

Civilian Affairs

In order for the gospel to be revealed to people, it has to be the comprehensive gospel. Of course, we used to think we had the comprehensive gospel a long time ago, but I don't know if we even knew the comprehensive gospel. I don't think we know it yet. We're coming to know it and understand it so that it can truly be preached in all the world. But I think this will help us understand it, so that other people can understand why we live the way we do, how we respond to the gospel the way we respond.

2 Tim 2:7 says, "Consider what I say, and may YHWH give you understanding in all things." Now, we must have understanding in all things. You may think we already have it. The reason people don't have revelation is because they're natural-minded; they understand things naturally through their natural mind. And Paul says the natural mind can't understand the things of the Spirit (1 Cor 2:14). They can know many things, but when it comes down to spiritual things, they falter. Then claiming to know Him is detrimental. Jn 14:21 is the only way He can reveal or disclose Himself to us, which we can only experience by serving Him where He is. There is no other way of having revelation of who He is, like Peter had when he said, "You are the son of the living God."

Christians are involved in civilian affairs. This is the key. They're involved in civilian affairs. We know that. They are TOTALLY involved in civilian affairs. But they get distracted from civilian affairs once a week for one hour to go to church.

² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. ³ Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. ⁵ An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. ⁶ It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. ⁷ Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. (2 Tim 2:2-7)

This is a litmus test. Christians are involved in civilian affairs. *Civilian* doesn't mean spiritual life, or the life of the soul; it means the life you live in the world, being involved in the affairs of the world's life, the manner of life in the world.

Civilian means "one who is not in active duty in military." Paul used the word there in contrast. You're either a soldier, or you're a civilian. You're in active duty, in active warfare, or you're a civilian. *Civilianized* means to convert from active duty in the military, to a civilian status or control. If you're in warfare you don't have time to do anything in a civilian manner. You can't just have your fighting gear on and then go work for IBM.

So this is obviously what happened in the downfall of the first church. They started getting involved in civilian affairs. But one can't be in warfare while getting involved in civilian affairs. There can't be any compromise.

The reason Christians don't have revelation is because our Master can't disclose Himself to anyone who doesn't have His commandments and keep them. The one who has His commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Him, and the Father loves him, and our Master will disclose Himself to him (Jn 14:21).

This is not possible in Christianity. Our Master never disclosed Himself to Billy Graham. He never disclosed Himself to my father or my mother, even though they were the best Christians you've ever known on earth. But they were involved in civilian affairs. My daddy was a good man, but he was under the category of Mt 6:31-32, not verse 33, even though he might have thought he was seeking first the kingdom.

Rev 18:10 and 17 and 19 says "in one hour." You can read in Jeremiah 51 about the fire that will consume Christianity (Babylon). So therefore, in Rev 18:10,17-19 it says IN ONE HOUR she will be consumed. They're one hour in church every week, so they'll burn in one hour. They'll burn up in one hour. On a certain day, whenever that is (verse 8), the false Messiah, or more likely the false prophet will call a meeting for the church. Somehow they'll be able to fill all those big dome stadiums with gas and they

will burn. It's talking about actual fire, and it burns them up. Maybe it will be on Easter Sunday, when everyone already goes to church. They'll all come and worship Ba'al, just as in the story of Jehu in 2 Kng 10:18-29.

2 Tim 2:7 — Does it say “all things”? I think “in every way” or “in everything” is a better translation. We'll understand and make others understand, but we have to understand *every way* — a comprehensive gospel, to make it comprehensible to Christianity. What does *comprehensive* mean? It means you have to make it comprehend-*able*, understand-*able*. But we have to present it in such a way that is understand-*able*, because Paul said, “Consider what I say, and may YHWH give you understanding in every way.”

So now, how are they going to get out of these examples? How are they going to get out of the analogies of soldier or athlete or farmer? Three aspects, three types of people. How are they going to justify or reason their way around the analogy of the soldier? Can they reason it away? 2 Tim 2:3 — A good soldier of our Master. What is he trying to say here? We have to see what Paul was doing. He doesn't spell it out, but you know what he was doing. It's a spiritual understanding. If we don't see this we can't see anything else, really.

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Tim 2:2)

And from there he goes into the next phase:

“³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life.”

2 Tim 2:2 is the Word of God spoken from the lips and written down in a letter form to Timothy, Paul's fellow worker. What's he doing? He's endorsing those who are soldiers of our Master Yahshua, faithful and true to teach others — faithful and true to teach others in the very same Spirit of Messiah that was in Paul, having his same mind.

“Therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Messiah Yahshua. And the things you have heard from me among many witnesses commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

He’s telling Timothy, “Listen!” And with many witnesses, right? There need to be a lot of witnesses, because sometimes Paul was teaching without saying, “This is from Paul.” But if the witnesses heard someone going off, they would say, “No, this is not true. This is not from Paul. Paul said, ‘Do this,’ or Paul said, ‘Do that.’ ” They didn’t have computers or tape recorders in those days.

He was talking about having his same mind. Timothy and the faithful men were instruments. They were actually conductors for the communication of the truth. Isn’t that what a conductor does? Paul wanted to pass on these words and then likewise the hearers and communicators would do the same. They were to be conductors or communicators.

So the many witnesses it talks about were kind of guard or guarantee that what they had heard was from Paul. The “faithful witnesses” would hinder someone trying to introduce something that was false. And even Timothy himself might somehow go a little bit off, and someone else would bring him back. So he would pass on only what he heard from the anointing through Paul.

1 Jn 2:27 is very familiar to us all. “Do not let anyone teach you who hasn’t heard. Do not have anyone teach you who is an outsider. Do not have anyone teach you who is not under the anointing. Do not have anyone teach you contrary to what Timothy heard from Paul, or the apostles, or our Master.” So it’s our Master through the apostles through the elders. 1 Jn 2:27 — Timothy was only to pass on what he had heard from the anointing through Paul so that verse 28 might be established — until He comes. This is the whole end of everything, isn’t it? And you know what verse 28 is? It is that we won’t shrink back when He comes. We won’t be found outside of verse 27 with the result that we are those in verse 28 who shrink back, because we don’t have confidence.

Of course, Christians interpret that, “Well, you don’t need anyone to teach you,” they just read the Bible themselves, and they go to church on Sunday. But remember, the Bible is written so that natural-minded people will misunderstand it. We know that it doesn’t mean, “Don’t let anyone teach you,” because we have teachers in the Body, and spiritual gifts of teaching. But it’s within the Body of Messiah, just as Col 2:16-17 says, “Don’t let anyone judge you ... *BUT* the Body of Messiah.” That’s what it says. Don’t let anyone teach you but the Body of Christ. But in between there are some things that get you mixed up. “Don’t let anyone judge you (what you eat, what you drink, what you do in the festivals, for these things are shadows of things to come) but the Body of Messiah.” In other words, “Don’t let anyone judge you (for the things you do that are a foretaste of the kingdom to come) except the Body of Messiah.”

Don’t let anyone judge you except the Body. You can’t let Bob Pardon or anyone else outside judge you for one of these things. In the Greek, it says, “... but the Body of Christ.” But the translator insert the word “is” in italics; they say, “the Body *is* of Christ,” but the “*is*” is not there in the Greek. It’s not *is*, it’s “the Body OF Christ.” And then some translations change it to say, “...the substance is of Christ.” But it’s not the *substance*; it’s actually “the Body of Messiah.”

Mevaser — 2 Tim 2:7 says, “And may YHWH give you understanding in *all things*,” and then in 1 Jn 2:27 it says, “But as the same anointing teaches you concerning *all things*.”

Yes, that’s why I put it together — *all things*, it teaches us all things ... so that 1 Jn 2:28 may be established forever — until He comes — which of course it wasn’t. Everything crept in over the wall, and pretty soon she became a dwelling place of evil spirits, all kinds of spirits.

So Timothy was to pass on only what Paul said in his letter, as he was led by the Spirit to embellish and apply it. You give a greater understanding in teaching. You don’t just read the teaching — you emphasize, amplify, and embellish. A teacher is to

embellish, but he has to be led by the Spirit, or he's going to lead everyone astray. He has to be under the same anointing.

Only the sons of God are led by the Spirit (Rom 8:14). They who are led by the Spirit are the sons of God. So if we are true sons of God, we're not going to go astray. We're going to keep on the narrow way. We're not going to let things creep in over the wall — just little things, little things against the traditions — just a little thing here, a little thing there. We used to eat anything we wanted, and wear anything we wanted. Everyone makes a big deal about what we eat, and what we wear. But it all has to do with love, not making laws.

Hakam — You can see why this has to be established in what we say to Christianity. What we establish right here, what Paul said to Timothy that in all things that the gospel would be made understandable, and that nothing would be taught other than what Paul taught Timothy, the revelation that he taught him among many witnesses. He had to establish that in his day because he saw those creeping things. So here we are, we are in the day where everything came over the wall — everything. And we're talking to Christianity. They don't know anything except what's come over the wall. They don't even have one shred of revelation. So we have to bring them back to the foundation of the authority of what Paul taught about soldiers and civilians so they really get it.

They didn't get it. That's right. So you can't reason that away if you know what a soldier in warfare is doing. He's not a soldier on furlough. You know what *furlough* means? It's when you take a break. But it's talking about warfare. In war you don't take a break; you don't get involved in civilian affairs.

Obadiah — So that's what he meant, that if you depart from those things that Paul has spoken, then you depart from being soldier or farmer. That's what was coming in.

That's right. So, there was warfare and hardship. Endure hardship, it says, as a soldier of our Master Yahshua. So Timothy was to pass on what Paul said as he was led by the Spirit to expound on. Only the sons of God are led by the Spirit, lest false doctrine creeps into the Body.

The anointing or the instruction from our Father, the instruction or the teaching the Holy Spirit has given the Body is supposed to shut the door on things which are of the world, traditions that come in over the wall into the teaching, or into how we eat and how we dress and whatever. They kind of creep in among the saints through worldly-minded “disciples” — things such as patterns of dress or food or habits, slang words, and things of this nature. We’re all familiar with 2 Ths 2:15 and 3:6, and if we were actually obedient to this, we would stand in the gate.