**I Timothy Chapter 6, Part 20**

**Salutation (1:1-2)**

**I. The Personal Charge (1:3-20)**

**II. The Public Charge (2:1-6:10)**

**III. The Private Charge (6:11-21)**

 **A. Defend the Truth (6:11-16) Flee, Follow, Fight**

 **B. Charge the Wealthy (6:17-19) Stewardship**

 **C. Keep the Trust (6:20-21) > avoid creeping Gnosticism in assembly > imperceptible advance**

**The Private Charge (6:11-21) > Keep the Trust (6:20-21)**

**PREMISE: Timothy was to avoid creeping Gnosticism in the assembly and its imperceptible advance.**

**I. The Commitment (20a)** *“keep”* (*aorist* imperative)

 A. The Designee > Timothy (25x [“honoring God”]) > Acts 16:1 > Heb. 13:23

 B. The Deposit > *“trust”* of truth (banking term)

 1. The Incarnation of God (I Tim. 3:16)

 2. The Gospel of Christ (I Tim. 1:11)

**II. The Counteraction (20b-21a) >** *“profane”* (1:9; 4:7) *“vain babblings”* (II Tim. 2:16) *“oppositions”* (*antithesis* [1x]), *“science”* (*gnosis*) *“falsely so called”* (*pseudonymous*)

 A. The Avoidance of Gnosticism

 1. The Beginning of Gnosticism (Gen. 3:4-5)

 a. Satan’s offer of Deification > man is god “locked” in flesh

 b. Satan’s offer of Deathlessness > man’s “soul” (spirit) will not die

 1) Corollary is “flesh is evil”

 2) Corollary is reincarnation in “worthless bodies” and no salvation for flesh!

 2. The Beliefs of Gnosticism

 a. Adoptionism: Jesus is not the Christ (I Jn. 2:22)

 b. Docetism: Jesus Christ is phantom and not incarnate (I Jn. 4:3; I Jn. 1:1)

 c. No resurrection (I Cor. 15:12; II Tim. 2:17-18)

 d. Man is not a sinner (I Jn. 1:6-10)

d. Flesh is evil (I Tim. 4:1-5)

 e. Karma (Jn. 9:1-2)

f. Advancement up *Pleroma* (Col. 2:8-10) > endless genealogies (I Tim. 1:4; Tit. 1:14; 3:9):

 1) Epicureanism (Acts 17:18)

 2) Stoickism (Acts 17:18)

 g. Teachers selling secret knowledge (II Pet. 2:1-3; Jude 1:4)

 h. The unknown God (Acts 17:23)

 i. Anti-eschatology (II Pet. 3:4) > evolution

 j. Anti-earth-centeredness (Jn. 3:12, 16)

B. The Apostates of Gnosticism > some professing Gnosticism > *“erred”* (missed the mark [3x]) > *“the faith”* (doctrine of Bible)

 1. Athenians (Acts 17:32) > unbelievers

 2. Hymenaeus and Philetus (II Tim. 2:17) > professed believers

**III. The Conclusion (21b)**

 A. The Prayer > *“Grace”* ([*charis* [156x]) >

 B. The Person > Guardian > *“thee”* = Timothy (cf. v. 1:2)

**CONCLUSION: The assembly must be on guard with pastor concerning subtle Gnosticism!**