

STANDING FIRM FOR THE CAUSE

1 Timothy 6:12

Pastor DeWayne F. Davis Sr. 6-21-20 (Fathers' Day)

Paul writes these words in the context of charging his “son in the ministry” Timothy, to pay attention to his life and ministry. Paul desired that he would stand firm in the cause of God. To be singularly devoted to living out his Christian faith, and not get sidetracked with other causes.

1. THE CAUSE IS CONFLICTIVE – v. 12a

“To agonize in battle.” Paul charges Timothy that the fight he is involved in is targeted at conquering his faith in God. *Philippians 1:30*; You will be good at fighting *for* the cause, if you are *disciplined and trained* for the cause. *1 Corinthians 9:25-27*; *2 Timothy 2:4*; *1 Timothy 1:18-19*;

2. THE CAUSE IS CRITICAL – v. 12b

Grab hold of all that contains eternal life on this side of heaven, as we prepare for heaven itself on the other side. *Philippians 3:12*; *1 Timothy 6:19*

3. THE CAUSE IS A CALLING – v. 12c

The word calling here is not referring to Timothy’s “call into the ministry” but a call to salvation (salvific). “To urgently invite someone to accept responsibilities for a particular task implying a new relationship to the one who does the calling (repeat). *Colossians 3:15*; *Ephesians 4:1* “God’s effectual, sovereign calling to salvation.” Based on His grace and mercy. *Romans 8:30*

4. THE CAUSE IS CONFESSIONAL – v. 12d

Paul goes back to the moments in Timothy’s life when he publicly, that is, confessed his faith and hope in the resurrected Christ. *Romans 10:9*

But Timothy also was publicly ordained by Paul. *1 Timothy 4:14*

Paul is saying to Timothy in this CAUSE there will be CONFLICT; it’s CRITICAL that you hold fast, because you have been CALLED by God, and you are the one who made a public CONFESSIONAL about *your* faith, Paul NOW WALK IT OUT! “Follow-through!” Others are depending on you to fulfill what *you* claimed *you* said you were!

And the cause is JESUS CHRIST!