

**THE SERMONS, LECTURES, AND SONGS OF
SIDNEY EDWARD COX**

II Timothy – Chapter 1. The Responsibilities of the Christian Life

Review of II Timothy – Chapter 2

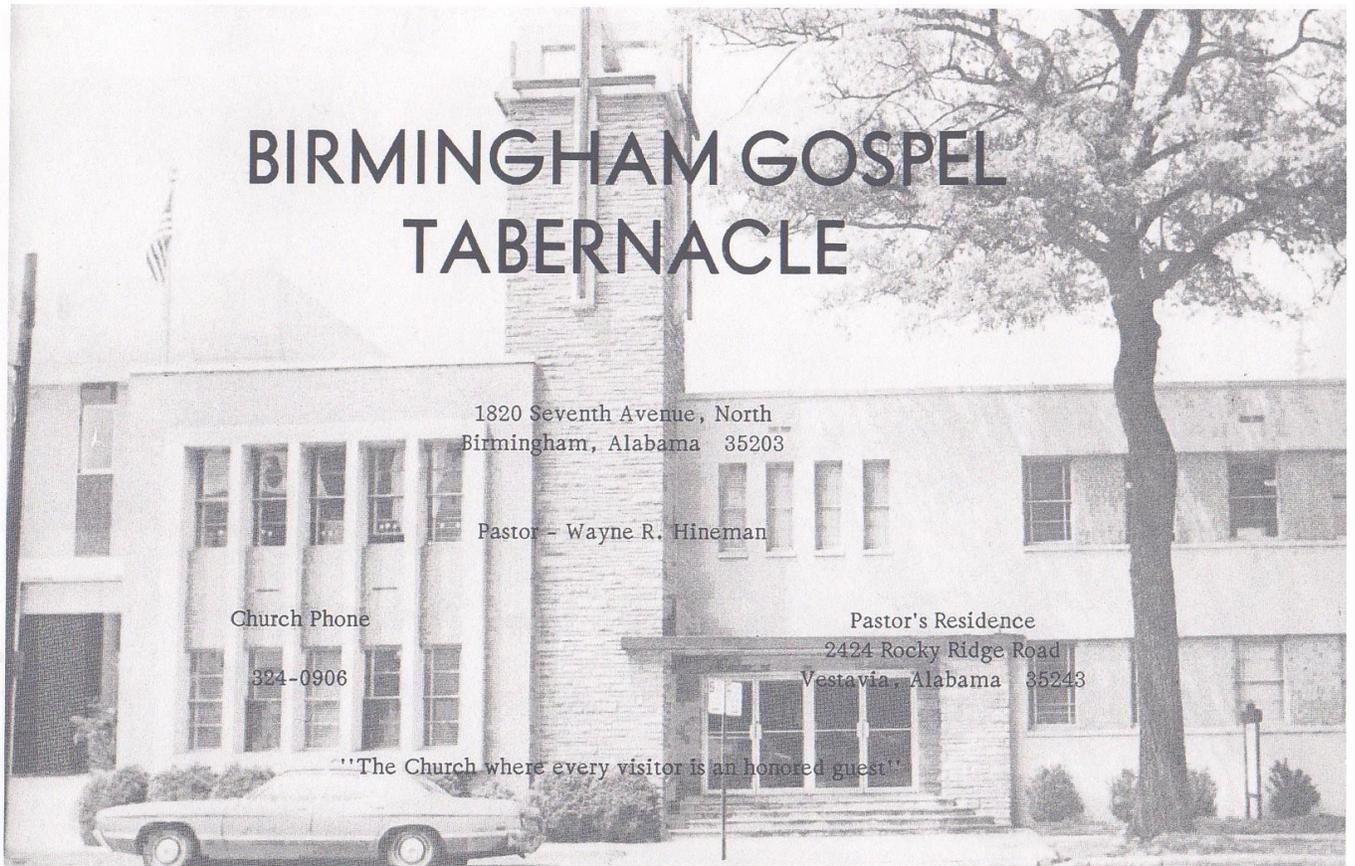
Sidney Cox Tells the Story of Him Writing and Leads Singing of His Chorus – *Never Fear*

CD #78 – 33:53 through 53:30

Editorial Note: In 1972, Sidney Cox moved from Detroit, Michigan to Birmingham, Alabama to be near my parents, John and Jean Cox. He was 85 years of age at the time, but remained in remarkable health and lived on his own in a small apartment on Birmingham's southside.

He remained in great demand as a preacher and Bible teacher. He had a well-chronicled career early in his life as a Salvation Army officer from 1910 – 1944. Later in life, he developed a close relationship with the Christian and Missionary Alliance (“CMA”). From 1956 to 1962, he served on the theological faculty of two institutions that were closely aligned with CMA – the Miami Bible Institute and the Toccoa Fall Bible Institute. Both the Salvation Army and CMA continued to invite him to preach and teach during this phase of his life.

It is believed that this message was delivered circa 1975 as part of a series of nightly messages on the New Testament books of I and II Timothy that he delivered to the Birmingham Gospel Tabernacle, a CMA congregation in downtown Birmingham.



In early 1975, at age 88, Sidney suffered a mild stroke that compromised his speech greatly and hampered his ability to preach and teach. After several months of recovery, he once again began to accept invitations, although his speech was somewhat slurred. Nevertheless, he still had a powerful voice, a clear mind and a continued passion to preach the Gospel.

On this night, he presents a message on II Timothy, Chapters 1 and 2.

J. Douglas Cox, grandson of Sidney Cox. August 20, 2010.

I want to thank you for two things at this moment, although I could go on in this thanking business. First, the privilege you have given to me of being part of you, and your attention and so on. And then your gracious kindness. Thank you very much indeed.

Turn again to 2nd Timothy, first chapter, I want to look at one or two things at the end of the chapter, and then I want to give you an outline of Chapter 2, because there, we shall be dealing with the subject, *The Seriousness of the Christian Life.*” And in Chapter 2, there are seven miniatures, little parables, each one of them saying, “The Christian life is serious business.” And there are seven of them. I want to mention them, so that you can be thinking about them and reading ahead for tomorrow night.

But, when you come to the end of the chapter, you will find again this emphasis on responsibility. And old man is saying, “There are certain things in the Christian life, for which you are responsible.”

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Verse 13: “Hold fast the form of sound words.”¹ Now, there you’ve got the word “sound” for the second time. Once in Verse 7: “The sound mind.” Here you’ve got the next one: “The sound words.” When the sound mind thinks aloud, it thinks in sound words - words that ring like the sound of a bell without a crack in it. Now that’s what sound means. It means the sound of it is like a bell without a crack in it. You see?

So many Christians give out the sound of something and it sounds right cracked, doesn’t it? - to the world around us. They don’t just...listen once. “I don’t want to hear anymore of that.” But a sound words, that come from a sound mind. And then, don’t forget, that when they are arranged in proper order, they become sound doctrine. “Hold fast the form, the order of sound words. Arrange them in proper order,” and Chapter 4, Verse 3, “Sound doctrine;” “They will not endure sound doctrine.”

We reminded ourselves last night that sound doctrine is simply sound words, the product of the sound mind, arranged in proper order - and that’s part of our Christian responsibility. So much of our time is spent in skimming over the surface. We don’t take these sound words and reduce them to a focal point in your life. That’s our responsibility. That isn’t something that we can borrow from somebody else. And some folks are just going around from one place to another, listening to what somebody else has discovered about the Word of God, when they could have discovered it for themselves. “Hold fast the form of sound words, that good thing which was committed unto thee, keep by the Holy Ghost.” And by the way, what was that good thing that Timothy had received, first in grandmother, Lois; then in mother, Eunice, and, “I am persuaded in thee also?”² What was that good thing? Will somebody tell me? Unfeigned faith. Unfeigned faith.

And now, here’s a tragic verse. We referred to it a moment or two ago, “This thou knowest that all they, which are in Asia, be turned away from me.”³ And there are two names that are mentioned, Phygellus and Hermogenes. “They have all turned away from me.” And don’t forget, the church at Ephesus was one of them. Here’s a preliminary word that indicates something was happening in the church at Ephesus. And the little churches like it, the danger that is there are folks who turn away, and they have all turned away from me.

You will find the same thing again, as we indicated a moment or two ago, in the last chapter, where, “All forsook him.” And here you’ve got this man, with his heart breaking, because he gave his life for these churches; suffered immeasurable things because of them, and still was doing the same thing. And yet, here is this: the church at Ephesus turning away? It’s almost unbelievable. Why there are some folks, and rightly so, who will take hold of the letter to the church at Ephesus, and you would think that there would be immortality on a church like that. And yet, in less than 60 years, turned away; left their first love, and my dear, what happened then can happen now! Don’t let us forget it.

Here we are, “The Lord give mercy,” and here’s one of those names that you won’t find anywhere else, “The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus.”⁴ Now, my dear, who was Onesiphorus. Had you made friends with him? Is he a friend of yours? Will you reach out your arms and take him into your heart and into your family circle? You will be enriched if you do, for he is a man who knew Paul there years before, showed kindness to him, took care of him in his need, and then when Paul was in the Roman cell, he

¹ II Timothy 2:13.

² II Timothy 1:5.

³ II Timothy 1:15.

⁴ II Timothy 1:16.

journeyed all the way to Rome, and the Word of God says in golden letters about him, “He sought diligently until he found me.”⁵ My. Reminds you of somebody else, doesn’t it? When you were in the far country, somebody sought diligently until he found you. Here’s a man named, Onesiphorus, and evidently his family, his household, because in both references here and at the end of Chapter 4, you will find Paul’s blessing not only upon the man, but upon the household - the household, the house of Onesiphorus.

Let me tell you an interesting thing. The next time you’re in Chicago, turn to the telephone book and you will find in the Chicago telephone book a telephone number attached to this - The House of Onesiphorus. Now you wouldn’t expect to find it in Chicago, would you? But there, somewhere in Chicago, Chicago doesn’t know anything about it, somewhere in this great windy city, somewhere, there’s a little haven of rest for somebody, a little old place that nobody knows anything about, and out of it flows rivers of living water. And there’s immortality on it, because it bears the name of a man who went to Rome and, “Sought diligently until he found him.” And twice the hands of this blessed man that we’re thinking about raised in blessing on the house of Onesiphorus. One of these names there.

I’ve been doing a series of messages recently on, *The Importance of Unimportant People*. By the way, did you hear that? - *The Importance of Unimportant People*. And Onesiphorus is so unimportant that most of us haven’t even heard of him. And yet, here he is. There was one little thing he could do, and he did it. And because of it, immortality rested upon this man. The house of Onesiphorus. “The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day,” listen, “And in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest well.”⁶

Well, we’ve made a friend tonight. At least, some of us have. Take him home with you. Oh my dear, read about him, because here’s a man who was unimportant, but because he did something that was in the will of God, immortality came upon him. And that’s the secret of it. When you do something that is in the will of God, you become immortal. Did you hear it?

Now, my dear, I want to give you the outline of Chapter Two. Take a note of some of these things. I’m not going to give you verses, I’m just going to name the seven pictures, parables, of the Christian life. And every one of them say, “The Christian life is serious business.” That’s our subject for Chapter 2 - the seriousness of the Christian life. Now, the Christian life is serious because of its beginning. It begins in Son-ship. And you will find the first mark of the Christian life is Son-ship. Now don’t forget that two verses afterwards, you become...you come face to face with this: a good soldier of Jesus Christ. But soldiership, my dear, in God’s army begins with Son-ship. The only people that God ever makes into soldiers are sons. Did you hear it? And so it begins with Son-ship. Notice it.

Then it moves from Son-ship to soldiership, and, ask any of our boys that have been to Vietnam or anywhere else, soldiership is serious business. You don’t play at being a soldier. Not at all. Especially a good soldier. Now, what are the marks of the good soldier? There are three of them. You see if you can find them in your own study, will you?

And from soldier-ship, you find the next picture of the Christian life is the athlete, who, “Strives to the mastery.” I once saw a television program in which, there was the picture of the man who first broke the

⁵ II Timothy 1:17.

⁶ II Timothy 1:18.

four-minute mile. It seemed impossible. But at long last, one man did it. He's a young English doctor, and he was over in Canada for the Empire Games, and he broke the four-minute mile.⁷ And I watched that on television, and saw the look on his face as he flung himself over that line and he broke that mile record that seemed impossible. You don't play at being an athlete. If you do, you'll soon get your walking ticket. You don't play at that.

The second, the next one is the picture of a farmer- a farmer who is so skillful that he raises stuff that's he proud to put on his own table. Now that's the test. Not just whether you grow wheat or something else to sell to somebody else. Is it the kind of stuff you want? You use? And you've got him there.

The fourth one is the man who works with words instead of with wood. He's a verbal carpenter, and he, "Rightly divides the Word of Truth." You'll find him there.

And then the next picture is the picture of a vessel in a great house. Now that's six of them, isn't it?

And the next one, the final one, is the picture of the bond-slave, right at the end.

And you've got six miniatures, each one of them saying to us, "The Christian life is serious business." The son, the soldier, the athlete, the farmer, the carpenter working with words, the vessel in the house, and the bond-slave. And every last one of them say to us, "The Christian life is serious business."

Let's sing, *Never Fear*, and we'll bring it to a close. Alright dear? *Never Fear*. I want you to remember this...we'll stand while we sing it... give you a...change of position. "Never fear, never fear, never fear." See how well you remember, and I won't fuss at you if you forget. Okay? Everybody together.

*Never fear, never fear, never fear,
Your Heavenly Father watches o'er thee.
Never fear, never fear, never fear,
His hand will clear the way before thee.
There's a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night,
Never fear, never fear, never fear,
Thou art precious in His sight.*

We wrote that in an automobile traveling one day from Shreveport, Louisiana to Dallas, Texas. A long, dreary road. And we use to amuse ourselves, Mrs. Cox and I, quite frequently by writing a song in the car. We'd get an idea, and then as we were going along the road, we'd fashion the words and then a melody would come and I'd dictate it to her, and she'd put it down in "Do, re, mi." And by the time we got to the end of the journey, instead of grumbling about our arthritis, we had a new song, you see.

I commend the thought to you. Why don't you do that? Why don't you remember that? Alright. And I've sometimes wondered, keeping that thought in mind of the automobile, whether the movement of the wheels got into the rhythm of the song. Have you ever noticed...did you notice it there? (*Singing*): "*Never fear, never fear.*" You see?

⁷ On May 6, 1954, Englishman Roger Bannister ran the mile in 3:59.4, the first person to run the mile in under four minutes.
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Sidney Cox's original manuscript of his chorus, *Never Fear*

Now, I tell you what I want you to do. I want you to take your hand out of your pocket, or if it's in somebody else's pocket, take it out just the same. Get your index finger, like this, get it out now. Everybody, get your index finger up like this. Alright? Now I want you to sing it, and you do your own movement of the wheels while you're doing it, alright? Everybody together:

*Never fear, never fear, never fear,
Your Heavenly Father watches o'er thee.
Never fear, never fear, never fear,
His hand will clear the way before thee.
There's a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night,
Never fear, never fear, never fear,
Thou art precious in His sight.*

Any final word Brother Jack?