

WHOLESOME WORDS

1 TIMOTHY 6

Text: 1 Timothy 6:3

1 Timothy 6:3

³ *If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;*

Introduction:

Notice at the outset of this study what the Apostle says about "teaching." He speaks about teaching in verse one, "These things teach and exhort." He mentions teaching again in verse three, "If any man teach otherwise." It is a solemn charge Paul gives to Timothy, to teach these truths to those he would be pastoring.

Paul would also have Timothy understand further, "the false teachers and their teaching."

False teachers seemed to follow on the heels of Paul's ministry trying to undo Paul's work and misleading the new converts. Today we still see the devil following close on the heels of a true ministry. Cults knock on the doors of the new converts and often lead them astray.

Paul instructs Timothy about these false teachers to help Timothy deal with the problem better.

Note:

1. THE CONCERN ABOUT FALSE TEACHERS (VS. 3A)

1 Timothy 6:3

³ ***If any man teach otherwise,*** and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

Paul spoke of false teachers in chapter one; also in the opening of chapter four. He now returns to the subject again.

False teachers were spreading their false doctrine in that church and area.

Paul wanted this young preacher know more about them, and what his attitude toward them is to be.

He wants Timothy to stand stalwart for the truth, and this he would do as he warned against error and evil practice.

2. THE CONTENT OF SCRIPTURAL TEACHING (VS. 3)

1 Timothy 6:3

³ *If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the **doctrine which is according to godliness;***

Paul is informing Timothy of the truth that is to be taught.

Paul stood for the truth of the Scriptures, and threw his full weight of spiritual strength against anything or anyone who opposed Scriptural teaching.

He sets forth here to Timothy, and to all believers, the content of Scriptural teaching. He tells us what it must do:

A. It Must Provide Christian Virtues –
Wholesome Words

Words that will build the Christian up and make him healthy, strong and robust. Only the Word of God can build up the saints.

B. It Must Promote Christ Teaching – Word of Our Lord Jesus Christ

These are words that are in keeping with the teaching of Christ, and those who promote His teachings.

These words agree with the mind and will of Christ. They were written with an eye single to His glory.

They promote His honor and support His practices.

C. It Must Produce Christian Practice – Godliness

Doctrine or teaching that doesn't promote and produce godly practice is false doctrine and should be shunned.

True doctrine comes from a careful study of the Scriptures. When received, it produces fruit to God's glory.

The teacher who has no regard for the Scriptures, but is carried away with the empty fancies of his own brain, deceives others and is deceiving himself.

His mind has become diseased by false doctrine.

3. THE CHARACTER OF FALSE TEACHERS (VSS. 4)

Note:

1 Timothy 6:4

⁴ He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

A. The Description of False Teachers (vs. 4) – “He is proud”

B. The Dumbness of False Teachers (vs. 4) – “knowing nothing”

C. The Doting of False Teachers (vs. 4) – “doting about questions”

D. The Divisiveness of False Teachers (vs. 4) – “strifes of words”

4. THE CONSEQUENCES OF FALSE TEACHING (VSS. 4B-5)

1 Timothy 6:4-5

⁴ He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, ⁵ Perverse disputings of

men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

This kind of talk produces no moral or spiritual results, but it does result in a certain conduct that is far from honoring God.

Verse four says, "whereof cometh." Here he sets forth the fruit of such empty discussions—these "questions and strifes of words."

Hear Paul names the list of results.

He tells us a corrupt heart reappears in corrupt speech.

A question of mere words creates endless confusion.

Paul gives in detail the consequences that are produced by the discussions and debates of those who are spiritually illiterate:

1 Timothy 6:4-5

⁴ He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, ⁵ Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

Envy—They are jealous because they were defeated or silenced by their rival. They now nurse an inferiority complex. They resent another's superiority.

1 Timothy 6:4-5

⁴ He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, ⁵ Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

Strife—They struggle against those who oppose their evil surmisings and false words. They continue to engage in conflict for their position in relation to their statements. They continue to propagate and endorse their fallacies. They continue to dispute and wrangle.

Railings—They use abusive language regarding those who will not concede to their point. They are driven to insulting remarks towards those who stand for and defend the truth.

Evil Surmisings—They are suspicious about the dealings of their opposition. They try to impose dishonesty on those who differ with them. One cannot know their motives. Evil has taken over in their hearts.

Perverse Disputings—They argue over matters and make them so complicated that nothing is gained at

the end of the discussion. It has all ended in a waste of time in talking. To discuss truth and error with them (the isms of our day) is to show them a dignity they don't deserve.

1 Timothy 6:4-5

⁴ He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, ⁵ Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

Destitute of Truth—They are totally ignorant of God's truth. They are in darkness concerning the Scriptures. Their minds are blank regarding the truth. They are mentally deficient to discuss matters that are spiritual.

They are mentally disarmed when they deal with spiritual matters. Their empty heads can't help them.

Deception—"supposing that gain is godliness." They think that material prosperity is real gain. They feel that wealth and show is a real mark in life of moral and spiritual gain. They have lost sight completely of the spiritual

5. THE COMMAND REGARDING FALSE TEACHERS (VSS. 5)

1 Timothy 6:5

*⁵ Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: **from such withdraw thyself.***

Separation from error is commanded plainly in Scripture. We do no one any good by fraternizing with error.

"Withdraw" is the only safe course of action to take.

It is interesting to me what follows these verses:

1 Timothy 6:6-12

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸ And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. ⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. ¹¹ But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and

has professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Many who are propagating error today also demonstrate greed.

A. Timothy was to flee from these things

B. Timothy was to follow these things:

- Righteousness
- Godliness
- Faith
- Love
- Patience
- Meekness

C. Timothy was to fight the good fight

Close: