

The Necessary Interlock  
Copyright, J. Michael Strawn

From 1Timothy 1:5. THE NECESSARY INTERLOCK

"But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith" (v. 5.)

#1. The Apostle's point is that there is a *mutual interlock* between PERSONAL CHARACTER – and -- THE WORD OF GOD.

#2. This necessarily means the two do not stand alone.

#3. Scripture becomes the source of the inner man and that character becomes the instrument of The Word of God. Source -- and -- instrument.

#4. This supernatural interlock constitutes the return to the original understanding of the place of man in the universe (Ecclesiastes 12:9-14).

#5. Among the powers of the interlock is to displace culture and sociology in character formation.

#6. Such a character serves as the instrument of perception. "Love from a pure heart," "a good conscience," and "sincere faith" cannot fail to map revealed meaning onto the distinct parts of temporal existence. The interlock creates integrity out of all the disparate elements of our experience. The interlock creates meaning. The interlock gives us the sense of things, regardless of what our circumstance may be.

#7. Conversely, the rupture of the interlock will suddenly pronounce Scripture to be nothing more than "history," a literature of the past. "For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion" (1 Timothy 1:6.)

The *rupture of the interlock* results in the irrelevance of revelation. There is the loss of coherent understanding.

#8. Thereby "the goal" of the Lord is obstructed. The purpose of God is to change the sinful nature of mankind, and the necessary interlock is how He does that.