

Who Will You Vote For? 1 & 2 Timothy

It's election season, and we are hearing lots of words! Every candidate is looking to make that "mic drop" argument/statement to get your vote!

Words have power! They can build up or tear down! They can share truth or spread lies! They can influence others to do good or to do evil!

Words matter! And so do those who are in positions of leadership who use words/ideas to influence others!

There is a lot at stake in our city/state/country, so go vote on Tuesday! We need good leadership in our country, but we also need good leadership in our churches! There is much at stake for our future here in the church as well!

The importance of words & leadership cannot be overstated! The Apostle Paul knew this; therefore, he used both his words & his position to encourage & challenge the leaders he appointed in the churches he planted.

An example of this is in his letters to Timothy, a young pastor in Ephesus.

Paul wrote letters to churches, but he also wrote letters to individuals – Timothy, Titus, Philemon, in what is called the "pastoral letters" in the Bible.

In these letters, there are many "mic drop" moments for Paul, but they are not for the intent of gaining influence for himself, but rather to increase the impact and influence of those to whom he is writing!

Timothy was a young pastor with the weight of pastoral leadership on his shoulders. He needed reassurance & encouragement from his... Paul!

Listen to some of these "mic drop" words from the Apostle Paul to Timothy:

- "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12
- "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." 1 Timothy 3:14-15
- "Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching." 1 Timothy 4:2

- "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16

- "Train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." 1 Timothy 4:7-8

Words matter, and they have the power to encourage, equip, & speak truth, especially if they are God's Words! It is why we sing, "Your Words..."

Paul recognized that Timothy needed help to carry the weight of leadership in the church, so he shares God's Words with him to encourage & equip him. But he also shares God's plan of shared leadership in the church!

God has called elders/overseers & deacons, along with the pastors, to be co-laborers for the gospel in the Church. And Paul gives Timothy a working template to use to help identify & select worthy candidates for such a task!

Overseers/elders – 1 Timothy 3:1-7 Deacons – 1 Timothy 3:8-13

These words/qualifications matter, b/c leadership in the church matters!

On Tuesday we will vote for our next political leaders, but later today our greater elders will be voting for our next Consistory leaders here at BRC!

Today's vote, as well as the congregational vote in Dec., is critical for the life & future of our church – so that good leaders will be in place who will use their words/lives/influence to, by God's grace, bring about God's desired future for us!

Timothy lived & pastored in a difficult time, but Paul points to an even more trying time in the life of the Church in the future:

- "Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits & teachings of demons, thru the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared..." 1 Timothy 4:1-2
- "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers that will suit their own passions, and turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths." 2 Timothy 4:3-4

Now is the time, more than ever, to both hold unswervingly to the Word of Truth, & appoint good leadership in the church. May this be true of us as BRC!

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