

Series: Sound Doctrine

GOOD DOCTRINE (PT 1)

1 TIMOTHY 4

Text: 1 Timothy 4:6

1 Timothy 4:6

⁶ If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

Introduction:

As we began this series last week we saw that Paul ask Timothy to remain in Ephesus to charge some that they teach no other doctrine.

1 Timothy 1:3

³ As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

We now move to chapter 4.

In chapter 1 Paul speaks of Declared Doctrine, in this chapter it deals with Declared Danger.

Paul is giving Timothy further help in the ministry that has been allotted to him. He speaks about the dangers

that are a burden to him, and the duties that are binding upon him.

Paul is desirous that Timothy understands and is prepared for the problems that he will face because of the presence of false teaching.

There are several things that can be learned from this chapter.

- The Perils of Doubt (vs. 1-6)
- The Profit of Doctrine (vs. 7-11)
- The Pattern of Devotion (vs. 12-16)

But I feel that though these three thoughts would be profitable to consider I think we could gain a better understanding if we break it down into four divisions.

Note:

1. THE SEDUCING DEPARTURE (VS. 1-5)

1 Timothy 4:1-5

¹ Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; ² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; ³ Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. ⁴ For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: ⁵ For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Paul is reminding Timothy what he would be facing.

There will be a very definite falling away from the faith.

This is a warning regarding the infiltration of error and false teaching.

Note the list of things listed:

- False Doctrine – Seducing Spirits and Doctrines of Devils
- Feigned Piety – Speaking Lies in Hypocrisy
- Flawed Conscience – Seared With a Hot Iron
- Formulated Rules - Forbid to marry; Abstain from meats

This is what Timothy was going to face.

This apostasy in 1 Timothy 4:1-5 prepared the way for the perilous times of 2 Timothy 3:1-9.

2 Timothy 3:1-9

¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. ⁶ For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ⁷ Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the

truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. ⁹ But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.

The factors that make up the apostasy of 1 Timothy 4 find their fulfillment in the practices and doctrines of the “last days.”

Notice

A. The Prediction of the Apostasy (vs. 1)

1 Timothy 4:1

¹ Now **the Spirit speaketh expressly**, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

This is a Divine Prediction.

The Spirit is the author of this prediction.

The Holy Spirit doesn't speak for the sake of speaking.

When He speaks, it is important.

This is a special announcement by the Spirit related to some of the problems Timothy must face.

This would be fulfilled in the future.

Timothy is to be forewarned; therefore, he must be forewarned.

Note not only the Prediction of the Apostasy but also:

B. The Period of the Apostasy

1 Timothy 4:1

¹ *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that **in the latter times** some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

This would certainly take place in Timothy's day but it continues our day.

These apostate conditions are fully expounded in 2 Timothy 3 & 4.

Note not only the Prediction and Period of Apostasy but also:

C. The Power Behind the Apostasy (vs. 1)

1 Timothy 4:1

¹ *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to **seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;***

These seducing spirits and doctrines of devils cause some to depart from the faith. They draw men away from the truth.

Instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to lead them into truth, they reject the truth and "another" spirit takes over, and they are led into all kinds of delusions and deceptions.

Demons so control men who deliberately turn from the truth, that they are led to teach error.

These demons have a tremendous hold on those who have turned from truth to error.

Try to win one of them to Christ and you will see just how difficult it is.

Demons seem to have a strangle hold on them. All error and false teaching has a Satanic force behind it.

Note not only the Prediction, the Period of Apostasy and the Power Behind the Apostasy but also:

D. The Particular Characteristics of the Apostates (vs. 2-5)

1 Timothy 4:2-5

² *Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;* ³ *Forbidding to marry, and*

commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. ⁴ For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: ⁵ For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Satanic forces work through human beings who make themselves available to evil forces. He mentions here that the influence of these evil workers leads men to go wrong in at least two places:

In verse 1 we see that they are doctrinally corrupt and in verses 2-5 we see that they are practically corrupt.

Satan is always seeking human agencies to further his desire. Man can become the tool of the devil. We see here how these evil agents do their work.

We have seen the fact and force of these delusions; now we see the very features of these delusions. Look at:

- Their Personal Condition (vs. 2)

1 Timothy 4:2

² *Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;*

They got into this condition by turning their back on the truth. Then they had no strength to resist the devil, and he took over. They found themselves moving under the impulse of a deceitful practice—"hypocrisy."

Everything but the flesh was false about them. They moved under false delusions.

They not only had deceitful habits, but they had depraved hearts. Their hearts were seared by false teaching and the rejection of the truth.

They are in such a condition spiritually and morally that the enemy can have his way in their lives.

Their own consciences have become seared or hardened against truth.

This is exactly what the sin of rejecting the truth will do to a man or woman.

Their conscience has become so smitten by willful rejection of truth that it is past feeling.

Sin has taken over and their conscience has no more to say.

Note not only their Personal Condition but also:

- Their Practical Error (vs. 3)

1 Timothy 4:3

³ Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

They taught that to refrain from marriage demonstrated an unusual form of holiness.

They taught that not eating meat demonstrated tremendous spirituality.

Both of these errors are still practiced today.

We have considered The Seducing Departure note secondly:

2. THE SOUND DOCTRINE (VS. 6-7)

1 Timothy 4:6-7

⁶ If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. ⁷ But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

In these two verses Paul deals with three thoughts:

Note:

A. The Divine Servant – “A Good Minister”

This chapter has a lot to say about a good minister.

In this chapter it speaks about:

- A good minister, vss. 1-6
- A godly minister, vss. 7-12
- A growing minister, vss. 13-16

A good minister will safeguard sound doctrine.

Note not only the Divine Servant but also:

B. The Discerning Spirit

Timothy is to be able to discern truth from error. He is in no way to allow error to be spread.

He is to see the wrong and refuse to give it any place in his life or the lives of those to whom he ministers.

When an individual is saved the Holy Spirit indwells us to equip us:

- To Give Us Purity
- To Give Us Power
- To Give Us Perception

Every child of God should be able to perceive the true from the false.

Sadly a lot of believers have no discernment.

A person could preach error and they wouldn't notice it.

We should live and walk in the Spirit so as not to be carried away with error.

Note not only the Divine Servant and the Discerning Spirit but also:

C. The Definite Shunning (vs. 7)

1 Timothy 4:7

⁷ But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself *rather* unto godliness.

Timothy is to continue following truth, as he has been doing up until this time of Paul's writing. But there is also something he is to do. He is to refuse "profane and

old wives fables." He is to have nothing to do with a lot of foolish talk that was being passed about.

It was senseless and silly. So much so that Paul designated it all as "old wives fables."

This kind of thing attracts the weak.

It is empty clatter and does no good. Timothy is to shun it.

Every Christian should stay away from trouble makers of any description.

Notice:

- Avoid Divisive Teachers and Doctrinal Error

Romans 16:17

¹⁷ Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

- Avoid Disorderly Brethern

2 Thessalonians 3:6

⁶ Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

Close:

We will close today. Lord will we will consider next week The Spiritual Discipline and The Solemn Duty.

May we consider the danger but possibility of the seducing departure.

This departure can be guarded against by knowing and practicing sound doctrine.