

Daily Prayer

FRIDAY, JULY 10

Today's prayer is based on I Timothy 1.18-20, ESV.

This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child,

Father, what charge or commission can this be?

Paul has just been writing to Timothy, whom he loved like a son
that even though he felt like the most unworthy person in the world,
yet Jesus came to save him,

indeed, that saving sinners was Jesus' main purpose
in coming to this world;

and that, out of this posture of being a saved sinner,
having received a purified heart, a cleansed conscience and an honest faith,
that, from this base, his job now is to walk in observable LOVE.

Lord, I trust you for your heart surgery,
your healing of my damaged psyche,
and your inner strengthening of my faith -
now lead me into acts of love.

in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you,

Evidently, some believers had predicted great things for Timothy.

Father, help me live in such a way that believers expect much from me, too.

that by them you may wage the good warfare,

Lord, do not let me harbor any illusions about life following your way -

I know I am going to have to *fight* to keep my head and heart right
so that I can actually love as you would have me love.

Please strengthen me internally for this battle.

It is coming through loud and clear that
this is not going to be easy.

holding faith and a good conscience.

Lord, I see that it is really crucial that I continue to believe -

and that I continue to see that living in love, faith and gratitude
is what makes me able to move forward in the faith
with a good conscience.

By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith,

Help me realize that if I do not major in these majors -

love, faith, singleness of heart, consistency -

I can completely wreck my life.

among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander,

Thank you for the warning and example of Hymenaeus and Alexander.

whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Wow, Lord, I'm not sure exactly what being handed over to Satan entails,
but I am completely sure I want no part of it.

This extreme action must be a measure
of the importance we should place on these basics:
love, faith, singleness of heart, consistency.

Lord, help me remember what is important -
and that the *most* important thing
is that everything that goes in to walking as a believer
MUST RESULT IN LOVE,
or everything else is suspect and probably bogus.

By your Spirit within me,
help me live like this,
for Jesus and His kingdom's sake. Amen.

personalized by ptc

True Christian love is not derived from external things,
but flows from the heart, as from a spring.

Martin Luther