



# **Lights and Perfection, Inc.**

**Go and make disciples!**

E-votional 11

As for you, always be sober-minded

2 Timothy 4:5 (ESV),

*As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

Right now as I read this passage of Scripture I can see that this is a roadmap of sorts to being an effective witness for Jesus Christ. Here we have the first line of encouragement from Paul to Timothy when he says, “*always be sober-minded.*” To understand what he is illustrating we need to understand what was said right before this in context. Paul said this in 2 Timothy 4:3-4 (ESV),

*For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*

Here we see that there was a time coming where solid and clear teaching would thin out and false-teaching would fill in. In other words, tares would be sown amongst the wheat (Matthew 13:25). It is only fitting then that we would need to be sober-minded. I don't know if you have ever been confronted by false-teaching before. But let me tell you, it is no picnic. Often times it can be very deceptive and attempt to trick you out of the fulness of the plans God has for you. For this very reason, we need to be sober-minded. I really like how the New Living Translation puts the verse for today when the first part of it says,

*But you should keep a clear mind in every situation.*

When I read this, I think about the person who is trained to see a counterfeit bill. We have all at some point heard about this. The training to be able to pick a counterfeit bill out from amongst the real is actually very simple. They simply study the real bill very very closely. So close in fact, that they can automatically detect any errors or discrepancies in the false.

I can be really certain that these people who can detect the false maintain a clear mind or rather a sober mind when it comes to detecting counterfeits. This to me seems very close to what we are talking about in regard to detecting false-teaching. It is apparent that these false-teachings can creep in, so as children of God we need to be ready in season as well as out of season and need to study to show ourselves approved unto God.

How do we keep this clear mind? I am reminded of something that the Apostle John spoke about in 1 John 2:26-27 (ESV),

*I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.*

When we know the truth, the truth then sets us free. I cannot think of any clearer of a mind than the one Christ has given to us by the Holy Spirit. We have a Helper, the Holy Spirit, who is here with us to guide, teach, and lead us in every situation. Therefore, we can know when something is truth and when it is not. However, we need to really develop the inner spiritual walk with and reliance upon Him. By a continual and abiding walk with Him, we can continually see and know the truth. When we are continually seeing and knowing the truth it can become very clear what is false when it presents itself.

The encouragement this week is to simply study to show oneself approved unto God by growing in your dependence on the Holy Spirit in your Bible study as well as walk with God. I was asked a question that still lingers in my mind that someone asked me some time ago when they said, “Do you want a good feeling? Or, do you want the truth?” I really had to ask myself what I was after. Was it a feeling or the truth? From that moment on, I was a seeker of truth. With everything I was approached with, I had to have the Berean mindset (Acts 17:11) that desired to study the Scriptures to ensure that what I was hearing was true. The Word of God has all the truth we need in it. If we would spend the time with the Word and the Holy Spirit we would be able to keep a clear mind as well as a conscience to know that we are walking in the truth. Then when false-teaching rears its ugly head, we would be ready in season as well as out of season. To God be the glory through Jesus Christ!

We love you dearly and pray that your faith would be renewed as He alone takes you from glory to glory by His Spirit, in Jesus name. Amen. Keep the faith.

In Christ's Love,

Chris and Jeanne  
Lights and Perfection, Inc



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