

Who do you know whose life has been a shipwreck...or to use modern vernacular, “a train wreck”?

Shipwrecked: The failure to arrive safely at the intended destination with all those depending on your ability to navigate rough waters.

Shipwrecked lives are characterized by people who...

- Started right but didn't finish right.
- Stopped believing truth.
- Turn to artificial substitutes to meet spiritual needs.
- Sink under the weight of unforgiven hurts.
- Lose their sense of dependency on Christ.

Have you ever experienced the kind of shipwreck described above? What happened? Describe the rough waters that started to sink your ship.

Discuss this statement: *“Shipwrecks are not caused by what happens to you, but rather how you respond to what happens to you.”*

Read v.18. Paul gave Timothy an urgent appeal. Has anyone ever “charged” you with a sense of urgency about the direction of your life? How did you respond? Is there someone you need to address with an urgent appeal about the direction of their spiritual life?

Paul refers to a prophecy someone had previously made about Timothy. Who has seen the greatness in you before you did, then called you to step up to your potential? Do you see the potential in people and call them to grow into it? How can you call the greatness out of someone you know?

Verse 18 also calls us to wage the good warfare. Describe the spiritual war that is raging for your soul? How well do you know your enemy? How strong is your defense? How sharp are your weapons? How much attention to you pay to your strategy? How much are you communicating with your commander? How often do you celebrate a victory?

1) **Fuel your faith.**

Discuss this definition of faith given by Pastor James MacDonald: ***“Faith is believing God no matter how I feel, knowing God promises a good result.”***

To what degree are you fueling your faith through the following three exercises?

- **Expose yourself to the practical teaching of the Word of God.**
- **Surround yourself with faithful people of God.**
- **Stretch yourself by accepting an assignment from God.**

Faith is not just “believing in” God. It is believing God. What has God said that you are struggling to believe?

2) **Clear your conscience.**

A clear conscience is the ability to say there is no one alive today that I have ever wronged, offended, or hurt in any way that I have not made right with God and man.

Read Acts 24:16. Can you honestly say about yourself what Paul said in this verse?

Before you answer...Read 1Samuel 12:3. What if you did what Samuel did? What would happen if you invited everyone you've ever known to testify against you any outstanding wrong, offense, or hurt. How long would the line be? Who would be in the line? Are you still sure you have a clear conscience?

Will you commit yourself to clearing your conscience by taking the following steps?

- **Make a list**
- **Make contact**
- **Make a confession**
- **Make an opportunity for response**
- **Make restitution**

When clearing your conscience, it is important to make the scope of your confession no larger than the scope of your transgression. What is the danger in confessing beyond the scope of the transgression?

Read v. 20. What do you think happened to Hymenaeus and Alexander after they were handed over to Satan? Do you think they learned their lesson and got their ship to float again?

How important is the protection and direction of leaders in the battle against Satan?

Is it possible to recover from a shipwreck? How?

Additional Scripture

- 1Timothy 1:5
- 2Corinthians 1:12
- Luke 19:1-10
- Matthew 5:23-24
- Colossians 3:12-15
- 2Timothy 2:16-18