

DESERTION - IN THE CHURCH

We will begin by studying four important Greek words used in our lesson text.

- Apostrepho refers to desertion, AWOL, or turning away.
- Hupotuposis refers to an outline, sketch, pattern, or standard of something.
- Hugiaino refers to good or sound health.
- Logos refers to a revealed word.

Paul warned Timothy of **desertion** from a “standard of sound word.”

Paul warned Timothy of wholesale **desertion** of doctrinal believers in the churches of Asia Minor.

Paul warned Timothy of well-known Pauline communicators who were leading the **desertion** from sound grace teachings:

- Phygelus and Hermogenes (2 Tim.1:15)
- Hymenaeus and Philetus (2 Tim.2:17)
- Jannes and Jambres (2 Tim.3:8)
- Demas and Alexander (2 Tim.4:10, 14)

This lesson will study five aspects of Desertion in the Church.
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1. This wasn't just people leaving the church to attend another grace church but apostasy or defection from the standard of sound teaching of grace salvation and Christian way of life (CWL).

“Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity.” (2 Tim.1:9)

“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Tim.2:1-2)

“But evil men and imposters will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.” (2 Tim.3:13)

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.” (2 Tim.4:3-4)

“At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them.” (2 Tim.4:16)

2. Paul issued two Greek commands to warn Timothy of apostate reversionistic desertion in the grace churches of Asia Minor (2 Tim.1:13-14).

“**Retain** (echo / p.a.impv.2pl) [hold] the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.” (2 Tim.1:13 / hupotuposis hugiaino logos)

“**Guard** (phulasso / p.a.impv.2pl), through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the good treasure (which has been entrusted to you/ not in original text).” (2 Tim.1:14 / ten kalos paratheke)

3. Notice the [what] and the [how] of Paul's command of to hold fast or firm or retain in 2 Tim. 1:13.

What Timothy was to hold fast or firm was the standard of sound word or teaching. This was the teaching of grace and not works regarding the CWL (1 Tim.1:19-20; 2 Pet.3:18).

How Timothy was commanded to hold fast these grace teachings was "in faith and the love which are in Christ Jesus." (Jude 24; Eph.4:14-15)

4. Notice the [what] and the [who] of Paul's command of guard in 2 Tim. 1:14.

What Timothy was to guard was the good treasure. This was the gospel message of grace salvation in Jesus Christ (2 Tim.1:12; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

How Timothy was to guard the good treasure was "through the Holy Spirit who indwells in you." (Eph.1:13-14; 4:30, 1 Cor.6:19-20, Jude 20).

5. Paul had earlier warned the pastors of Asia Minor of this very type of assault upon the grace doctrines of salvation and the CWL at the Ephesus Pastor's Conference in Acts 20:17, 28-32.

Paul warned that **savage wolves** would not spare the flock. They would come from outside and inside the churches of Asia Minor.

(1 Tim.4:1-2) Paul warned that some would fall away from the faith and many would follow their sensuality, and because of false teaching the way of truth would be maligned (2 Pet.2:1-3).

(Acts 20:28) Paul's advice was this, "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

(1 John 4:4) "You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; **because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.**"

(Jude 3-4) "Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that **you contend earnestly for the faith** which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."