

**Title:** Don't Shipwreck Your Faith

**Passage:** 1 Timothy 1:18-20

---

### Draft Summary

- Passage: "holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith"
- Faith
- Conscience
- Rejection = Shipwreck of faith

### Possible Discussion Questions

- What are the marks of a true Christian?
- How does one end up suppressing and rejecting their conscience?
- How can we discern between what is true and what is almost-true?
- What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?

### Context of Passage

1 Timothy

- letter that Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy during the latter part of his life (about age 60)
- The church was dealing with some false teachings that needed to be addressed.

1 Timothy 1:3

As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine

### Passage:

1 Timothy 1:18-20

This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

### EXPOSITION

#### Introduction

- Story of Charles Templeton - person in 1940's who started a church and was involved in many crusades. But in 1950's rejected Christianity and became an agnostic with no indications of further change before his death in 2001.
- Likewise: people today are "deconstructing" their faith. How do we respond?

## Trend of "Decisionism"

- all that people need is to make a decision and have an emotional response to the Gospel of Jesus

Mark 1:15

and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

- belief and repentance
- Repentance = heart, internal transformation.
  - Not just confessing your sins and acknowledging Jesus as God but a change of heart

## **Salvation - What does it mean to be "born again"?**

- Born again = Divine act of God that transforms your heart that makes you a new creation.
- Evidence that you are in Christ is that you continue to pursue Christ. Your heart is always wanting to go back to Christ.
  
- Caution: You can externally do good but your heart is away from God.

Matthew 7:21-23

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

- Habitual, deceitful sin without remorse
  - Example: Judas Iscariot

John 12:6

He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.

- He saw Jesus merely as a means to an end. Using Jesus to get what they want.

## True Christian

- Show not only the works of the Spirit but also the fruit of the Spirit
  - You cannot artificially manufacture the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- One can "fake" it or pretend to show these temporarily but only genuine faith shows continued growth.

## Parable of the 4 Soils

- each soil represents different people

Mark 4:14-20

The sower sows the word. And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

- Soils: #2 and 3: hard to detect as they externally show positivity.
  - Soil #2: immediately receive the Gospel with joy but fall away
  - Soil #3: they hear the Word but fall away
- Soil #4: God supernaturally prepares the heart as good soil.
  - Only one that produces fruit.
  - Thirty fold = supernatural result.
- once saved, always repenting. Your heart's desire is to always come back to Jesus.

**...holding faith and a good conscience. *By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith***

### ***By rejecting this***

- rejecting this = rejecting faith and a good conscience

### ***Faith***

- corpus of beliefs in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
  - Jesus came to live a perfect life, die on the cross, and resurrected to redeem His beloved from their sins.
  - He ascended to heaven where he is supremely reigning until He comes again in judgment.

### ***A good conscience***

- Moral referee that tells us when we do wrong
  - Human faculty that judges our actions which needs to be regularly informed by God's Word.
- The loss of conscience as a moral compass leads to loss of faith and leads to shipwrecks. (See 2 Corinthians 11)
- Sound ethics and sound theology go hand-in-hand
  - People tend to teach wrong theology because of some wrong ethic.

- Analogy: 1984 plane crash. Aircraft warning system had given an audible warning "Pull-up. Pull-Up" but the pilot instead rejected the message and turned the system off. Minutes later, the plane crashed into a mountain.
  - Likewise, do we repeatedly suppress or reject warnings from our conscience?
  - Or instead do we obey our conscience that is informed by God's Word.

***among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander,***

- two most prominent who have rejected their faith.

2 Timothy 2:17-18

and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.

- they were alleging they had some other vision.

***some have made shipwreck of their faith***

- analogy: one sent off from port but shipwrecked where have since been wandering from where they were going.

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

- they made a conscious and direct rejection of Jesus.

***Question: Can one lose their faith in Jesus?***

**Response 1:** Scripture never says these men had saving faith in Jesus in the first place

- "Shipwrecked the faith" not "shipwrecked their faith"

1 John 2:19

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

**Response 2:** They were placed under church discipline to restore them

- it is possible to save one from a shipwreck. It is possible to be saved from the sin of blasphemy (as Paul himself was a blasphemer)

1 Corinthians 5:1, 4-5

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife...When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 2:6-7

For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.

- “hand over to Satan” = not to be good standing with the church

Matthew 18:15-17

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

***that they may learn not to blaspheme.***

- purpose of discipline? Restoration and uphold God’s honor and glory.
  - Church discipline is not to harm but to heal.
- Shipwreck = doesn’t mean death but there is still hope for someone to find safety of the shore.
- If you are truly a believer, God will never lose you.

John 10:28-29

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

## **APPLICATION**

***For Christians:***

***In public and private life, do you actually desire to follow Christ and strive to be more like Him?***

- Not about perfection but direction.
- Do you strive with everything to follow Jesus?
- Do you fight sin or become complacent to sin.

***Do you respond well to criticism?***

- your love for Jesus should be greater than your love for sin.
- Are you stubbornly holding onto sin?
- Accepting criticism and Biblical feedback may mean suffering for a time.

1 Peter 3:14a

But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed.

***If you have strayed away from the faith and you are still living in unrepentant sin, come to Christ.***

- Come clean.
- Stop making excuses for your sin. Stop appeasing your conscience that it’s not a big deal. It is a big deal.
- Jesus will receive you back. He redeems your shame and guilt.

Luke 15:20 (Parable of Prodigal Son)

And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

***If know someone who is not walking with the Lord:***

- pray for them
  - don't lower the standards for them apart from what the Bible says.
- Never lose heart and the power of steadfastness in suffering.

***Be aware and discerning as you follow Christian leaders and messengers***

- Key discernment: what is true vs. almost true
  - Not merely discerning what is true vs. false

***For those not in Christ, stop pretending. Come to Christ.***

- Jesus will accept you when you come to Him in repentance.
- Why? Eternity is at stake. There will be a day of judgment as a result of those who reject Christ: eternal damnation.