

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.

Isaiah 55:6

Store In My Heart

Psalm 55:22

Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.

This is a verse that can give us much comfort. No matter the difficulty we might find ourselves needing to overcome, the Lord is with us to help us through. His protection and care is always available to those who belong to Him. David put his trust in the Lord and was able to deal with a number of difficulties. Even when he brought difficulty upon himself through sin, David knew that if he would return to God it could be overcome.

We must recognize that this level of care and help is only available to the righteous. Those who are devoted to following the commands and teaching of God can always depend upon the Lord to help us with any difficulty. Let us give our all in His service.



Keeping Your Christian Charge!

Richie Thetford

In **1Timothy 1:5** we read *“But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”* That one verse pretty much sums up what the Christian charge is all about. If we would all learn to love with a pure heart accompanied with a good conscience before God with an unwaiverable faith, we would possess some fine Christian virtues. The Lord has given us this charge and it was given to preachers (**2Timothy 4:1-2**), Elders (**1Peter 5:1-4**), the rich (**1Timothy 6:17**) and to all (**1Timothy 1:5**). The Christian has a big responsibility to God. Among the things we are charged with is *“not to teach strange doctrines”* (**1Timothy 1:3**). However, today we can see man making up new religious rules and changing the doctrine that God has given us in scripture to fit into their individual needs and wants. This is wrong and we are going to be held personally responsible for changing God's word!

We are also told not to trust in riches of this world. Paul told Timothy to *“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy”* (**1Timothy 6:17**). There is nothing wrong with being wealthy, but when one lets the wealth rule their life instead of allowing God to have that place, then it is wrong and we will be held responsible for it. Those are two things we are charged not to do. But what are we charged “to do” as Christians?

The apostle Paul sent his letter to the Thessalonians and in **1Thessalonians 5:27** we can read where the Lord was willing for

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For Our Information

Dan & JoBeth will be in Henderson, TX Monday & Tuesday to visit with her mom.

Dottie Henderson received a good report from her heart doctor last Thursday.

Jonathan, Amy & John Ross Simpson leave Thursday for a trip to North Dakota. They will be gone two weekends.

Tonight we start in 1Kings 13.

Wednesday we are in 1Timothy 6:11.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

the letter to be read to *"all the brethren."* Likewise, we are to read the scriptures and put into practice the things that God tells us to do in our own lives. We can further learn from our opening scripture of **1Timothy 1:5** that we are to have faith in God. This is further stressed in verse 19 where it says *"keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith."* It is such a wonderful thing to see Christians that possess a deep and abiding faith! No matter what happens they realize that God is with them and they will stay faithful to God to the very end of their days on this earth. But we are not done yet.

The Christian charge continues in that we are to do good (**1Timothy 6:17-18**), to love (**1Timothy 1:5**), tell others about Christ as Paul instructed young Timothy to do in **2Timothy 4:1-2**, to war a good warfare (**1Timothy 1:18**), and to give of our means (**1Timothy 6:17-18**). Some Christians have an even deeper responsibility if they hold the position of Elder. Peter said to *"shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory"* (**1Peter 5:2-4**). Men who serve in the position of an Elder in their local congregation have a responsibility to ensure that all Christians that meet together in that local work are instructed in righteousness and must ensure that no false doctrines are preached or taught within the local congregation.

We need to understand how important our Christian charge is to serve God. It is essential to heed the commands of God in order for us to lay a good foundation in which to build upon as Paul instructed in **1Timothy 6:19** when he said *"storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed."* Material things of this life will pass away. We brought nothing into the world and can't take anything out of it either (**1Timothy 6:7**). We must strive to live a life with God eternally (**1Timothy 6:17-19**), and to receive the crown of righteousness that is reserved for us (**1Peter 5:2-4**). **Won't you keep your Christian charge?**

(This article came across my desk(top) this past week and I thought was a good compliment to our Wednesday evening Bible class. If you are not attending that class, you are missing out on some valuable Bible study. Titus will be our next book to study. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!