

religion arises from not reading the scriptures in their connection. In reading the scriptures we ought 1st to consider who is the speaker, 2nd the character of those addressed, 3rd the situation in which they are placed; want of attention to the above rules have been the cause of much contention. Sometimes we find the promises made to the righteous, given to the wicked, also the threatenings against the wicked applied to the righteous, exhortations to believers applied to unbelievers. Let us suppose the epistle directed to the churches of Philadelphia and Laodicea to be reversed, and see what a blunder it would make; this shews the necessity of ascertaining the character and situation of those addressed.

From the great controversy carried on in the pages of the Christian Age during the year 1855 it appears to me that there are a considerable number of brethren among those called reformers that are itching after clerical dignity, unwarranted in the New Testament, and in opposition to the principles advocated by leading reformers. Dr. Shepard and Isaac Errett, seem to belong to this clerical class. When they are pressed, they go to the epistles of Timothy for a supply of evidence to support their cause. Let us then examine the situation of Timothy at that time.

Timothy was the companion of Paul through many of his travels; he seems also to have been employed by Paul in various services requiring trust, fitness, and faith. He knew Paul's doctrine and manner of life. Paul labored a considerable time at Ephesus; a numerous church was collected, Acts xix. Other duties called Paul away before overseers had been appointed. Paul left Timothy in charge of this church. There is no church in America at present situated like that at Ephesus at that time. Let it be observed the church was numerous, many if not most of them lately recovered from idolatry; they were then without the christian scriptures; every church now has the scriptures, and these are a surer guide than all the evangelists on earth. Paul no doubt gave Timothy instructions personally when he parted with him; he afterwards wrote letters to him to teach him how he was to conduct himself in the house of God. As the first churches had not at first the christian scriptures, extraordinary gifts, such as Timothy, were then needed for the establishing of the churches, but after the scriptures were completed the supernatural gifts such as Timothy, ceased; they were no longer needed. Will Dr. Shepard or any other man in America say that he has seen Paul, or received instructions personally or by letter from him, or that he has gifts by prophesy and by the laying on of the hands of Paul. There is not a man on earth now that can say this; how arrogant is it then for any man now to claim the authority Paul gave to Timothy at Ephesus. The Christian Baptist says Timothy did more than the work of an evangelist at Ephesus. To proclaim the gospel is the primary idea in the work of an evangelist: but Paul commanded him not only to proclaim the word, but also to read, exhort, and teach in public, to reprove, rebuke, entreat with all