

GOD'S PAVILION
Part XX
2nd Timothy 2:16

Introduction: The transcendent potential for the church is exhaustless. However, we have allowed liberal theologians to perpetrate their bias of the Scriptures on us. Some have discredited and contaminated many of the fundamental truths of the Bible. Dr. Finis Dake, the author of *God's Plan For Man, The Annotated Bible*, and other works, gave a criterion that I believe every Christian should observe: "Take the Bible literally where it is at all possible; if symbolic, figurative, or typical language is used, then look for the literal truth it intends to convey." For instance, a parable is given as a *means* to an end. It is directing you toward a *point*. We have to credit God for being intelligent enough to mean what He says and not have to edit His Word. There must be a paradigm shift to the unmitigated Word of God. *Solus scriptura, solus fides* - the word only, faith only! Martin Luther. Note Hebrews 4:12.

A. God's pavilion

1. Our confession as believers. *1st Timothy 6:12*.

- a) *Matthew 12:34* says we speak what is in our heart. The mouth is like a faucet that lets out what is inside. If our heart is filled with the Word of God and we are standing in faith on what God's Word says, then that faith will be expressed through our mouth. On the other hand, if we are filled with unbelief and fear and we are bound by the strongholds of the devil, then these will manifest themselves by coming forth out of our mouth.
- b) When Satan attacks us, he attacks us through our thought processes. If he can establish a stronghold in this way, then we begin to confess what is contrary to the Word of God. Doubts sink down into our spirit, and we become acquiescent to a lie; it results in a negative confession.
- c) When we continue to talk contrary to the Word, the heart gets contaminated. Out of that type of heart comes gossip, back-biting, division, hatred, fear, lies, etc. The more we confess what is contrary to God's Word, the more we reinforce the stronghold.
- d) *Romans 10:8-10*. In *verse 8*, Paul mentions the mouth first and the heart second. In *verse 9*, it is the mouth first and the heart second. In *verse 10*, the order is reversed with the heart mentioned first and the mouth second. This illustrates a very important Scriptural principle. When we come to the Word of God, it will not only neutralize an attack of the enemy, it will also make the reality of Satan's stronghold on us evident. We may be sick and endeavor to bring the Word of God against the sickness. According to the pattern in these verses, it is necessary for us to begin by putting God's Word in our mouth as an act of our will and to bring it against the sickness. By confessing it, or saying the same thing with our mouth that God has said in His Word, we receive it in our heart. The more often we confess with our mouth, the more firmly it becomes established in our heart.
- e) There comes a time when the heart responds to what the mouth has been saying, and at a certain point, there is a *rhema* revelation qualifying the heart to produce thoughts in line with the Word of God. In the Hebrew language, the phrase "*to learn by heart*" actually is translated "*to learn by mouth*."
- f) Every time we are attacked by the devil, we come to God's Word and begin to confess it. At times there may be a struggle to do so because the Word of God is saying something contrary to what is happening. Confessing God's Word demands that we resist our feelings and make the words of our mouth to agree with God's Word.
- g) The essence of confession is the same as the sacrifice of praise. Confession in this context becomes an act of the will rather than an act of the feelings. The sacrifice of praise literally is confessing to the name of Jesus. Both the sacrifice of praise and confessing to the name of Jesus proceed from an act of the will. Feelings waver and will move us away from the truth of the Word.

Conclusion: The attitude of confession must be one of submission to God's will and to Scripture. We can only confess things in God's Word that are the expressed will of God for us. God is reviving His church. The move is on, and we are riding on its crest. We have yet to see what God will do through us if we keep our eyes on His Word and not on the contrary circumstances.