

# Hold Fast the Pattern of Sound Words

## 2 Timothy 1:13

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### Introduction

1. At the time Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy he knew that his death was eminent (2 Tim. 5:6)
2. Timothy was a young evangelist who had joined Paul during his missionary journeys (Acts 16:1), and had trained under Paul (2 Tim. 1:13; 3:10).
3. In this letter Paul is giving Timothy some final instructions, warnings, and exhortations for Him to continue his work as an evangelist.
4. 2 Tim. 2:2: The instructions written to Timothy in this letter are essential for every man in every congregation, especially those who desire to teach and preach.
5. In this lesson we are going to consider Paul's instructions to "*hold fast the pattern of sound words*," and what that means for men in the church today.

### Discussion

#### I. "Sound Words"

- A. "Sound" means "healthy...safe and sound...whole" (Vine's).
  1. *Sound* words are words that are healthy, whole, and wholesome.
  2. They are words that are true and sure, that which will not fail.
  3. This type of statement is also used in 1 Tim. 6:3, "*If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness.*"
  4. Those words which are inspired of God and delivered by the apostles and prophets are good, sound, wholesome words. Anything that contracts what is revealed in Scripture is unsound and unstable.
  5. These are the words that are on accordance with the gospel (1 Tim. 1:10-11).
- B. Sound words are the words of the apostles.
  1. "*...which you heard from me.*"
  2. John 16:13-15: The words which are inspired of the Holy Spirit.
  3. Eph. 3:3-5; 2 Tim. 3:16-17: Words which were written down for our understanding, correction, instruction in righteousness.
  4. 1 Thess. 2:13: Words which must be received as the words of God.
  5. 2 John 9-11: Word which we must avoid going beyond.

#### II. "Hold Fast"

- A. *Hold Fast* means to have to keep, to hold onto.
  1. When we receive sound words by the inspiration of God we should hold on to them for dear life.
  2. "Have such a delineation drawn from my sound words,' in opposition to the unsound doctrines so current at Ephesus, 'vividly impressed' (the verb implies to make a lively and lasting impress) on thy mind" (from Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary)
- B. We must be devoted to the truth so that we have it and nothing else.
  1. In the face of error, we must retain the pattern of truth revealed by the Holy Spirit.
  2. "*Buy the truth, and do not sell it...*" (Prov. 23:23).
  3. 2 Tim. 3:14: We do so by continuing in (practicing) that which is in according with sound words.
  4. We do so by continuing steadfastly in the learning, practicing and teaching the doctrine of Christ (Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14).
- C. If we are holding the truth then we can be holding nothing else.
  1. If we have the truth there is no room for "personal beliefs" that contradict or go being God's words.
  2. God's people may differ from one another in understanding, but the goal is to change that (1 Cor. 1:10).

3. But where an individual finds himself differing with God's word, then he is no longer holding fast the pattern of sound words.
4. Those who teach and preach in the Lord's church must make doubly sure that they hold fast to sound words and not the doctrines and traditions of men (Col. 2:8).

### III. ***"In Faith and Love Which Are in Christ Jesus"***

- A. Some misunderstand what this means.
  1. Some believe that this simply means to teach from sincerity.
  2. Some believe this means that we teach what is loving, and that if what the Bible says is not perceived as loving then we should not teach it (i.e. not preach on negative things).
  3. On the contrary, this passage is saying the exact opposite.
- B. "In faith"
  1. To believe the doctrines that we are to hold fast.
  2. To believe and put all confidence in the one to whom we hold fast.
  3. To hold fast to these things in faith means to do so without wavering, to the right or to the left, and without drawing back (Heb. 10:39).
  4. *"Do not be ashamed" (1:8), "be strong" (2:1), "endure hardship" (2:2)."*
  5. *"If we endure, we shall also live with Him, If we deny Him, He also will deny us, if we are faithless, He remains faithful..." (2 Tim. 2:12-13).*
- C. "In love"
  1. Our devotion to the truth must be in a spirit of love, not in arrogance or contempt of others as is the manner of some.
  2. We must have a love for God.
  3. We must have a love for our fellow man.
  4. We must have a love for the truth.
  5. 1 John 4:18: At times we are tempted to draw back because of fear (of offending someone, etc.), but if we hold fast sound words with love then we will cast out fear.
  6. Eph. 4:15: We will speak the truth in love, correcting, rebuking, exhorting and enagement wherever necessary.

### **Conclusion**

1. Jesus said, *"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).*
2. In order to accomplish this we must be willing to hold fast the pattern of sound words which we receive in the Bible.
3. Many today are not content to abide within God's word for their pattern, but those who desire to be pleasing to God will abide in the doctrine of Christ and will not go beyond.
4. For men in the church, this means focusing on sound teaching and preaching, speaking as the oracles of God (1 Pet. 4:11), and being vigilant for anything that is contrary to God's word.
5. Are you willing to hold fast?

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