

## Hold Fast the Form of Sound Words

First, we'll look at **the 'mid-Acts' way ....**

and then, we'll **'branch out'** to consider **a broader view:**

**2 Tim 1:13** **Hold fast <echo> the form of sound words,**  
which thou hast heard of me,  
in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

The definition for **the Greek word <echo>** for **'hold fast'** means **'to have, to hold.'** That reminds me of the words in **traditional marriage vows**, "I take you to be my (wife or husband), **to have and to hold** from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part."

**'Mid-Acts-ers' FOCUS on firmly grasping of PAUL's words ONLY ....**

**'as OPPOSED to' .... ALL the OTHER PROPHETS' words:**

**2 Tim 1:13** Hold fast the form of sound words,  
**which thou hast heard of me, (Paul)**  
in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

**'Mid-Acts-ers' proceed to keep the concentration on PAUL's words**

**ONLY** for this next verse as well. However, we will read more than one

verse for the context:

**2 Tim 3:14-16** But **continue thou** in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, **knowing of whom thou hast learned them;**

**'Mid-Acts-ers' make this person to have been Paul .... however, the Bible**

**does not say that.** We should not **minimize** Paul's words to Timothy ....

but .... the words that Paul taught Timothy .... were **the holy scriptures**

**.... which were ALREADY written** as shown in the next verse:

**15** And that **from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures,**  
which are able to make thee wise unto salvation  
**through faith which is in Christ Jesus.**

(Keep your place here, while we look at another reference ....

this one in John's gospel .... showing that

**it is the scriptures .... that bear witness of faith in Christ:**

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them (the scriptures)  
ye think ye have eternal life:  
and they (the scriptures) are they which testify of me.

Now go back to 2 Tim 3:14, where we just read that Paul encouraged Timothy to **continue** in what he had learned, and been assured of, knowing **who** taught him since he was a child. Here is '**what**' Timothy was taught:

2 Tim 3:16 **All scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and **is profitable for doctrine** (All scripture includes the book of ACTS, even though 'mid-Acts-ers' say you can't get doctrine from Acts), **for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

In this same epistle, a little earlier, Paul actually **named** - not himself - but **the LADIES** by '**whom**' Timothy was taught the scriptures '**from a child**':

2 Tim 1:5-6 When I call to remembrance  
**the unfeigned** (sincere, undisguised) **faith that is in thee,**  
which dwelt first • in thy grandmother Lois,  
• and thy mother Eunice;  
**and I am persuaded that in thee** (Timothy) **also.**

6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up **the gift of God,** which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

The gift of God Timothy had came not only by Paul, but also by others:

1 Tim 4:14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee **by prophecy,** with the laying on of the hands **of the presbytery** (Greek <presbuterion> the '**body**' or '**council**' of **elders in the church**). (also see Acts 6:1-6, 8:14-20, 13:2-3; Heb 6:2)

(reference) Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Where did Timothy get the faith he had 'in Christ Jesus'? It came from the holy scriptures .... that **all the other prophets wrote BEFORE PAUL wrote**. Even by **Paul's own testimony**, the gospel he preached was **"according to the scriptures"**:

**1 Cor 15:3-4** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins**

**according to the scriptures;**

**4** And that he was buried, and that **he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:**

The 'rally point' for faith is **GOD's words .... not PAUL's words:**

**Rom 10:17** So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of **God**.

Paul told Timothy to follow his lead, and pass on the things he had learned:

**2 Tim 2:2** And **the things that thou hast heard of me** among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. (also see **1 Cor 4:16, 11:1; Phil 3:17**)

Paul instructed the Philippian saints to copy his example also:

**Phil 4:9** Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

**But 'what things' was Paul teaching? He specifically testified that he spoke the same theme as all the prophets .... and nothing else:**

**Acts 26:22-23** Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, **saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:**

**23** That **Christ should suffer**, (He died for our sins) and that **he should be the first that should rise from the dead**, (He is the firstfruits of them that slept - **1 Cor 15:20**) and should shew light unto the people, ("to the Jew 1st" - **Rom 1:16**) and to the Gentiles. ("and also to the Greek" - the same word Greek word <Hellen> as translated 'Gentiles' is also translated 'Greek')

(Remember that Peter testified in Acts 15:7-11 about his Acts 10 vision that God showed him there is **no difference** between the Jew and the Gentile.)

Paul preached Jesus **from the law and the prophets** in Acts 28, the same Jesus (Acts 1:11, 2:36, 8:35; Heb 13:8) that commissioned him in Acts 9:

**Acts 28:23** And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom **he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets,** from morning till evening.

If Paul was preaching 'something different' .... 'a wealth of **mystery** information' .... as the 'mid-Acts-ers' say .... then the 'noble' Bereans were really 'foolish' because they were **wasting their time .... looking for the things that Paul taught .... in the scriptures .... if they weren't there:**

**Acts 17:10-11** And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto **Berea:** who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

11 These were **more noble** than those in Thessalonica, **in that they** received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched the scriptures** daily, **whether those things were so.**

The point is, everything Paul preached was already written in the scriptures (Acts 26:22). Though Paul was the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because he persecuted the church of God (1 Cor 15:9)

**.... the things that he wrote were the Lord Jesus Christ's commands:**

**1 Cor 14:37** If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that **the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.**

**1 Thess 4:2** For ye know **what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.**

Paul was not the only prophet (Acts 13:1-2, 1 Cor 13:2) and apostle (2 Cor 12:12, 1 Tim 2:7) who reminded the saints of **the things the prophets had spoken:**

**Heb 2:1** Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to **the things which we have heard**, lest at any time we should let them slip.

**James 5:10** Take, my brethren, **the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord**, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.

**2 Peter 3:1-2** This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

2 That ye may **be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:**

**Jude 1:17** But, beloved, **remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;** (also see 1 Cor 4:9)

In our text verse context, Paul again verified his apostleship, which brought much suffering on him, but he was not deterred.

**2 Tim 1:11-13** Whereunto **I am** appointed a preacher, and **an apostle**, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

12 **For the which cause I also suffer these things:** nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

13 **Hold fast the form of sound <hugiaino> words <logos>**, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

The Greek word <hugiaino> translated 'of **sound**' is also translated 'to **wholesome**'. The words of Paul were the words of the Lord Jesus Christ:

**1 Tim 6:3-5** If any man teach otherwise, and consent not **to wholesome <hugiaino> words <logos>**, **even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ**, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

(1 Tim 6): 4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,  
5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and **destitute of the truth**, supposing that gain is godliness: **from such withdraw thyself.**

Paul warned Timothy a few chapters earlier .... of 2 such men he put away .... 2 men, whose names he called, who did not **hold fast** to faith:

1 Tim 1:18-20 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, **according to the prophecies** which went before on thee, that thou **by them** (the prophecies) mightest war a good warfare;  
19 **Holding <echo>** (The same Greek word translated "hold fast" in our text verse - 2 Tim 1:13) **faith**, and a good conscience; which **some having put away concerning faith** have made **shipwreck**:  
20 Of whom is **Hymenaeus** and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may **learn not to blaspheme.**

In Paul's 2nd epistle to Timothy, Hymenaeus was still causing trouble. Here Paul was **specific about his shameful error**. He had **swerved** (also see 1 Tim 1:6, 6:21) **by failing to rightly divide the word of truth .... by getting the resurrection of the dead in the 'WRONG TIME' ....**

**RESULTING in some people's faith being subverted:**

2 Tim 2:15-18 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**  
16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.  
17 And their word will eat as doth a **canker <gaggraina>**, ('gangrene' .... **to gnaw like an ulcer**):  
of whom is **Hymenaeus** and Philetus;  
18 **Who concerning the truth have erred**, (How did they err?) **saying that the resurrection is past already**; (Pre-tribulation rapture?) **and overthrow the faith of some.**

**To 'hold fast' the faithful word** is the responsibility of a bishop (an overseer), of a steward (a governor, manager, superintendent, or 'dispenser'):

**Titus 1:9** **Holding fast the faithful word** as he hath been taught, that he may be able by **sound <hugiaino>** doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Now we'll look at a few more **things** the scriptures say to **hold fast**.

On our way to Hebrews 3 .... we will get a preview in John 1:17 first.

The **consistent comparison** is made in the scriptures between ....

- the OLD, law .... by Moses
- and the NEW, grace .... by Jesus Christ:

**John 1:17**

- For **the law was given by Moses,**
- but **grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.**

The **contrast** is shown again in Hebrews:

- the OLD covenant of Moses, which was the law ....
- and the NEW covenant of Christ, which was the grace.

**Heb 3:5-6** • And **Moses** verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant,

(Keep your place here, while we look at a another reference .... this one from Paul .... comparing

- **being a SERVANT, which is the LAW ....**
- **to being a SON, which is the GRACE:**

**Gal 4:7** Wherefore **thou art no more a servant, but a son;** and if a son, then **an heir of God through Christ.**

(Later look up and read John 15:13-15 and Luke 12:4.)

Now go back to Heb 3:5 .... **Moses, a faithful servant in all his house:**

for a testimony of **those things which were to be spoken after;** ('those things' would be the 'new' house .... the 'new' covenant .... 'those things' of Christ .... of grace):

6 But **Christ** as a son over his own house; **whose house are we,** (also see 1 Cor 3:9,16-17, 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16; Eph 2:21-22; 1Tim 3:15)

if we **hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.** (also see 1 Cor 1:7-8, 2 Cor 1:13-14, 1 Thess 2:19)

**Heb 4:14** Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us **hold fast our profession**.

**Heb 10:23-25** Let us **hold fast the profession of our faith** without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) (also see 1 Cor 1:9, 1 Thess 5:23, 2 Thess 3:3, 2 Tim 2:13)

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: (also see Titus 2:14, 3:8,14)

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, **as ye see the day approaching**. (the day of the Lord Jesus Christ, the day He returns)

Paul also exhorted the saints to 'keep on' until the day of Christ:

**1 Tim 6:12-15** Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast **professed a good profession** before many witnesses.

13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed **a good confession**; ('confession' is the same Greek word as also translated 'profession')

14 That thou **keep this commandment without spot** (also see 2 Pet 3:14), **unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ**:

15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, **the King of kings, and Lord of lords**; (1Tim 1:17, Rev 17:14,19:16)

Saints are told to **hold fast** until the revelation of Jesus Christ:

**Rev 2:25** But that which ye have already **hold fast till I come**.

**Rev 3:3** Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and **hold fast**, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, **I will come on thee** as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

**Rev 3:11** Behold, **I come quickly: hold that fast** which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

In closing, be careful what you are led to believe. Investigate for yourself:

**1 Thess 5:21** Prove all things;  
**hold fast that which is good.**

*This is David Dowell, saying, "Think about it!"*

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