HARD-WORKING FARMERS** (2:6). WHEN A FARMER **SOWS A SEED** HE DOESN'T COME THE NEXT MORNING TO SEE IF THE **CROP** HAS COME. HE **WAITS**.

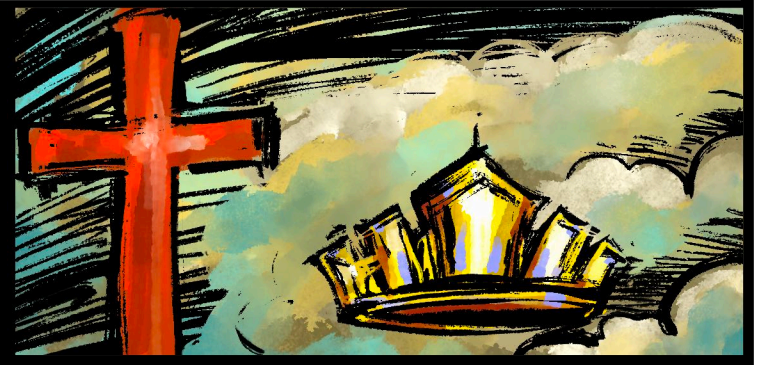
MEANWHILE HE **WATERS** THE **SEEDS** AND PUTS IN **FERTILISERS**.



THEN PAUL SAYS, "REMEMBER **JESUS CHRIST** RISEN OF THE **SEED OF DAVID**. (2:8) PAUL REMINDS TIMOTHY ONCE AGAIN THAT **JESUS** CAME IN THE **FLESH** (THE **SEED OF DAVID**) AND **CONQUERED, SIN, DEATH AND SATAN** -- PROVED BY THE FACT THAT HE WAS **RAISED FROM THE DEAD**. THUS HE **PAVED THE WAY** FOR **US** ALSO TO **CONQUER** THESE ENEMIES.



FIFTHLY, A SERVANT OF THE LORD MUST BE A **DILIGENT WORKMAN** (2:15). HE MUST STUDY **GOD'S WORD** CAREFULLY, AND HANDLE THE **TRUTH** ACCURATELY.



IF WE WANT THE LIFE OF **CHRIST** TO BE MANIFESTED IN US, IN OUR DAILY LIFE ON EARTH, WE MUST FIRST **DIE TO OURSELVES, DAILY**. IF WE WANT TO **REIGN WITH CHRIST** ETERNALLY, WE MUST **ENDURE** WITH HIM NOW ON **EARTH**. (2:11-13)



IN 2:14, PAUL WARNS TIMOTHY, "REMINDE PEOPLE OF THESE THINGS AND **SOLEMNLY CHARGE** THEM IN THE PRESENCE OF **GOD** NOT TO **ARGUE** ABOUT **WORDS**."



IN 2:16, PAUL SAYS AGAIN, "AVOID **EMPTY WORLDLY CHATTER**, FOR IT WILL LEAD TO **FURTHER UNGODLINESS**." LIKE **GANGRENE** (2:17) THESE CAN **DESTROY** OUR LIFE AND THE LIVES OF **OTHERS** AS WELL.



HYMENAEOUS AND PHILETUS WERE TWO MEN WHO **INDULGED** IN SUCH **WORLDLY CHATTER** AND **ARGUMENTS** AND ENDED UP **FALLING AWAY** FROM THE **TRUTH** **ALTOGETHER**.

PAUL THEN SPEAKS ABOUT THE **FIRM FOUNDATION** OF **GOD** (2:19). **GOD'S FOUNDATION** HAS **TWO SIDES** TO IT -- THE **UPPER SIDE** WHICH **HE ALONE** CAN SEE AND THE **BOTTOM SIDE** WHICH **WE CAN SEE**. WE SEE **BOTH TRUTHS** THERE IN **GOD'S FOUNDATION** -- THE **SOVEREIGNTY** OF **GOD** AND THE **FREE WILL** OF **MAN**. THE **LORD KNOWS** THOSE WHO ARE **HIS** -- AND **THOSE** WHO NAME THE **NAME** OF THE **LORD** **STAY AWAY** FROM **SIN**.



THE **SIXTH** CHARACTERISTIC OF A **TRUE** **SERVANT** OF **GOD** IS THAT HE MUST BE A **HOLY VESSEL**, A **VESSEL** WHO **CLEANSSES** **HIMSELF** (2:20, 21). **GOD** **CLEANSSES** AWAY OUR **PAST SIN** AND WITH **GOD'S** **HELP**, WE **CLEANSSE** **OURSELVES** FROM THE **WRONG** **THINGS** WE **SEE** IN OUR **LIVES**.



IF A **MAN** **CLEANSSES** **HIMSELF** **THUS** HE CAN BE A **VESSEL** **SANCTIFIED** AND **USEFUL** TO THE **MASTER**.

BUT DON'T THINK OF **USEFULNESS** **ALONE**. MANY **PEOPLE** ARE **HAPPY** TO KNOW THAT **GOD** IS **USING** **THEM**. IN A **HOUSE**, **PEOPLE** **USE** **WOODEN** **BOXES** **MORE** THAN THEIR **GOLDEN** **VESSELS**. **BUT** WHICH **VESSEL** HAS **MORE** **VALUE**? ARE YOU **CONCERNED** ABOUT YOUR **USEFULNESS** OR YOUR **SPIRITUAL** **VALUE**?

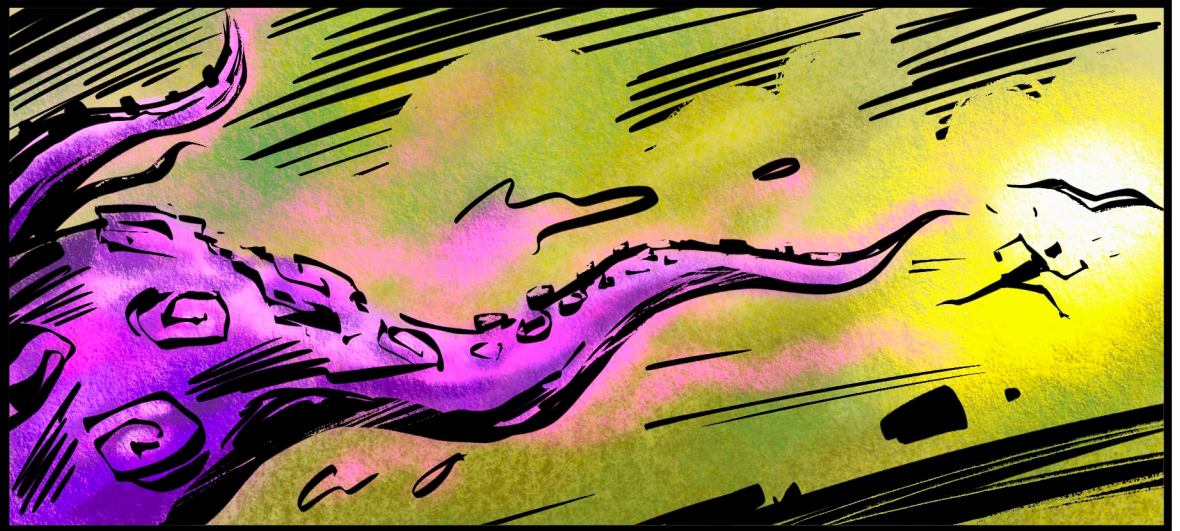
GOD **USES** **MANY** **PEOPLE** TO DO **HIS** **WORK** -- EVEN THE **DEVIL**. THE **DEVIL** **ONCE** **SENT** A **THORN** AS A **MESSANGER** INTO **PAUL'S** **FLESH** -- AND **GOD** **USED** IT TO **KEEP** **PAUL** **HUMBLE**.



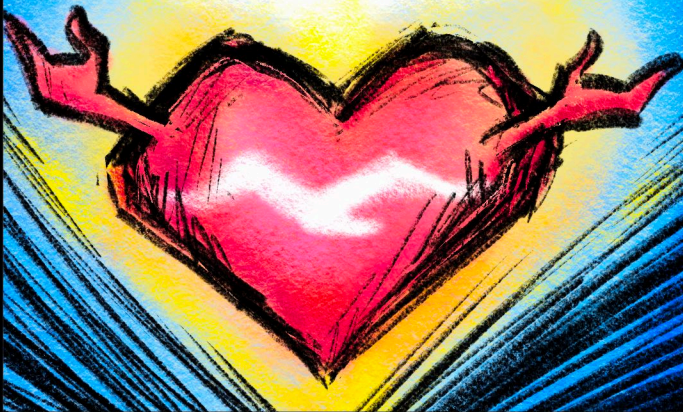
WHEN THERE IS A **FIRE** IN A **HOUSE**, **PEOPLE** **RUSH** TO **REMOVE** THEIR **GOLD** AND **SILVER** **VESSELS** -- **NOT** THEIR **EARTHEN** **JARS**. SO WILL IT ALSO BE, WHEN THE **WORLD** IS ON **FIRE**. (MALACHI 3:17, 18).



IF YOU DECIDE TO CLEANSE YOURSELF, ONE OF THE **FIRST THINGS** YOU MUST **RUN AWAY FROM** IS **YOUTHFUL LUSTS** (2:22). EVEN A **WHOLEHEARTED** MAN LIKE **TIMOTHY** WHO WAS ABOUT 45 YEARS OLD AT THIS TIME, HAD TO **RUN AWAY FROM** **YOUTHFUL LUSTS**.

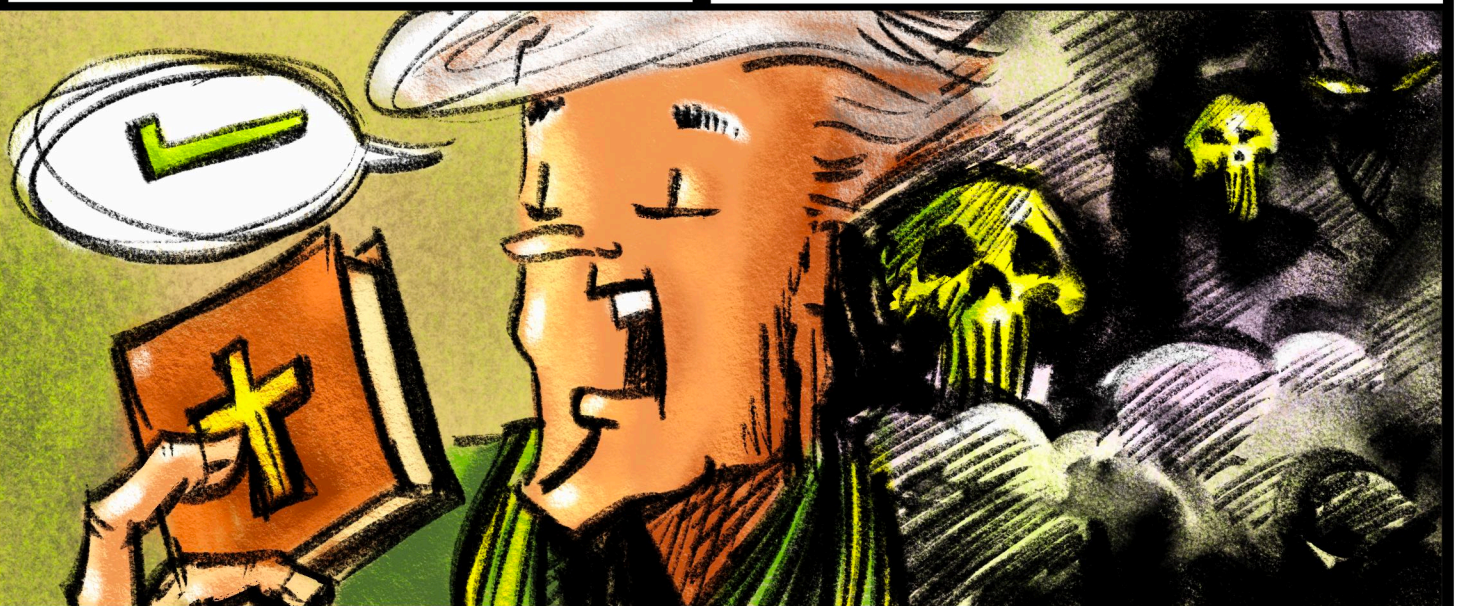


JESUS



"**PURSU**E AFTER **RIGHT**eousness with those who call upon the **NAME** of the **LORD** with a **PURE** heart" (2:22). HOW CAN WE KNOW IF SOMEONE HAS A **PURE** heart? WE KNOW WHAT IS **FILLING** A MAN'S heart BY THE THINGS HE LOVES TO **SPEAK** ABOUT. (MATTHEW 12:34).

THE SEVENTH CHARACTERISTIC OF A SERVANT OF GOD IS THAT HE MUST BE A **GENTLE** COUNSELLOR (2:24--26). WE ARE MORE LIKELY TO HELP PEOPLE TO BE FREE FROM SIN AND TO BE DELIVERED FROM SATAN'S GRIP, IF WE **SPEAK** **MEEKLY** AND **COURTEOUSLY** TO THEM (2:24--26).

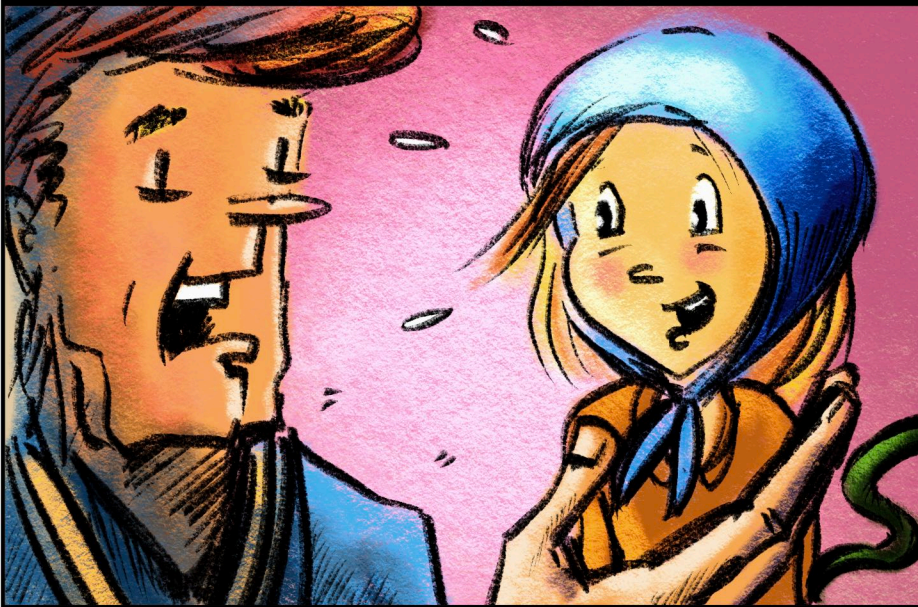


IT WILL BE **DIFFICULT** TO BE A **FAITHFUL** CHRISTIAN IN THE LAST DAYS. BECAUSE "MEN WILL BE **LOVERS** OF **THEMSELVES**" (3:2) WHO "WILL HOLD TO A **FORM** OF **GODLINESS**" (3:5). IN THE **LAST** DAYS, **EVANGELICAL** CHRISTIANS WITH THE **RIGHT** DOCTRINE WILL STILL BE **LOVERS** OF **MONEY**, **BOASTFUL** AND **ARROGANT**, ETC., (3:2--5).

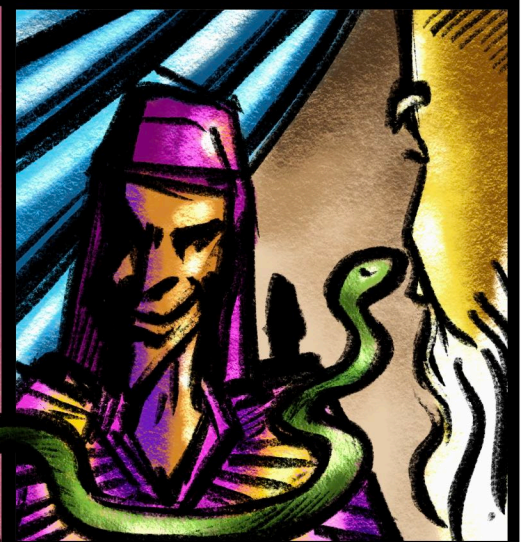
DOCTRINE IS LIKE THE PARTS OF OUR HUMAN BODY. A HUMAN BODY CAN HAVE ALL ITS PARTS AND YET BE DEAD! EVEN SO, A CHRISTIAN CAN HAVE ALL HIS DOCTRINES RIGHT AND YET LACK POWER.



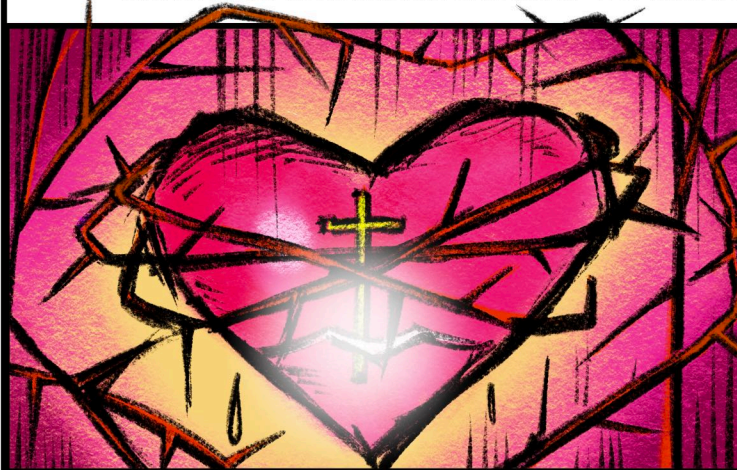
PAUL TELLS TIMOTHY TO AVOID SUCH PEOPLE. WHY? BECAUSE WE CAN GET THEIR INFECTION OTHERWISE.



MANY SUCH PREACHERS GO INTO THE HOMES OF WEAK WOMEN WHO ADMIRE THEM AND CAPTIVATE THEIR MINDS. SUCH WOMEN GO TO MANY MEETINGS AND KEEP ON LISTENING TO MANY PREACHERS. BUT THEY NEVER COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRUTH (3:6, 7).



PAUL THEN QUOTES THE EXAMPLE OF JANNES AND JAMBRES, PHARAOH'S MAGICIANS, WHO OPPOSED MOSES (3:8). THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE THAT TODAY TOO, WHO HAVE A FORM OF GODLINESS, WHO WILL OPPOSE TRUE SERVANTS OF GOD.



PAUL HAD TO REMIND TIMOTHY ABOUT HIS WAY OF LIFE TO CONTRAST IT WITH THAT OF OTHER PREACHERS WHO WERE CROOKED, BUT CLAIMED TO BE SERVANTS OF GOD. PAUL WENT ON TO SAY THAT ALL WHO SEEK TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE IN CHRIST WILL BE PERSECUTED (3:12).



BUT EVIL MEN AND DECEIVERS WILL GO FROM BAD TO WORSE, DECEIVING OTHERS AND BEING RECEIVED THEMSELVES.



PAUL THEN EXHORTS TIMOTHY TO GIVE HIMSELF TO THE STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES, WHICH WERE "BREATHED OUT BY GOD HIMSELF" TO MAKE US PERFECT. THE SAME HOLY SPIRIT WHO INSPIRED GOD'S WORD INITIALLY, USES IT NOW TO TEACH, REPROVE, CORRECT AND EQUIP US TO BECOME MEN AND WOMEN OF GOD, READY FOR EVERY GOOD WORK (3:16, 17).



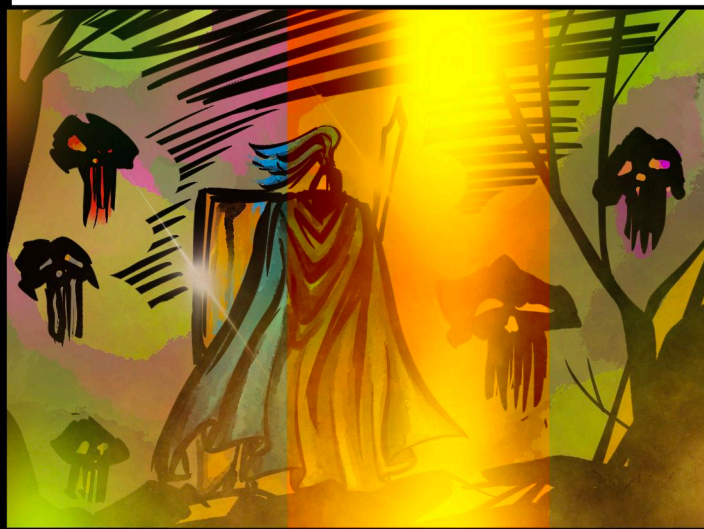
WE MUST BE READY AT ALL TIMES, TO PREACH GOD'S WORD; AND WHEN WE PREACH, WE MUST NOT ONLY COMFORT PEOPLE WITH GOD'S WORD, BUT ALSO REPROVE, REBUKE EXHORT AND TEACH THEM WITH GREAT PATIENCE (4:1,2).



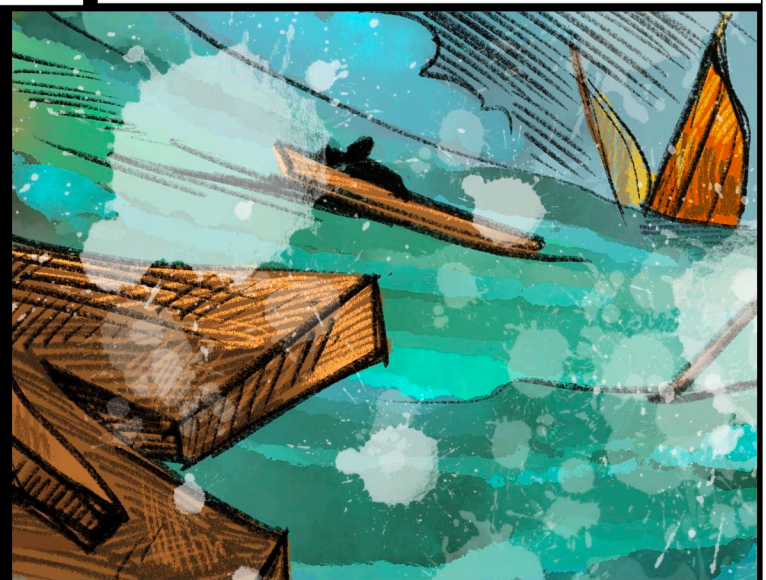
THIS IS BECAUSE A TIME WILL COME WHEN PEOPLE WILL NOT BE WILLING TO LISTEN TO "SOUND DOCTRINE" -- WHICH MEANS THE HYGIENIC DOCTRINE THAT LEADS TO A GODLY LIFE.



INSTEAD THEY WILL WANT THEIR EARS TO BE TICKLED BY PREACHERS WHO MAKE THEM HAPPY (WITH "MYTHS" -- TECHNIQUES LEARNT FROM PSYCHOLOGY)



LOOKING BACK OVER HIS LIFE, PAUL IS THANKFUL THAT HE FOUGHT THE DEVIL AND THE LUSTS OF HIS FLESH, WHOLEHEARTEDLY, THAT HE KEPT THE FAITH UNCORRUPTED AND UNCOMPROMISINGLY, AND THAT HE FINISHED THE COURSE GOD HAD FOR HIM.



HE COMPLETED HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY. HE WENT TO EVERY PLACE THAT GOD WANTED HIM TO GO -- WALKING AT TIMES, AND SOMETIMES THROUGH SHIPWRECKS.



THEREFORE GOD HAD LAID UP FOR HIM A **CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS** WHICH HE WILL GIVE **NOT ONLY TO PAUL, BUT ALSO TO ALL WHO LOVE HIS APPEARING** (4:8).



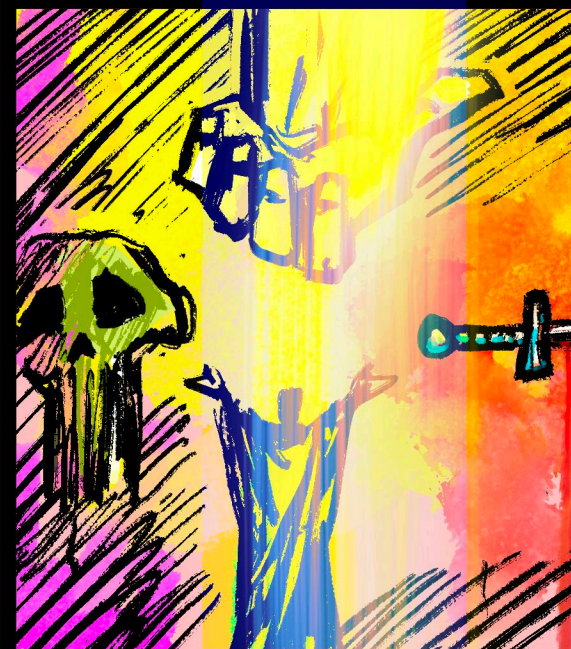
BUT PAUL HAD SOME **DISAPPOINTMENTS** WITH HIS **CO-WORKERS** TOO. **DEMAS** DESERTED HIM, SEEKING THE **GLORY** OF THIS WORLD -- PROBABLY **MONEY** -- LIKE MANY **PREACHERS** TODAY (4:10).



ALEXANDER THE COPPERSMITH DID HIM **MUCH HARM**. BUT PAUL WOULD **NOT TAKE ANY REVENGE**. HE WOULD **LEAVE IT TO THE LORD TO REPAY HIM IN THE FINAL DAY** (4:14).



WHEN PAUL WAS TAKEN TO **COURT** **EVERYBODY** DESERTED HIM, BUT THE **LORD** STOOD WITH HIM AND **SAVED HIM** (4:17).



PAUL DID **NOT WANT THE LORD TO SAVE HIM FROM MARTYRDOM** BUT ONLY FROM **"EVERY EVIL DEED"** (4:18).



THUS THE **LORD** WOULD GIVE HIM A **GLORIOUS ENTRANCE** INTO HIS **HEAVENLY KINGDOM**. WHAT A **WONDERFUL WAY TO END ONE'S LIFE**.