

SERMON: HOLD YOUR HOLT PART TWO

2nd Timothy 1:13

Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

Introduction

The last three sermons may end up being part of a series. That was not the original intent, but sometimes that is the way God works.

The early church had many challenges. The first challenge was the joint persecution by the established religious groups and the Roman government. The second challenge, which we discussed in our last sermon, was their disappointment because Jesus had not returned and brought an end to the persecution in their life time.

Over and over Paul admonished them to keep the faith and to hold fast to their principles. He further admonished them not to abandon their morals and fit into the world's mold. The phrase "hold fast" means to tightly grip an object and don't let it slip out of your hands. It could be a heavy object, or a precious object like an expensive vase or figurine.

As I said last Sunday, our fore-parents expressed this principle by the phrase, "Hold your holt!" They probably did not realize it, but they were using the literary device we know as alliteration. The phrase was one of encouragement and affirmation. When they were jointly carrying a heavy load and it was apparent that one of them was getting tired and was about to lose his grip, this phrase was an expression of reassurance. It implied even though you are tired, you can still carry the load to the designated destination. Remember, our ancestors had to "tote that barge and lift that bale." It would have been dangerous to the whole crew if one of the workers lost his grip and a heavy object came crashing down hitting some of them.

This phrase made its way into the church. When the choir was singing a song and someone wanted to hear a little more of the selection, they would shout in approvable, "Hold your holt." When the preacher was making a point that really ministered to their spirit, they would shout, "Hold your holt; stay right there." Whether one says "hold fast" or "hold your holt," the message is the same- "Stay with the Lord; Don't give up!" There are many things we tell ourselves, which can make us lose our grip, if we are not rooted and grounded in the word. They come across as negative I-statements. Let's look at a few of them and the ways to neutralize them. This is important, especially during these challenging, unprecedented times.

Exposition

1. I Can't Forgive Myself.

(Accept the Cleansing of the Blood- 1st John 1:7-9.)
 (Judas Had A Tragic Ending Because He Could Not Forgive Himself.)

2. I Can't Bear This Heavy Load.

(Trust Him And Then Cast Your Cares On Him-1st Peter 5:7.)
 (Psalm 55:22; Isaiah 40:29; Matthew 11:28-30.)

3. I Bit Off More Than I Can Chew.

(If God Is In It, You Did Not Bite Off More Than You Can Chew.)
 (Eat It All-Just Eat It Slowly.)
 (If You Eat It Slowly, You Will Not Get Heartburn Or Indigestion.)
 (With God's Help You Will Complete Your Mission-Philippians 1:6.)
 (Romans 4:21.)

4. I Thought By Now.

(Waiting Develops Patience.)
 (You May Not Be Ready For What God Has For You.)
 (God May Have Something Much Bigger For You.)
 (Delay is not Denial.)
 (Remember Isaiah's Eagle- Isaiah 40:31.)
 (Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; James 1:3; 2nd Peter 1:4-8.)

Closing Thoughts

I will close this sermon with one of the songs of our fore-parents:

"I promised the Lord that I would hold out,
 Hold out, Hold out.
 I promised the Lord that I would hold out
 Until my change done come.

I promised the Lord that I would hold my holt,
 Hold my holt, Hold my holt.
 I promised the Lord that I would hold my holt
 Until my change done come.

I promised the Lord that I would praise His Name,
 Praise His Name, Praise His Name.
 I promised the Lord that I would praise His Name
 Until my change done come."

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