

NOON BIBLE STUDY: 1 TIMOTHY 4 (PART 2)

PAUL IS WRITING TO TIMOTHY ABOUT GOD'S VISION FOR HIS FAMILY, THE CHURCH. HE HIGHLIGHTS WHERE OUR FOCUS AND EFFORTS OUGHT TO BE, WHAT WE SHOULD GUARD AGAINST, AND WHAT TO PUT IN PLACE WHICH WILL ENSURE GOOD SPIRITUAL HEALTH, GODLY AUTHORITY AND CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER. HE HAS JUST URGED TIMOTHY TO "LABOR AND STRIVE" IN THESE THINGS (4:10). A CASUAL OR UNINTENTIONAL APPROACH TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOT WISE OR APPROPRIATE - ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE GREAT SALVATION WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN.

(REGARDING THE WORDING AND MEANING OF 1 TIMOTHY 4:10, SEE ADDENDUM INCLUDED AT THE END OF THIS SET OF NOTES.)

NOW PAUL IS GOING TO TURN HIS ATTENTION TO SOME QUICK DIRECTIVES THAT HE WANTS TIMOTHY TO "PRESCRIBE AND TEACH" - FIRST TO TIMOTHY HIMSELF (AND PRESUMABLY THOSE IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS) AND THEN TO CHURCH MATTERS IN A GENERAL SENSE (WE'LL PICK UP WITH THAT IN 1 TIMOTHY 5). AS WE CONSIDER WHAT PAUL WANTS FROM THE LEADERS, LET'S CONSIDER HOW THESE ARE GOOD QUALITIES TO HAVE OURSELVES.

1 TIMOTHY 4:11-12

V. 11 - "PRESCRIBE AND TEACH THESE THINGS" - THE THINGS PAUL JUST WROTE (AND WILL WRITE NEXT) AND GENERALLY SPEAKING THE THINGS OF THIS LETTER.

PRESCRIBE - ANNOUNCE, ADVISE, GIVE, COMMAND THIS INFORMATION TO THE CHURCHES

TEACH - SHOW, EXPLAIN, AND DESCRIBE THESE THINGS TO THE CHURCHES

THE FOLLOWING VERSES ARE GOING TO BE SPECIFIC TO TIMOTHY'S ROLE AS CHURCH LEADER AND ELDER. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO REASON WHY EVERY CHRISTIAN WOULDN'T WANT TO MAINTAIN A HIGH STANDARD OVER THEIR LIFE AND PRACTICE.

V. 12 - "LET NO ONE LOOK DOWN ON YOUR YOUTHFULNESS, BUT...SHOW YOURSELF AS AN EXAMPLE"

TIMOTHY WAS A YOUNG LEADER. YOUNG LEADERS CAN FACE CHALLENGES BECAUSE OF THEIR YOUTHFULNESS - PERHAPS NOT HAVING EXPERIENCE COMPARABLE TO THE PEOPLE THEY ARE LEADING AND POTENTIALLY NOT BEING RESPECTED BY (OR AT LEAST BEING SUSPECT TO) THOSE THEY ARE LEADING (OLDER PEOPLE). THE WORD PAUL USES IS **καταφρονέω** (*KATAPHRONEO*) WHICH MEANS TO THINK LITTLE OF AND HAS OFTEN BEEN TRANSLATED "DESPISE".

HOW DOES SOMEONE NOT LET OTHERS THINK LITTLE OF THEM? PAUL ENCOURAGES TIMOTHY TO BE A GREAT EXAMPLE OF A BELIEVER - REGARDLESS OF AGE - TO COMBAT ANY POTENTIAL AGE-BIAS. TIMOTHY IS A LEADER, HE IS A FAITHFUL MAN AND PAUL'S TRUSTED CO-LABORER. TIMOTHY COULD HAVE BEEN TEMPTED TO LEAD WITH HIS CREDENTIALS, DEMANDING THE CHURCHES LISTEN TO WHAT HE SAYS AND COMMAND THEM TO RESPECT HIM. BUT THAT RARELY IS EFFECTIVE. INSTEAD, PAUL SAYS "LET THEM SEE YOUR LIFE" AND IT WILL BE HARD FOR THEM TO QUESTION YOUR MESSAGE.

SPEECH - (*LOGOS*) THE WORDS YOU SAY AND THE WAY YOU SPEAK

CONDUCT - (*ANASTROPHE*) THE ACTIONS AND BEHAVIOR OF A PERSON.

LOVE - (*AGAPE*) COMPASSION, CARE FOR PEOPLE, TENDERNESS OF HEART, GODLY LOVE

FAITH - (*PISTIS*) FAITHFULNESS, TRUST, BELIEF

PURITY - (*HAGNEIA*) FREEDOM FROM CONTAMINATION, FREE FROM IMMORALITY, HOLINESS,

IN A SENSE, TIMOTHY IS MODELING WHAT PAUL HAS ALREADY CALLED FOR AMONGST ELDERS IN CHAPTER 3. BUT BECAUSE OF TIMOTHY'S AGE, THERE IS A NEED FOR TIMOTHY TO PAY EXTRA ATTENTION TO HIS CHARACTER. BEING AN EXAMPLE THAT IS HONORED RATHER THAN DESPISED TAKES TIME. PAUL WANTS TIMOTHY TO HELP THE CHURCHES BUT ALSO KNOWS HIS MINISTRY WILL BE FRUITFUL IF TAKES THE TIME TO "EARN" PEOPLE'S RESPECT AND TRUST. HAVING A TITLE OF PASTOR OR DEACON ISN'T A TRUMP CARD TO DEMAND RESPECT.

(SIDE NOTE: WHILE A DIFFERENT DIRECTIVE FROM PAUL MIGHT HAVE BEEN GIVEN FOR AN OLDER PERSON, WE SHOULD ALSO NOT DISCOUNT A LEADER BECAUSE THEY ARE "OLD". OUR CULTURE HAS MOVED AWAY FROM VALUING AND HONORING THE AGED, INSTEAD ELEVATING WHAT IS NEW, YOUNG AND HIP. THE CHURCH SHOULD NOT IMITATE THE WORLD. PAUL WILL TALK MORE ABOUT AGE BASED RELATIONSHIPS IN THE NEXT CHAPTER).

1 TIMOTHY 4:13 - READ SCRIPTURE PUBLICLY

THE SCRIPTURES (THE BIBLE) SHOULD PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN OUR GATHERINGS AND SHOULD BE READ OUT LOUD, PUBLICLY. AT THE TIME OF THE WRITING OF THE LETTER, THERE WASN'T REALLY A PERSONAL OR PRIVATE ELEMENT TO BIBLE READING (NO POCKET BIBLES OR SMARTPHONE APPS). SO THE GATHERING SERVED AS A PLACE FOR PEOPLE TO HEAR THE BIBLE (INITIALLY MODELED BY THE JEWISH SYNAGOGUE PRACTICE).

IN ADDITION TO READING, PAUL TELLS TIMOTHY TO INCLUDE "EXHORTATION AND TEACHING" WHICH WOULD BE PRIMARILY DONE BY THE OVERSEERS WHO WERE REQUIRED TO BE "ABLE TO TEACH" (3:2), THOUGH THE COMMUNITY WOULD HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN INVOLVED IN THE PRACTICE AS WELL. THE BIBLE SHOULD BE READ AND EXPLAINED AND ALSO APPLIED TO HELP THE HEARERS RESPOND IN HEART AND DEED.

1 TIMOTHY 4:14 - DON'T NEGLECT SPIRITUAL GIFT

PAUL TELLS TIMOTHY TO NOT "NEGLECT" THE "SPIRITUAL GIFT" THAT WAS GIVEN TO HIM. THE WORD NEGLECT (*AMELEO*) MEANS TO BE CARELESS WITH. THIS IS PROBABLY SPEAKING OF A SPECIFIC GIFTING THAT WAS GIVEN TO TIMOTHY AT HIS ORDINATION INTO THE MINISTRY, BUT IT'S A GOOD REMINDER OF THE EMPOWERMENT GOD GIVES HIS CHURCH.

Q - HOW COULD SOMEONE NEGLECT THE SPIRITUAL GIFT WITHIN THEM?

SO FAR THE EARLY CHURCH WORSHIP SERVICE ELEMENTS ARE CENTERED IN PRAYER AND WORSHIP (1 TIMOTHY 2) AND THE BIBLE (1 TIMOTHY 4). (WE ALSO KNOW OF HISTORIC PRACTICES OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AND BAPTISM FROM ACTS AND OTHER NT WRITERS). BUT PAUL REMINDS TIMOTHY THAT THE CHURCH (THROUGH THOSE SERVING) MUST BE LED BY THE SPIRIT. TIMOTHY CAN'T JUST DEPEND ON HIS INTELLECT, BIBLE KNOWLEDGE OR HIS ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS TO RUN A "GOOD MEETING" - THE PAGANS CAN RUN GOOD AND ORDERLY MEETINGS. GOD'S PEOPLE MUST BE MARKED BY THE PRESENCE AND ACTIVITY OF THE SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD THEY ARE WORSHIPING!

WHAT A CONTRAST THE EARLY CHURCH WOULD HAVE BEEN COMPARED TO THE PAGAN TEMPLE OF EPHESUS. IDOLS AND MYTHS DEPEND ON HUMAN EFFORT TO MANUFACTURE AN "EXPERIENCE" THAT "FEELS" LIKE THE GOD IS INVOLVED - AND FOR MANY IDOLS, THE PRESENCE OF THE DEITY WASN'T EVEN REQUIRED. SACRIFICES WERE MADE IN ORDER TO GET THE ATTENTION OF THE DEITY OR WARD OFF THE DEITY'S DISPLEASURE.

AND YET A CHRISTIAN GATHERING IS MARKED BY THE FACT THAT OUR GOD IS EVERYWHERE AND THAT HE IS ALREADY PLEASED WITH HIS PEOPLE BECAUSE OF A SACRIFICE HE ALREADY MADE ON THEIR BEHALF - THE DEATH OF HIS SON ON THE CROSS! WE DON'T GATHER TO GET HIS ATTENTION OR LOVE, WE GATHER TO GIVE HIM OUR ATTENTION AND THANKS.

AND WE BELIEVE IN A GOD WHO SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WRITTEN WORD AND PROPHETICALLY THROUGH HIS SPIRIT FILLED PEOPLE - PERHAPS IN A UNIQUE WORD INSPIRED IN THE MOMENT BY THE LORD, AND CERTAINLY THROUGH THE EXHORTATION AND TEACHING OF THE SPIRIT FILLED PEOPLE GATHERED TOGETHER.

PAUL TELLS TIMOTHY - DON'T NEGLECT THE SPIRITUAL GIFT AND POWER. DON'T LEAD OR LIVE ON YOUR OWN.

THIS IS A PERFECT FOLLOW UP TO THE CALL TO PRIORITIZE SCRIPTURE. HOW SAD THAT MANY TIMES WE SEE AN EMPHASIS ON THE SCRIPTURE AND A MINIMIZING OF THE SPIRIT OR AN EMPHASIS ON THE SPIRIT AND A MINIMIZING OF THE SCRIPTURES. WE ARE OFF TRACK AND UNBALANCED IF EITHER OF THOSE THINGS OCCUR.

1 TIMOTHY 4:15-16 - TAKE PAINS & PAY CLOSE ATTENTION

Q - *TAKE PAINS. BE ABSORBED. PAY CLOSE ATTENTION. PERSEVERE.* WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU READ THOSE WORDS?

THE CALL OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY IS A HIGH CALLING. ANYONE SERVING GOD CAN NOT BE HAPHAZARD, APATHETIC OR LAZY. TIMOTHY MUST PAY CLOSE ATTENTION NOT ONLY TO WHAT HE IS TEACHING, BUT HOW HE IS LIVING. CHRISTIAN MINISTRY WAS (IS) NOT ABOUT A 30 MIN LECTURE ON A SUNDAY MORNING. WE DON'T CHECK OFF A LIST OF WEEKLY TASKS OR UST DO OR FINISH A JOB. IT IS ABOUT SERVICE, IT IS ABOUT FAITHFULNESS, IT IS ABOUT SACRIFICE. AND SUCH A CALLING, WHICH COMES WITH TREMENDOUS BLESSING, REQUIRES TREMENDOUS DEVOTION.

IF TIMOTHY STAYS FAITHFUL IN THIS WORK, EVERYONE WILL KNOW AND SEE HIS MINISTRY. HIS AGE, BACKGROUND, EXPERIENCE, WEAKNESSES OR PERSONALITY QUIRKS WILL BE IRRELEVANT.

TO BE "ABSORBED" BY SOMETHING MEANS TO "HAVE ONE'S ATTENTION FULLY ENGAGED; GREATLY INTERESTED" (OXFORD DICTIONARY). PERFECTION OR SINLESSNESS IS NEVER THE STANDARD, BUT A WHOLEHEARTED DEVOTION TO SHEPHERDING THE FLOCK OF GOD IS. WHETHER SOMEONE IS SERVING "FULL TIME" OR ON "STAFF" NOT IS NOT RELEVANT - THE CALL OF A MINISTER IN ANY CAPACITY IS A CALL FROM JESUS THE KING AND AS SUCH OUR DEVOTION MUST NOT CONSIST OF THE LEFTOVERS OF OUR SOUL, TIME, ATTENTION OR ENERGY.

1 TIMOTHY 3:1 - IT IS A TRUSTWORTHY STATEMENT: IF ANY MAN ASPIRES TO THE OFFICE OF OVERSEER, IT IS A FINE WORK HE DESIRES TO DO.

1 TIMOTHY 3:13 - FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED WELL AS DEACONS OBTAIN FOR THEMSELVES A HIGH STANDING AND GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE FAITH THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS.

BUT IF WE'RE HONEST, SHOULDN'T WE ALL HEED THIS CALL? IS THIS A MINDSET THAT SHOULD ONLY BE HAD BY PASTORS AND LEADERS WHILE THE REST OF US TAKE IT EASY? SHOULD WE BE HALFHEARTED?

I THINK WE ALL AGREE "OF COURSE NOT" - YET, IS THAT TRUE OF YOU? MUCH OF THE MODERN CHURCH HAS A CLEAR CLASS DISTINCTION - NOT BY AGE OR GENDER OR ECONOMICS - BUT BUT THOSE WHO ARE "IN MINISTRY" AND THOSE WHO AREN'T. THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE BEING WATCHED FOR INTEGRITY AND A CHRISTLIKE HEART AND THEN THOSE WHO KEEP THE PEWS WARM FOR 90 MINUTES ONE DAY A WEEK. THOSE WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IT IS TO SERVE AND GIVE AND HELP PEOPLE KNOW THE GOSPEL AND THEN THE REST OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SPECTATORS AND CONSUMERS.

OH HOW LOW OF A VIEW OF GOD'S PEOPLE, GOD'S CHURCH AND GOD'S WORK ON THE EARTH ONE WOULD HAVE TO BE SATISFIED WITH THAT! WE ALL NEED TO CONSIDER WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE FOR JESUS CHRIST AND WHAT WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO DO AND BE A PART OF AND THE PART WE ALL PLAY IN THE WORK GOD IS DOING! NO WONDER PAUL SPENDS SO MUCH TIME TALKING ABOUT THE CHURCH, THE BODY, THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS WHO MAKE UP THE WHOLE.

NOT EVERYONE IS A PAUL OR TIMOTHY. NOT EVERYONE IS A PASTOR OR DEACON. BUT EVERYONE IS IMPORTANT AND NEEDED AND CALLED BY GOD TO LIVE FOR HIM AND SERVE AND SACRIFICE AND LOVE.

CHRIST HAS NO BODY (BY TERESA OF AVILA (1515—1582))

*CHRIST HAS NO BODY BUT YOURS,
NO HANDS, NO FEET ON EARTH BUT YOURS,
YOURS ARE THE EYES WITH WHICH HE LOOKS
COMPASSION ON THIS WORLD,
YOURS ARE THE FEET WITH WHICH HE WALKS TO DO GOOD,
YOURS ARE THE HANDS, WITH WHICH HE BLESSES ALL THE WORLD.
YOURS ARE THE HANDS, YOURS ARE THE FEET,
YOURS ARE THE EYES, YOU ARE HIS BODY.
CHRIST HAS NO BODY NOW BUT YOURS,
NO HANDS, NO FEET ON EARTH BUT YOURS,
YOURS ARE THE EYES WITH WHICH HE LOOKS
COMPASSION ON THIS WORLD.
CHRIST HAS NO BODY NOW ON EARTH BUT YOURS.*

ADDENDUM - 1 TIMOTHY 4:10

A QUICK NOTE ON PAUL'S LANGUAGE IN 1 TIMOTHY 4:10 ABOUT GOD BEING THE SAVIOR OF "ALL MEN, ESPECIALLY BELIEVERS" WHICH AT FIRST READ MIGHT SEEM TO IMPLY THAT PAUL IS TEACHING ALL PEOPLE ARE GOING TO "BE SAVED" - WE KNOW FROM THE BULK OF PAUL'S TEACHING THAT HE DID NOT TEACH WHAT WE WOULD NOW CALL "UNIVERSALISM", THE DOCTRINE THAT *EVENTUALLY* EVERYONE WHO EVER LIVED WILL BE GIVEN ETERNAL LIFE BECAUSE GOD IS JUST SO GRACIOUS. THE HEBREWS SCRIPTURES DO NOT TEACH THIS, JESUS DID NOT TEACH THIS, NOR DOES PAUL (OR ANY NEW TESTAMENT WRITER FOR THAT MATTER).

SO WHAT DOES PAUL MEAN WHEN HE SAYS "ESPECIALLY OF BELIEVERS" (4:10)?

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE WORD "SAVIOR" IN THIS USAGE ISN'T TALKING ABOUT ETERNAL SALVATION AT ALL BUT MORE OF THE GENERAL SENSE OF HELPER AND KEEPER. IN THE CONTEXT OF THE STRIVING AND LABORING - THE GYMNASTIC TRAINING LIKE EFFORT CALLED FOR BY TIMOTHY AND

THE CHURCH - HOW HELPFUL TO REMEMBER THAT GOD IS WORKING IN THE WORLD, HE IS HELPING HIS CREATION IN MANY WAYS - AND ESPECIALLY FOR THE BELIEVER WE CAN COUNT ON GOD'S GRACE AND HELP IN THIS LIFE.

HERE ARE A FEW COMMENTATOR'S THOUGHTS ON THIS SECTION.

"(REGARDING UNIVERSALISM)...THIS IS NOT THE CASE, FOR SEVERAL REASONS. 1ST, PAUL, JESUS, AND SCRIPTURE IN GENERAL MAKE IT CLEAR THAT NOT ALL ARE SAVED, FOR SOME DELIBERATELY REFUSE TO ACCEPT GOD'S SAVING GRACE. 2ND, WHILE THE TERM *SAVIOR* CAN BE TAKEN IN A NON-THEOLOGICAL SENSE - THAT IS, THAT GOD CARES FOR ALL, HEALS THEM, AND RESCUES THEM FROM HARM - THIS DOES NOT FIT THE USAGE OF "SAVIOR" IN THE PASTORAL LETTERS. 3RD, THE WORD "ALL" IN SCRIPTURE OFTEN REFERS TO BELIEVER'S, THE CONTEXT MAKING THIS CLEAR. 4TH IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT, "ALL" MAY MEAN "ALL KINDS OF" A POSSIBILITY SUPPORTED BY THE USE OF *ANTHROPOS*, WHICH REFERS TO HUMANITY (IT SHOULD BE INDICATED BY THE TRANSLATION "PEOPLE", NOT "MEN" AS IN THE NIV). THE SECOND PHRASE "ESPECIALLY OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE" IS NOT THE BEST TRANSLATION OF THE GREEK WORDS USED HERE; MORE LIKELY IT MEANS "IN PARTICULAR" OR "I MEAN" (AS IT DOES IN GAL. 6:10, PERHAPS ALSO PHIL 4:22; 1 TIM 5:8, 17; 2 TIM 4:13; TITUS 1:10-11). (WALTER L. LIEFELD, "THE NIV APPLICATION COMMENTARY, PAGE 160).

"SEVERAL SCHOLARS HAVE DRAWN ATTENTION TO SOME RESEARCH BY T.C. SKEAT IN 1979, IN WHICH HE CLAIMS THAT THE WORD "ESPECIALLY" (GREEK: *MAZISTA*) SHOULD RATHER BE TRANSLATED "TO BE PRECISE" OR "IN OTHER WORDS". IN THIS CASE, PAUL IS NOT SAYING THAT GOD SAVES BELIEVER'S MORE THAN HE SAVES OTHERS; HE IS SIMPLY MODIFYING HIS GENERAL STATEMENT THAT GOD IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL PEOPLE BY ADDING THE LIMITATION THAT YOU CANNOT BE SAVED UNLESS YOU BELIEVE" (JOHN R. W. STOTT, "THE MESSAGE OF 1 TIMOTHY & TITUS", PAGE 107)

"OUR HOPE RESTS IN (THE LIVING GOD), BECAUSE HE IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL MEN, THAT IS HE WOULD SAVE (GIVE LIFE TO) ALL PEOPLE, BUT HIS SALVATION IS IN FACT EFFECTIVE ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE. THIS LATER ADDITION MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THE UNIVERSAL SCOPE OF SALVATION ARGUED FOR SO STRONGLY IN 1 TIMOTHY 2:4-6 IS NOT AT THE SAME TIME AN EXPRESSION OF UNIVERSALISM." (GORDON FEE, "NEW INTERNATIONAL BIBLICAL COMMENTARY: 1 AND 2 TIMOTHY", PAGE 106

"THE EXPRESSION "SAVIOR OF ALL MEN" SHOULD PROBABLY BE UNDERSTOOD AS THE "PRESERVER" OF ALL MEN, IN LINE WITH THE COMMON MEANING. NEVERTHELESS, WHEN USED IN A CHRISTIAN SENSE IT WOULD CONVEY MORE THAN THE PROVIDENTIAL CARE OF GOD. IN FACT THE LAST PART OF VERSE 10, WHICH SINGLES OUT BELIEVERS AS SPECIAL OBJECTS OF GOD'S SAVING POWER, SUGGESTS THAT THE WORD "SAVIOR" IS HERE USED IN A DOUBLE SENSE. THERE IS A CLEAR DEVELOPMENT IN THE THOUGHT, SINCE THE BELIEVER'S SPECIAL CONFIDENCE IN GOD IS REINFORCED BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE DIVINE MERCY IS UNIVERSAL IN ITS SCOPE (CP. 2:3-4)." (DONALD GUTHRIE, "TYNDALE NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARIES: THE PASTORAL EPISTLES", PAGE 110

INSTEAD, IT APPEARS THAT PAUL IS MAKING THE POINT THAT GOD ALMIGHTY IS THE SAVIOR - THERE'S NO OTHER OPTION OR PLAN OUT THERE THAT LEADS TO SALVATION. ANYONE WHO WILL BE SAVED IS GOING TO BE SAVED BECAUSE GOD FORGIVES THEM OF THEIR SIN AND MERCIFULLY EXTENDS HIS LOVE AND GRACE TO THEM. HIS SON PAID THE PRICE THAT NO ONE ELSE COULD PAY AND FAITH IN CHRIST IS NOT ONLY THE *WAY* TO BE SAVED, BUT IT IS *REQUIRED* TO BE SAVED.

THIS IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF "ALL SCRIPTURE" GUIDING OUR STUDY OF THE BIBLE. WHILE THIS CAN BE A CHALLENGING OR CONFUSING VERSE, WE HAVE A BULK OF SCRIPTURE WHICH CLEARLY COMMUNICATES PAUL'S VIEW. THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE IGNORE THIS VERSE! IT MEANS WE REST IN THE CLARITY OF THE MAJORITY VERSES WHICH AREN'T CONFUSING AS WE "LABOR AND STRIVE" TO UNDERSTAND THIS TEXT.