

4) LESSONS FROM 1. EPISTLE TO TIMOTHY *Chapter 2:9-15*

I. *Introduction*

1. Epistle to Timothy is a letter of practical instructions for Christians. In 1. Timothy 1 Paul gave instructions to Timothy how to deal with the problem caused by the teachers of different (unsound) doctrines in Ephesus. In 1. Timothy 2:1-8 Paul gave instructions to Timothy for the Christians in Ephesus regarding praying. Now in the rest of the chapter Paul gives instructions to Timothy for the Christian women in Ephesus regarding modesty and submission.

II. *Chapter 2:9-15* *What are the true adornments of Christian women?*

We need to read 1. Timothy 2:9-15. For the purpose of putting this passage in the immediate context, let's begin reading from verse 8:

1Ti 2:8 I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;

1Ti 2:9 ¶ also that women should adorn themselves modestly and sensibly in seemly apparel, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly attire

10 but by good deeds, as befits women who profess religion.

11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submissiveness.

12 I permit no woman to teach or to have authority over men; she is to keep silent.

13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve;

14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

15 Yet woman will be saved through bearing children, if she continues in faith and love and holiness, with modesty.

I think that the key word in verse 9 is “adorn”. Paul continues his argument from verse 8, where he says I desire. What does he desire? He desires also that women should adorn themselves, but that they do it in certain manner. So the question is what is the manner. What are the true adornments of Christian women?

To answer this question, I will begin from men. The reason is the context in which Paul discusses this subject.

1Ti 2:8 I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;

Your hands can be holy only when your spirit is holy. When you have a relationship with God through your Savior Jesus Christ. In other words, in verse 8 Paul expressed his desire for spiritual holiness or purity of Christian men when praying. When speaking to their heavenly Father. When asking Him for His help and His blessings.

Now, praying to God with their hands lifted up was a practice held by Jews in the OT times (Ps 134:2, Isa 1:15) and also by Christians in 1. century AD. Since it is not our custom or tradition, we do

not practice it. However, what the true believer in God must practice at any time of human history is holiness mentioned by Paul in verse 8. Such is the truth in broad context of the Bible:

Le 11:45 For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

1Pe 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Holiness is the result of one being filled with love and practicing love for God and his neighbour. Therefore, in order to be holy when prying to God, we cannot be filled with anger and practice quarreling with other Christians.

Love does not go together with anger or quarreling. Anger or quarreling among Christian men is the sign of lack of love and lack of holiness. Anger and quarreling are not typically only male problems or weaknesses, but in case of men who are in charge of leadership, teaching, preaching and performing acts of worship during church assembly, anger and quarreling can pretty much destroy mutual relationships among Christians and church itself. Not mentioning individual's relationship with God.

Lack of holiness leads to spiritual death of the individuals and to spiritual death of church. Do you recall spiritually dead individuals or even whole church from Bible? E.g. Hymenaeus and Alexander from 1. Timothy 1 or church in Sardis in Revelation 3:

Re 3:1 ¶ "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

2 "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.

God requires are works before Him to be perfect. He requires are holiness. This is the only way God can answer our prayers. This is how our worship can be acceptable for God. This is how our church can appeal to lost people who seek for God with gospel of Jesus' love for them. Does that apply only to Christian men? The answer is NO! It applies also to the Christian women.

After having spent one verse on Christian men's weaknesses that are obstacles to their holiness (anger, quarreling), Paul turns his attention to Christian women and addresses them the next 7 verses dealing with their problems or weaknesses that are obstacles to their holiness and have potential to damage if not destroy their individual's relationship with God as well as mutual relationships among Christians.

I would divide Paul's discourse in verse 9-15 in 3 parts:

- a] Christian women's modesty – verses 9 and 10
- b] Christian women's submission – verses 11-14
- c] Christian women's salvation – verse 15

a] Christian women's modesty:

1Ti 2:9 ¶ *also that women should adorn themselves modestly and sensibly in seemly apparel, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly attire*

10 but by good deeds, as befits women who profess religion.

Have you noticed that there is a general lack of modesty and sensibility in women's dressing in the Czech Republic. Seems like that main purpose of what they wear and how is to highlight their sensuality and thus make impression on men and show off before other women. This immodesty and insensibility in dressing is promoted by all kinds of “stars” of showbusiness, fashion and lifestyle magazines, etc. and targeted especially at teenage girls.

The lack of modesty and sensibility in women's dressing reveals what's in their heart. What's in one's heart always finds its way out, not just in words, but in actions as well, whether dressing or deeds.

Mr 7:21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, fornication, theft, murder, adultery,

22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.

23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a man."

With as much as it is known about pagan culture in 1 century AD, we can be sure that there was lack of modesty and sensibility in women's dressing as well. But that is not the reason why Paul wrote this discourse. He did not write it for the women in the world. He wrote it for Christian women, because apparently they had this problem or weakness as well. Perhaps Christian women did not wear outright immodest dresses, but Christian women's modesty goes beyond wearing modest dress.

Modesty and sensibility in dressing in case of Christian women should be just outward expression of their inward holiness. What befits better Christian women's holiness? Braided hair, gold, pearls, costly attire? In other words things that are “cool” with worldly males and females. Or does it befit better Christian women's holiness modest, sensible and seemly apparel with good deeds?

Even when a woman does not say a word, her dress testifies about her what group of people she really wants to be part of. Does she want to be part of the people in the world? Wearing things that are “cool” with worldly males and females? Or does she want to be a part of God's people? That's a serious question.

Everything inside of us is in some way or another revealed on the outside.

b) Christian women's submission – verses 11-14

11 Let a woman learn in silence with all submissiveness.

12 I permit no woman to teach or to have authority over men; she is to keep silent.

13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve;

14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

God made woman differently than man. She has a different design, role and purpose. She is to be a help meet for her husband (Gen 2:18). She has different abilities and is more emotional than man. Her husband is her leader. It was when this leadership of her husband was not respected that Eve was deceived and sinned. That is why Christian women are to be submitted to the spiritual leadership of their husbands and in case of absence of husbands, to the spiritual leadership of other men of their spiritual family. They need to learn from men and should not teach them or have authority over men. That does not mean that women cannot teach at all. They can teach children and they must train younger women how to be such Christian women that God desires for them to be:

Tit 2:3 Bid the older women likewise to be reverent in behavior, not to be slanderers or slaves to drink; they are to teach what is good,

4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children,
5 to be sensible, chaste, domestic, kind, and submissive to their husbands, that the word of God may not be discredited.

c) Christian women's salvation – verse 15

15 Yet woman will be saved through bearing children, if she continues in faith and love and holiness, with modesty.

1Ti 2:15 (KJV) Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

1Ti 2:15 (ASV) but she shall be saved through her child-bearing, if they continue in faith and love and sanctification with sobriety.

1Ti 2:15 (NKJV) Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control.

1Ti 2:15 (RSV) Yet woman will be saved through bearing children, if she continues in faith and love and holiness, with modesty.

1 Timoteovi 2:15 Spasena bude jako matka, jestliže setrvá ve víře, lásce, svatosti a střízlivosti. (EB)

1 Timoteovi 2:15 Bude však ochráněna během rození dětí, zůstanou-li ve víře, lásce a svatosti s rozvahou. (NBK)

1. Timoteovi 2:15 Bude však zachráněna skrze rození¹⁰; [ženy jsou zachráněny.] setrvají-li ve víře, lásce a [v] posvěcení spolu se střízlivostí. (10) ř.: (+)rození (+)dětí; (nebo snad: zrození Dítěte - srv. Gn 3,15?) (NS)

1 Timoteovi 2:15 Ale však spasena bude v plození dětí, jestliže by zůstala u víře, a v lásce, a v posvěcení, s středmostí. (KB 1613)

1 Timoteovi 2:15 V jejím mateřství je ovšem záchrana - její i všech těch, kdo vedou rozumný život ve víře, lásce a svatosti. (NBK 2006)

1 Timoteovi 2:15 Spasena bude jako matka, jestliže setrvá^(c) ve víře, lásce, svatosti a střízlivosti. (c) její děti setrvají 3. kapitola (EB 2001)

Whatever this verse means, we can be sure that it does not mean that woman is saved by becoming a mother. God has only one way of salvation for everyone – men and women - and that is through Jesus. Even mother is saved through Jesus if she continues in faith and love and holiness, with modesty. So what is the point here about childbearing? God designed woman to be a mother and God designed every man and woman to be His child. Mother is the closest being to her children and she can help a great deal to her children to be saved by God.

What is the lesson for us? True adornments of Christian women in physical and spiritual sense are modesty, sensibility, seemly apparel, good deeds, submissiveness. This is what adorns them in the sight of God and other Christians. This is what befits their holiness. Whether men or women, we must all strive for holiness to be acceptable for God. We must teach our children that it is better to be a part of God's family than to be a part of the world. Not just teach, but train them. Here is a great sphere of activity for all older women toward younger women. You should use it before somebody in the world would use it to their destruction.