

These words had been heard by Timothy as given by Paul. They came forth in agreement with the love and faith which was in the Lord. Given in that manner and with such a serious import, it is expected that Timothy will make every effort to secure them and hold them in a meaningful way. But without a detailed knowledge, such will be extremely difficult. The point is that...if one is going to maintain life in this intelligent fashion, it will be by the means of knowing the teachings.

b. Cherish the teachings

The text is perhaps not so specific on this but the idea is surely present. It is the concept of knowing and appreciating. The total package is that "good thing" which was given by the Holy Ghost and the implication is that a continued state of thanksgiving and joy is due for the recognition of that work. In our Christian circles we sometimes make the study and use of the doctrines of Christ almost a chore...and this is one of those special problems in the academic community...we study the doctrines until we have memorized the outlines and the notes...but often our hearts have not enjoyed them. So in the concept of Paul's words, let there be a full appreciation of the doctrines and a resultant joyfulness in the Lord's teachings.

c. Share the Teachings

We do not mean to give them away... but to allow others to know of their beauty and redemptive value. In a sense as we share we see for ourselves the real meaning of the teachings of Christ and our own understanding is greatly enlarged. It is a simple axiom that until you have used something you can hardly appreciate the full or real value. But in sharing we are using and as the doctrines produce blessing we quickly find that there is a growing sense of reality to them and for us. Holding fast does not mean being selfish.