

Title: Ladies In The Church

Text: I Timothy 2:8-15

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to the book of I Timothy. We have been studying for the past few weeks from I Timothy. Paul is giving instructions to Timothy concerning the church. How it should be run and what should be the duties and functions of people in the local church.

We come, now, to chapter 2 verses 8 - 15. This portion of scripture deals with LADIES IN THE CHURCH. Sometimes there is much misunderstanding concerning these verses of scripture. And I am going to do my best, today, to share with you just what the Word of God says. Not what I think. But what the Word of God actually says.

(I Timothy 2:8-15)

Prayer

There are three things that I would like to share with you from this passage concerning LADIES IN THE CHURCH. Again, I remind you that Paul is dealing with the DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FOLKS WITHIN THE CHURCH. For example: last week we looked at the whole problem of PRAYER in the church. Paul said, "First of all, PRAYER. Prayer was the first and most important item on Paul's agenda for the church and her duties. In Vs 8, Paul concludes his discussion of prayer by saying: "I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting up holy hands without wrath or dissension."

Then in Vs 9, Paul says, "Likewise", or, "in like manner". So, we are talking about the same thing as Vs 8. First, on the agenda of an Christian woman should be prayer.

Then, Paul goes on to share three things that are the responsibility of LADIES WITHIN THE CHURCH. And these are your responsibilities, ladies.

(IC) First of all ^{her} ~~their~~ adorning.

We read that women are to adorn themselves with proper clothing.

101 Now, ladies you have a grave responsibility. It is a command. It is not something you take as a mere suggestion. The Bible says that ^{Christian} women should "adorn themselves." It's a grave responsibility.

And notice Paul uses the word "themselves." It is your responsibility. It is not the responsibility of someone else to tell you. It is your responsibility to adorn yourself in proper clothing.

It is interesting to note that the word "adorn" ^{vs 9} is the same Greek word translated ~~the~~ "Proper." ^{vs 9} Both of these words come from the root word "COSMOS." And we get our English word "COSMETICS" from this word "COSMOS." The Bible ^{vs} is saying ^{vs} that women should cosmetic themselves in cosmetic clothing.

Now, what is Paul talking about? The word "cosmos" is the word for "world". And it refers to the "Orderly arrangement of things." It is talking about the arranging of things in a systematic way.

Thus, cosmetics were original designed to arrange things in a systematic way. ² we sometimes wonder when ² we see cosmetics on some ladies. But, that is what it means. "AN ORDERLY ARRANGEMENT OF THINGS." And ^I like ^{To say} I have often said that on the bases of this verse, if the barn door needs painting you ought to paint it.....

~~But~~ ladies, please notice what the text says. It says that women should adorn themselves with orderly arranged clothing. ~~But~~, then it goes on to say ^{vs 5} ~~with~~ MODESTY AND DISCREETLY.

Now, I believe that ladies ought to look their very best for Jesus' sake. You ought to be the best possible for the Lord. But, God has some restrictions. This responsibility to be well arranged in how we appear before the world. Not to be sloppy in dress. ^{But} ^{wear} and to ~~wear~~ proper clothing. But, yet, there are some restrictions...

It says "Modestly" and "discreetly." The word "modestly" means ~~humble~~ "humble"....not desiring to "stand-out".... ^{in a crowd}

The word "modestly" in its original intent means that the person has no desire to "stand-out in a crowd." ^{So} Yes, adorn yourself in proper clothing, well arranged, look nice and attractive. But, do it with ^{modestly} ~~humility~~. Not desiring to stand-out and draw attention to yourself. Because God's beauty in a woman is a meek and a quiet spirit. Not, the out-ward adornment.

It, also, says "discreetly". The word "discreetly" is the word for "self-control." In other words, do not go over board in your adornment. Don't unnecessarily display yourself. Because that is not what God desires.

^{So} Yes, women should look attractive. But they should do so with ^{modestly} ~~humility~~, not desiring to stand-out in a crowd, and they should do so with self-control, not going over board in their desire to please the world.

But, I read, also, in this passage that it is not to be with outward display, alone. It says in the last part of Vs 9 "not with braided hair." Now, this is referring to the twisting of the hair up on top of the head and then filling it with jewels. I understand that in the days of Rome it was a very beautiful thing. The ladies were extremely proud. They would strut down the streets of Rome with this braided hair, filled with gold and jewels. And Paul is saying to Christian women, "Don't dress that way." He knew what it was for/ It was for the display of the old ^{per} nature. It was for self. *We have the same problem Today -*

^{So}, Ladies, you are to look attractive. But not with outward display. Not to walk before the world seeking their attention. ^{Oh, No} ~~Oh, no~~..Ladies are to be attractive in proper clothing so that people will see Christ in you and not be side-tracted by braided hair with gold and pearls and costly attire.

Now, I must add this point. ^{The Bible} Paul is not condemning the wearing of jewelry. And I hope that you do not draw that false conclusion. Paul is simply condemning the display of jewelry which causes people to be distracted from the Christ we serve. We should dress nice. But, not in outward display..seeking to draw attention to self...instead of to christ.

(3D) Then, we find out the reason for all of this in Vs 10. It says: "but by good deeds, as befits women who profess godliness." WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? It means: make sure your life on the outward matches up with what you are suppose to be on the inward. Make sure your life on the outward appearance, corresponds with the life of Christ. Godliness with in the inner person.

In Ephesians chapter 2 we learn that we are saved by grace through faith. But, why did God save us by Grace? Why? Well, Ephesians 2:10 tells us why. We were saved by grace to be His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.

In other words, don't dress in such a way as to destroy the beauty of Christ in you. We are His workmanship. His poem. We are his handiwork. Just as creation is the handiwork of God. The heavens declare the glory of God. So, we are the handiwork of God. God has created us. And He has created new life in us.

And my dear friends, don't ever hinder the new life by an outward display. If there is to be an outward display, let it be from the standpoint of neatness and attractiveness. Let us not distract from the beauty of the life of Christ within us. And this is very, very important in living the Christian life.

(2C) Now, the second thing that I want to share with you concerning the Responsibility of Ladies in the church is the authority of women as described in Vs 11-14. Where do women stand within the church? Where do they stand within the home? According to God's order of things, man is the head of the home even as Christ is the head of the church. Now, this doesn't mean a slave master. But, it is referring to God's position. It is a position of grave responsibility.

Now, I want to be very clear this morning, or Shirley will not let me come home, even if I am the head of the house. So, look carefully at these verses.

(1D) First of all, notice Vs 11 and 12 as it concerns a woman's teaching ministry in the church. Vs 11 says: (Read Vs 11-12)

I don't know of any two verses in the Bible which have caused more heated discussion than these verses. Taken at first glance it seems to exclude women completely from all teaching positions in the church. Obviously, such an interpretation would not square with other passages in the N.T. And since I do not believe that the Bible contradicts itself, just what is Paul referring to in these verses? Or, more important what is the application to our lives?

In interpreting these verses, please do not separate verse 11 from verse 12. I know that in your Bible, it is two complete sentences. But, in the Greek it's only one sentence. And therefore Vs 11 should be understood in connection with Vs 12.

Now, if you translate Vs 12 literally, it would read: "I do not allow a woman to be in the place of THE ONE WHO TEACHES." Which means that this verse is referring to THE TEACHER OF THE CHURCH. Now, dear friends, who is THE TEACHER OF THE CHURCH? ANSWER: THE PASTOR. Or, any person(Male or female) who has been placed in that position of authority under God to be THE PASTOR - TEACHER OF THE CONGREGATION.

Now, please note that this is not talking about the quality of teaching. Or, the opportunity to teach. But, it is talking about a woman assuming the place of being THE TEACHER OF DOCTRINE IN THE CHURCH. And a woman is never to place herself in a position where she is to teach what God says about a given matter of doctrine above the

PASTOR - TEACHER. Unless, she has been placed in that position of Pastor - Teacher. I might add that that is also true of men. They are never to assume that place of being in that position of being the PASTOR- TEACHER of a congregation over the one called to that position.

So, this doesn't mean that women cannot teach. That is obvious because in Titus chapter 2, Paul says: "Let the older women teach what is good." So, it is obvious that women have a teaching ministry within the church.

The point is that a woman (and a man for that matter) is never to assume the place of being THE TEACHER of a local congregation. Unless they have been called to that position by God and confirmed by the local congregation.

So, if you understand what Vs 12 is teaching, you should have no problem with Vs 11. A woman is never to assume the place of being THE TEACHER, but instead she is to receive instruction or teaching with submissiveness.

(29) Now, the reason given ^{in The Fall of Man} is found in Vs 13 and 14. It was the woman who was deceived not the man. Now, that is a statement of fact.

By the way men, don't get any feelings of superiority about all of this. What the text is saying is that we men directly disobeyed. You see, Adam knew what he was doing and went right ahead and sinned anyway. He knew what the will of God was. Yet, he chose to disobey. But the woman was deceived.

^{Now} Now, put all of this together. A woman is to receive instruction from -- THE PASTOR TEACHER with all submissiveness. And the illustration given is events that took place in the Garden of Eden between Adam and Eve. The first few chapters of Genesis is talking about the fall of man. And the first time that Eve took the position of teaching God's will and God's plan resulted in disaster.. She assumed that she could determine the plan of God regarding the fruit on the tree of good and evil. Adam knew the will of God. He was placed in that position of leadership by God. And Eve tried to assume that leadership. And the results were disastrous.

And I believe the application is so simple. God calls people to the position of THE PASTOR -TEACHER of a local church. And when someone else, whether it be male or female, in this case it is a female, but who ever tries to take that place of authority, there will be problems within the church. Problems, just as serious as the fall from grace of Adam and ^{Eve} ~~Eve~~ in the garden of Eden. *And I have seen this happen - and I have had to deal with it*

So, when you interpret this way., which I believe is correct, it doesn't mean that ladies don't know the Word of God....it doesn't mean that ladies cannot teach ^{in the church} ~~the Word of God~~....or be teachers in the church. It simply means that you are to never assume the place of BEING THE PASTOR-TEACHER of doctrine in the Church..... *above the person who has been called to that position*

(3 C) Now, the third thing that I would like to share with you about ladies in the church is her assurance.

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Now, if you think that Verses 11 to 14 have cause ~~problems~~ *missunderstandings* within the church, hay....you haven't looked at Vs 15. There has been much confusion about this verse. It says: "But women shall be preserved (that is the word for saved) ~~a woman~~ *women* shall be saved through the bearing of children, if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint."

You know, just a causal reading of this verse, would cause one to say that it sounds like a woman's salvation depends upon her ability to have children. And if that is true, it would not be consistent with the rest of the Bible. So...what does it mean?

Well, I believe this verse is talking about a woman's assurance. Where does it come from? Is it in bearing Children? Is the bearing of children going to save you?

Now, we all want to shake our heads and say NO.....but, it *seems to* read that way...doesn't it?....

~~to your husband a guarantee that you shall be saved? Is the bearing of children going to save you? We all want to shake our heads NO...But, it reads that way, doesn't it?~~

Well, in understanding this verse, there are two little words that I would add to your English Bibles in Vs 15 that come out-off the Greek text. In your KJ you should insert the articule "THE" between the words "IN" and "CHILDBEARING". And if you are following along in the ~~NAS~~ you should insert the ~~word~~ ^{articule} "THE" before the word "children".

And secondly, the word "children" should be in the single tense. It is child, not children. ^{Thus} The original ~~Greek~~ ^{KES} text reads: "SAVED IN THE CHILDBEARING....But women shall be saved in THE childbearing. ^{OR The Bearing of The child!} It is talking about a particular one.....And of course that particular ^{child} one that it is referring to is Jesus Christ.

How shall a woman be saved? She fell...She was decieved...But, she is saved through the same method that was pronounced in Genesis 3:15 and is found ^{here} ~~her~~ in I Timothy 2:15. She is saved through the coming of Jesus Christ. Christ who was born of woman. Christ who was the suffering servant. In Romans chapter 5 we read, "Just as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin, spread to all men, because all sinned. So the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many."

In I Cor 15 Paul says, "For as in Adam all died, so also in Christ all shall be made alive."

^{Chapter 2} So, This 15 verse of I Timothy is simply saying that woman shall be saved in or by means of the bearing of the child. A particular child. And that child was Christ Jesus who bore our sins on that cross that whosoever would believe would be saved.

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People are always asking, "If God is the God of love, how could he have caused sin? How could God enjoy sending ^{person} men to Hell? How could God have caused sin?

Well, my friends, the wonderful news that makes the gospel "GOOD NEWS" is that before the foundation of the world God planned for the redemption of man. God had to make man a free moral agent if man was to willingly choose Him. If the bases of fellowship is a willing heart, then we must be free to choose for God or against God. You see, love demands a free choice. But God knew that man would go his own way. So, he set into motion before the foundation of the World his plan of redemption. God knew that man would sin. That man would choose to go his own way instead of God's way. God knew that. So, he solved the problem. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be the perfect man. To be tempted in all ways even as we are tempted, yet without sin. And Jesus took upon himself the sin of each one of us, so that fellowship through salvation could be restored between God and man. All of our sin was laid on Jesus when he died on the cross.

And you know, I thank God for his plan of redemption. Women(men also) shall be saved through the bearing of THE CHILD(Jesus Christ) since.. (not "if" as it says in your text) SINCE they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self restraint.

I don't know, my dear ^{Ladies} ~~lady friends~~, if you have ever really trusted Christ for the redemption of your sins. You may set there and say that you know the facts of the gospel. But, if you have never appropriated by faith those facts, then you are lost in your sins. You are dead spiritually. So, I ask, "Have you come to that place in your life where you are depending upon Christ for your salvation?" For it is Jesus who stands at the door of your life. It is Jesus who wants to come into your life. Would you open ~~the~~ door of your life and invited him in?....

I pray you will.

Shall we close in prayer