

Four Snapshots of Ephesus

- Early years of the church (54-55) Acts 19; Healthy—Needing A Warning Acts 20:16-35
- The letter to the Ephesians (61-63). Compliment: Eph 1:15-16
- Paul's letter to Timothy while at Ephesus (64-65) 1Tim 1:3 False teachers present
- Jesus Letter to the church in Ephesus (90) Rev 2:1-7 A doctrinally pure, but nearly dead church
- Everything Centered on Paul's *Charge*

Paul's Charge to Timothy

- *3 As I exhorted you to tarry at Ephesus, when I was going into Macedonia, that you might Charge certain men not to teach a different doctrine,*
- *5 But the end of the Charge is love out of a pure heart and a good conscience and faith unfeigned:*
- *18 This Charge I commit unto you, my child Timothy, according to the prophecies which led the way to you, that by them you may war the good warfare; 19 holding faith and a good conscience; which some having thrust from them made shipwreck concerning the faith:*

The Charge

- Charge ... men not to teach a different doctrine
- *parangello* literally, “to announce beside” (*para*, “beside,” *angelo* “to announce”), “to hand on an announcement from one to another,” usually denotes “to command, to charge,” (Vine 3853)
- *parangelia* “a proclamation, a command or commandment,” is strictly used of commands received from a superior and transmitted to others (Vine 3852)
- This is a command handed down from Jesus to the apostles and from the apostles to us!

The Charge in the OT

- Charge ... not to teach a different doctrine
- *You shall not add to the word I command Dt 4:2*
- *Whatever I command you, be careful...you shall not add to it nor take away from it Deut 12:32*
- *Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar. Pr. 30:5-6*
- *do according to all the law ... do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, Josh 1:7-8*
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The Charge – OT Scripture

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David's "Charge" to Solomon

- *Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he **charged** Solomon his son, saying: 2 "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. 3 And keep the **charge** of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, 1 Kings 2:1-3*

The End of the Charge

- *"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. 1 Chron 28:9-10*
- Know the Lord; Serve Him with a loyal heart and a willing mind.

The Charge in the NT

- Charge ... not to teach a different doctrine
- *he who does the will of My Father in heaven will enter the kingdom of heaven. Mt 7:21-23*
- *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; Mt 28:18-20*
- *And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' Mk 7:6-9*
- *If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. Jn 15:10*

The End of the Charge – NT

- Charge ... not to teach a different doctrine
- *Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 2 Jn 1:9-11*

The Means to a greater End!

Don't Transgress – So you have both the
Father and Son!

The End of the Charge

- *5 But the end of the Charge is love out of a pure heart and a good conscience and faith unfeigned:*
- *“telos,... 1. end, ... d... the end to which all things relate, the aim, purpose 1Tim. 1:5...”*
(Thayer, 5056)
- There is a purpose! There is an aim!
- There is a goal!
- Love from a pure heart
- A good conscience
- An unfeigned faith
- Without the charge we cannot keep these goals

The End of the Charge

- *the end to which all things relate, aim, purpose*
- **All our efforts to keep the gospel pure are the means to a greater end.**
 - **God did not create the gospel to be guarded.**
 - **God created the gospel to save souls.**
 - **But the gospel must be guarded to save souls!**
 - **Hence guarding is a central part of the gospel.**
 - **But again, only as the means to a greater end.**

If we keep the charge....

But Miss the End!

We still Fail!

Ephesus Kept the Charge ...

- *I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. 4 Nevertheless I have this against you, that **you have left your first love.** 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place — unless you repent. Rev 2:2-6*

- They Fell Short of the End

Keeping the End of the Charge

- *5 But the end of the Charge is love out of a pure heart and a good conscience and faith unfeigned:*
- There is a critical purpose to the charge.
- A Doctrinally pure church is pure only so they can keep the charge.
- If one is doctrinally pure but don't reach the purpose, they too have left first love.
- A church only guarding the gospel but not keeping the gospel is still in danger of losing it's candlestick.
- We can't measure this collectively... only individually.

Only “I” Really Know

- love
- out of a pure heart
- a good conscience
- faith unfeigned
- Without these
- We are in danger of losing our candlestick