

# Faithful Sayings

**Introduction.** Who didn't grow up with their parents or grandparents repeating phrases like this to us: "A fool and his money are soon parted," "Bad news travels fast," "Give him an inch and he will take a mile," and "Never look a gift horse in the mouth"?

"Faithful saying" was an expression peculiar to the "pastoral" epistles of 1-2 Timothy and Titus. It occurs five times in these three books (1 Timothy 1:15; 3:1; 4:9; 2 Timothy 2:11; Titus 3:8).

There seemed to be a number of pithy sayings or maxims used by early Christians which the inspired writers sometimes made use of in their letters and thereby gave sanction to them. They were trustworthy (reliable, stable) sayings and worthy of all acceptance, so we will study them to glean wonderful spiritual thoughts.

## ***I. Christ Came Into The World To Save Sinners (1 Timothy 1:15)***

- A. This was the purpose of His birth (Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:11).
- B. "Christ came to save sinners" implies the revelation of God's will to man (2 Peter 3:1-2). Otherwise, how could we know that Christ came to save sinners?
- C. This saying tells us that sinners are lost and need Christ (Romans 3:10-12, 23). The greatest sinner has no reason for despair because Paul said, "... of whom I am chief." He could be saved and so can you. His sins were washed away (Acts 22:16).

## ***II. It Is A Good Work To Be An Elder (1 Timothy 3:1)***

- A. The KJV translates this as a "true" statement, but the original word is the same as the other occurrences.
- B. It is good to desire the "work," but it is not just another office. There are serious qualifications to be met (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).
- C. Elders are an example to the flock (1 Peter 5:3), and they have the responsibility to guard the flock and stop vain talkers (Acts 20:28; Titus 1:10-11). The flock has the responsibility to imitate their faith and submit to them (Hebrews 3:7, 17).

## ***III. Godliness Is Profitable For All Things (1 Timothy 4:8-9)***

- A. The benefits of bodily training are limited and transient when contrasted with the extensive and permanent benefits of godliness.
- B. Sacrifices go all the way back to the beginning of sin, but dead sacrifices are gone; we are living sacrifices (Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 13:15; 1 Peter 2:5). This strongly reminds us that we will be judged by our deeds (2 Corinthians 5:10). God will miss nothing of what we do, say, or think (Numbers 32:23).

## ***IV. If We Die With Christ, We Shall Live With Him (2 Timothy 2:11)***

- A. Salvation comes through the death of Christ (Hebrews 10:19-20).
- B. We die with Him when we are baptized into His death (Romans 6:1-8).
- C. We should bear the likeness of His death (2 Corinthians 4:10-11).

**V. *Be Careful To Maintain Good Works (Titus 3:8)***

- A. We were redeemed for this purpose (Titus 2:14). This shows that Paul supposed that the doctrines of the gospel were intended to lead men to holy living (cp. Titus 3:1; Philippians 4:8). It was more than just a philosophy or mental exercise.
- B. These “good works” refer not merely to acts of benevolence (Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 9:36-39), but to all that is upright and good — to an honest and holy life. In this way, we can adorn the doctrine of God our Savior (Titus 2:10). This will promote human happiness, and should be constantly taught.

**Conclusion.** These are trustworthy statements from a trustworthy book. There is a lot to learn from them, so reverence them and apply your heart to this wisdom. Remember that 1 Timothy 1:15 said that Christ came to save us, and that 2 Timothy 2:11 said that if we die with Him, we can live with Him. If you want to walk in newness of life today, indicate that to us and we will help you in this moment of greatest need.