

Where is God?

2 Timothy 4:1-2

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:² preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

= Presence of God is “in Christ”

= Between his 1st & 2nd Appearing

Presence of God in 3 Tenses

¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them!¹⁷ **But the Lord stood by me** and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I **was rescued** from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ **The Lord will rescue me** from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Presence of God
“in Christ” for Paul

Abandoned but not alone

Alone but not lonely

Attacked by not defeated

The Presence of God in 4 ways

God's Spirit (1:14)

God's grace (2:1)

God's Word (3:16)

God's Model (3:10)

= Why Timothy can also fight
the good fight & finish the race!

God's Spirit (1:14)

¹³ Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the **faith and love** that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ **By the Holy Spirit** who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

= Presence of faith & love

God's grace (2:1)

2 You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

= Presence of grace

God's Word (3:16)

¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete**, equipped for every good work.

**= Experience of Sufficiency
of God's Word**

God's Model (3:10)

¹⁰ You, however, have followed **my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness,** ¹¹ **my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.**

= Presence Jesus in ALL of Paul's life

But there is a battle (3:10)

¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a **godly life** in Christ Jesus will be **persecuted**, ¹³ while **evil people and impostors** will go on from **bad to worse**, deceiving and being deceived.

= Choose between real and fake models

But there is a battle (3:10)

**We need to choose between
real and fake models**



HOLY FAMILY

“Me”, “others” & YOU!

14 But as for **you, continue** in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it **15** and how **from childhood** you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

**The battle against the
presence of God
in today's Culture**

1. The battle against technology

We are “Masters of technology”

= False sufficiency

2. The battle against change

“Delight in Change”

= Challenge to deep discipleship

3. The battle against “entitlement”
“WHY must I study?”

4. The battle against wealth

“I inherit and then spend!”

5. The battle against debt
“How much can I borrow?”

6. The battle against morals

“What’s character?”

7. The battle against elders

**“Respect is not automatic,
it is to be earned.”**

8. The battle against immorality

“It’s in our hands!”

**13 while evil people and impostors will go
on from bad to worse,
deceiving and being deceived.
= Fake progress in the last days!**

Misdirected love

More & more dehumanised

More & more depersonalised

3 Main Responses to Culture

Deny <u>culture</u>	Dialogue <u>with culture</u>	Drowned <u>by culture</u>
Separation	Interaction	Assimilation

Lessons from Megachurch:
Not about the “size of church”
but “shape of their theology”

Branding
Individualising
Spectacularising
Business
= BISB



Kong Hee (2007)

- › The truth is, prosperity and financial miracles occur most frequently. Yet, the devil deceives us into thinking that it is rare for God to work financial miracles.
- › Friends, here is something about prosperity that we don't realize. It doesn't take a lot of faith to enter into prosperity. The money that we put into our offering bucket ... God calls it a seed. The Bible says that when you sow a seed, you'll reap a harvest.
- › Entering into prosperity is not difficult: it just takes simple OBEDIENCE to God's Word. Pay your tithe faithfully, give your offerings generously, don't make it a habit to get into debt, keep your life in order. If you observe the Laws of the Harvest, you WILL get a big harvest!

1. Branding

DNA of
Megachurch/CHC

Form: "Church"

Substance:
Business!

2.
Individualising

3. Spectacularising

= 4.
Business!

If the substance/DNA of a megachurch is business, then it is not “whether” but “when” and “how badly” it would pursue this.

Theology is everything!

1. "Abnormal"
Megachurch/CHC

Form (looks)

Church

Substance (reality)

Mainly Business



2. Normal church

Church

Church

Deep Soul Searching

Is God's church in the world ?

Or the world in the church?

**Is God's presence in the world
or the world's presence in church?**

Danger:
Look the Part
But Don't Live the Part

**= Don't get used to faking the
presence of God!**

The Battle for Truth

Informed vs Reformed?

2 Timothy 1:10-12

and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, **who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,** ¹¹ for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher,¹² which is why I suffer as I do. **But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed,** and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.^[c]

What's your opinion of

1. Satan

2. Sin

3. Death

What's your obedience to

1. Jesus?

2. About Sin?

3. About Death?

Paul's Model (3:10)

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= Presence Jesus in ALL of OUR life!

If Jesus is not Lord of your
moments, then

He is not Lord at all

= Are you real or fake?