

1st Timothy

Fall 2024

Week 9 - Timothy 4: 1 - 16

“What “Right” looks like in a Church according to Paul

- Sound Doctrine
- A Place of Grace
- Prayer (for everyone, especially leaders)
- Godly Elders and Deacons
- Teaching the Bible (1 Tim 4:13)
- Caring for People
- Pursuing Godliness

1 Timothy 4: 1 – 16

¹ The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will **abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.** ² Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

³ They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. ⁴ For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. ⁶ If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed.

⁷ Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. ⁸ For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. ⁹ This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance ¹⁰ (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the **living God**, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe.

¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the **public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.** ¹⁴ Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵ Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. ¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Background –

- ❖ We spent a lot of time in chapter three and talked about the different qualifications for being a pastor.
- ❖ **Not every elder is a pastor but every pastor is an elder.**

- ❖ The lay ministry of the church is very important and very valuable. The work of the church is not just about the professional clergy, it's about the involvement of the laity, it's about the body of Christ serving one another helping using their gifts and talents to serve the community.
- ❖ Acts 6 Talks about the laity being used as the instruments of the ministry.
- ❖ In 1st Timothy 4, Paul warns Timothy and all believers against these false leaders. When people set up all kinds of rules of life by which they think they can make the world better and even claim divine authority for their pet notions, they are dangerous deceivers and are spreading “teachings of demons”

Question 1 – *What human-made rules have churches set up as means for obtaining salvation and blessing from God?*

Question 2 – *How does Paul characterize the false teachings of 1 Tim. 4:2?*

- ❖ The word of God is reaching the far corners of the earth today because of technology. Will the gospel being preached, people hear it they will be without excuse, but the sad tragedy is that many will refuse the faith or even abandon it.
- ❖ The Bible predicts mankind will turn from God and says people will reject Christ and not want anything to do with Christ, and instead they will actually turn to deceiving doctrines and things taught by demons.
- ❖ Some religions or some belief systems are rooted in demons. From their own historical teachings, certain faiths acknowledge an “*Angelic Being*” leading the leader to the right doctrine of God

Question 3 – *Can you think of any religions that were inspired by an “Angelic Being?”*

- ❖ The Quran came out of a vision from an angel just like the Book of Mormon came from a vision of angel
- ❖ **Read Galatians 1:8**

Question 4 – *What is the result of preaching the Gospel in ways contrary to God's love you word?*

- ❖ **2nd Thessalonians 2:1 & 3**
 - ¹Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him... ³ Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the **rebellion occurs**, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.
- ❖ **Matthew 24:10 – 13**
 - At that time many will **turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other**, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

❖ **2nd Timothy 4:3-4**

- ³ For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will **turn their ears away from the truth** and turn aside to myths.
- ❖ The warning is very clear. **Stand firm in our faith**
 - Know your Bible so you can recognize the truth from a lie
 - Know what you believe and tell people why you believe it.
- ❖ Paul mentions several types of conscience
 - Good Conscience (1 Tim 1:5,19)
 - Clear Conscience (1 Tim 3:9)
 - Weak Conscience (1 Cor 8:10, 12)
 - Guilty Conscience (Heb 10:22)
 - Corrupted Conscience (Titus 1:15)
 - Seared Conscience (1 Tim 4:2)
- ❖ In 1 Tim 4:3, Paul tells us about hypocritical liars in the following and says they forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods which God created to be received
- ❖ Nutrition is complicated these days according to the experts. Just say grace according to Paul.
 - “Don't drink cow's milk because you're not a calf and only little cows drink cow's milk, so don't drink cow's milk
 - But then somebody else says drink cow's milk because you need vitamin D so drink cow's milk, but then others say don't drink it and so you don't know what to believe anymore
 - We need to avoid certain foods. They're not good for us. Don't eat meat they contain carcinogens
 - Eat white meat but don't eat red meat unless you have an iron deficiency then eat red meat because it's good for you
 - If you're going to eat white meat, eat chicken, but make sure it's free-range chicken and be sure there are no hormones and no antibiotics.
 - By the way, avoid certain fruits, blackberries, strawberries. They have a protein called lectins and you don't want lectins because they make people fat so don't eat don't lectins.
 - You need bioflavonoids because you don't normally get that in your diet, so eat blackberries and strawberries because they have bioflavonoids
 - Be careful polyunsaturated fat now polyunsaturated is better than saturated but saturated fats are not good for you, but butters are saturated fat but it's better than margarine so go ahead and eat butter.

Question 5 – *Why is 1 Tim 4:6 - 7 important?*

Question 6 – *Do we spend more time on physical training or spiritual training?*

- Read Matt 26:40

- Mark 14:37
 - Luke 22:45-46
- ❖ Godliness is a key word that Paul likes to use. In 1st Timothy, in this letter he uses it eight times. It is found nowhere in the New Testament until you get to this letter
 - ❖ Peter will mention it in his epistle but up to this point you don't see the word godliness in the New Testament until Paul starts to use that word.

Question 7 – *What are different ways to train ourselves for godliness (1 Tim 4:8)?*

- ❖ The doctrine of Universalism says “Jesus a savior of all men so everybody is going to be saved

Question 8 – *How does 1 Tim 4:10 differ from the doctrine of universalism?*

Question 9 – *In 1 Tim 4:12 what the 5 area Paul urges Timothy to set an example in?*

Question 10 – *What’s the difference between “Sound Doctrine” and “Teaching the Scripture”*

Final thoughts

- ❖ **“Preach the Gospel. Use words if necessary”** – Francis of Assisi

Outline of 1st Timothy

- I. Salutation (1:1–2)
- II. The charge concerning false teachers (1:3–4)
 - a. The charge to preserve the purity of the Gospel (1:5–11)
 - b. Two examples (1:12–20)
- III. Instructions concerning pastoral ministry (2:1–3:16)
 - a. Public worship (2:1–15)
 - i. The duty of prayer (2:1–7)
 - ii. The position of men in public worship (2:8–10)
 - iii. The position of women in public worship (2:11–15)
 - b. The qualifications for public ministry (3:1–13)
 - i. Overseers (or pastors) (3:1–7)
 - ii. Deacons (3:8–13)
 - iii. The center and substance of public ministry (3:14–16)
- IV. Opposing false teachers (4:1–16)
 - a. False teachers described (4:1–5)
 - b. The pastor’s work against false teachers (4:6–16)
- V. Pastoral ministry with various groups (5–6:2)
 - a. Older and younger, widows, elders, and slaves (5:1–25)
 - b. Concluding exhortations (6:3–19)
 - c. Reiteration of Charge (6:20-21)