

TITLE: FALSE TEACHING & ITS ANTIDOTE

TEXT: 1 TIMOTHY 4

THESIS: The purpose of this sermon is to give an exposition of 1 Tim 4, showing Paul's warning about false teachers and their doctrines, and his antidote of good teaching and good examples.

I. WARNING OF FALSE TEACHING (v. 1-5):

- A. (v. 1-2) Who is doing the warning? The Spirit
How warned? Expressly – distinctly; “pouring forth”; clearly, explicitly (no inference necessary!)
When? In the latter times – the last days. Are we in the latter times yet? (already begun – **Acts 2:16; 2 Tim 3:1-5**)
What is the warning?
1. Some shall depart (“apostatize”) from the faith – from the system of faith “once delivered” (**Jude 3**).
 2. Giving heed (“having, holding”- cf. **3:9**) to seducing spirits & doctrines of devils. This is their own choice (active voice)
 3. Speaking lies in hypocrisy (deceitfulness; used of an actor who play acts – what you see is not really who he is)
 4. Their consciences are seared (that part of you that has been trained to know right and wrong, and to tell you when what you're doing is wrong). This mechanism is inoperative in these people. It has been seared, damaged.
- B. (v. 3) Why warn about those who are falling away?
These who depart won't go quietly (they won't go at all). They stay and teach false doctrine, taking others with them.
1. Example 1: Forbidding to marry (something God has *not* forbidden)
 2. Example 2: Commanding to abstain from meats (God created them to be received w/thanksgiving - cf. Peter - **Acts 10**)
- C. Difference between false teachers and false teaching: Apollos taught incorrectly, but wasn't a false teacher (*he taught false, but not falsely*). He had a good heart, was open to reproof, and he corrected his teaching.
*Those being discussed here are false *teachers*. They don't care. They are not open to reproof. They have no consciences.
- D. Paul already warned of people who are either like this or are on their way to being like this (**1:3-7**)
1. They teach different doctrines (**1:3**). Charge *some* not to teach a different doctrine... Why “some” and not all? Probably *some* were already teaching other doctrines!
 2. They waste time on unimportant things (**1:4**), turning to vain jangling (**1:6**). False teachers today use these techniques!
 3. Some want to be teachers of the law, but don't know what they're saying (**1:7**)
 4. They shipwreck the faith (Hymenaeus & Alexander - delivered to Satan - **1:19-20**). Paul *publicly names* false teachers.

II. ANTIDOTE FOR FALSE TEACHING (v. 6-16):

- A. Godly Teaching (v. 6-11)
1. First of all, we must BE AWARE of false teachers & false teachings (v. 6)! Put the brethren in remembrance (of v. 1-5). We must **all** (not just the preacher, elders, etc.) realize that not everything that is taught in the name of God is right.
*The biggest problem in the church today is not the false teachers; it is the members who don't know the Word well enough to recognize the false teachers! The brethren need to be “put in remembrance” of them!
 2. Avoid the irrelevant (fables) and temporal and just focus on **godliness (v. 7-9)**.
 - a. The Greeks highly valued physical training. Paul says it has very brief, temporal advantages (but no eternal benefit).
 - b. He's not forbidding exercise, just saying not to make this your focus.
 - c. Our jobs/money have no eternal benefit. They're not forbidden (**5:8** - implicitly commanded), just don't focus on them!
 - d. But **godliness** (piety, reverence) profits (is advantageous) in *all* things.
 - e. It has promise for this life *and* the life that is coming. This life is nothing without the hope of eternal life.
 3. Why do we labor (“work hard; wearied”)? Why do we suffer reproach (taunt, rail at, chide)? (v. 10)
 - a. In order to teach godliness to all. To teach that godliness is profitable for eternal life.
 - b. Because we trust in God. We believe in His eternal life for us...even for ALL that are faithful!
 4. This is godly teaching and exhortation (v. 11).
- B. Godly Example (v. 12-15)
1. The man of God is to be an example in these six ways (v. 12).
 2. Giving attendance (having/holding – **4:1; 3:8-9**) to reading (**Psa 1:2; 119:10**), exhortation, teaching (v. 13).
 3. Not neglecting the gift (“charisma” – miraculous) in you (v. 14)
 - a. It was given *through* (διὰ) prophecy (**1:18**).
 - b. It was given *with* (denotes accompaniment; *along with*) the laying on of the elders' hands
 - Paul imparted the spiritual gifts (2 Tim 1:6)
 - Timothy received these gifts *along with* a commissioning from the elders (cf. **Acts 13:3**)
 4. Further example (v. 15) – Meditate, give yourself completely to these things, so your progress will be known to all!
- C. Summary
1. Take heed (pay attention) to thyself (v. 12-15). Pay attention to your example!
 2. Take heed (pay attention) to the doctrine (v. 6-11). Pay attention to your teaching!
Continue (persevere) in both of these (good example and good teaching). These things will save you and those who listen to you.

CONCLUSION: Verse 16 sums up the purpose of Paul, Timothy, the church then and now. Our goal is to save ourselves and as many as we can take with us. We must do this by both our example and sound teaching, always being aware of false teachers and teachings.