

## Beware of Convenience

2 Timothy 1:15-18

### Introduction:

- A. List some things that make life convenient.
- B. List some inconveniences that you have experienced.
- C. List some inconveniences that are good.
- D. Is the Christian life convenient? (Lk 9:23 – *if anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up His cross daily...*).
  1. Un\_\_\_\_\_ is never convenient.
  2. S\_\_\_\_\_ is never convenient.
- E. In our lesson today, we are warned about making Christianity convenient in two areas – the g\_\_\_\_\_ message and our Christian s\_\_\_\_\_.

### The gospel of Christ is not a message of convenience (15)

- A. All in Asia a \_\_\_\_\_ Paul
  1. Phylegus and Hermongenes
    - a. They were from Ephesus (the c\_\_\_\_\_ of Asia)
    - b. They were a\_\_\_\_\_ of the testimony of the Lord and of Paul for being a prisoner of Rome (v. 8) since their actions are contrasted to Onesiphorus who was NOT ashamed.
  2. Historically, Nero was actively coming against those Christians that were a threat to Roman culture.
    - a. In 64 A.D., Nero was blamed for setting the fire that burned h\_\_\_\_\_ of the city of Rome.
    - b. Nero shifted the blame on to Christians and began a successful campaign against any Christian that was vocal about the gospel of Christ.
    - c. He imprisoned Paul and b\_\_\_\_\_ him in 67 A.D.
  3. Such opposition by Rome got many Christians to soften the gospel to be more acceptable by culture. They were ashamed of the testimony of Jesus!
- B. Today, the gospel has been softened by many to be politically correct or culturally relevant.
  1. Homosexuality is said to be an a\_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle
    - a. Some churches have o\_\_\_\_\_ practicing homosexuals and have accepted gayness as okay, claiming it to be God's l\_\_\_\_\_ in action.
    - b. The purpose of sharing the gospel is so that people can r\_\_\_\_\_ from sin and trust in Christ (Mk 1:14,15). Is homosexuality a sin?

- 1) Lev 18:22 – God calls it an a\_\_\_\_\_, which means it is a gross sin (once God calls something an abomination, it will always be an abomination).
  - 2) Rom 1:26,27 – God calls it a degrading p\_\_\_\_\_, an unnatural function, and indecent (once God calls something degrading, unnatural, and indecent, it will always be such).
- c. Calling for repentance is not a message of hate, but of l\_\_\_\_\_ (Christ loved us by dying for sin).
2. Gender identity – it is said that there are over \_\_\_\_\_ genders
    - a. What does God say?
      - 1) Gen 1:27 – He created us to be either m\_\_\_\_\_ or female.
      - 2) Deut 22:5 – denying the Creator’s design and making oneself appear otherwise is an a\_\_\_\_\_ to God (once and abomination, always an abomination).
    - b. Living a different gender that what God has designed is a sinful lifestyle.
      - 1) The gospel proclaims that Jesus died for ALL s\_\_\_\_\_
      - 2) The gospel demands r\_\_\_\_\_ from whatever sinful lifestyle one might have.
      - 3) The gospel promises salvation from sin’s penalty by t\_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus to be Lord and Savior of one’s life.

**Our service to Christ is not a matter of convenience (16-18)**

A. Onesiphorus

1. Was not a\_\_\_\_\_ that Paul was imprisoned for preaching the gospel.
2. He traveled over \_\_\_\_\_ miles to get to Rome (His household was in Ephesus – 2 Timothy 4:19).
3. He r\_\_\_\_\_ Paul several times.
4. He served Christ well in Rome and Ephesus.

B. Application

1. Christians are called to serve Christ for their entire l\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Serving Christ requires us to be on the a\_\_\_\_\_ because it requires us to abandon what we are doing, and so is not convenient.
3. Witnessing, helping someone, listening, encouraging, comforting the hurting, etc. are never convenient.

**GET OUT THERE AND BE INCONVENIENCED!**