

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 20TH-21ST, 2019 // 1 TIMOTHY

## DEMONIC (1 TIMOTHY 4:1-5) LINES ARE BECOMING CLEAR

Ever since the crucifixion of Jesus, evil has intensified and people have refused to hear the truth or walked away from the faith.

- This has happened because Satan knows his time is getting short. Also, **when societies and cultures move away from God, people selfishly focus on teachings that are self gratifying.**

### THESE ARE "TEACHINGS OF DEMONS"

We are spiritual beings, and everything we do has a spiritual reaction. The Christian must believe that any teaching outside of Christ's is dangerous, "deceitful," and the "teachings of demons."

- **This is an unpopular truth, but all belief not grounded in Jesus is demonically influenced.**

### LET'S THREAD THE NEEDLE HERE

**Satan is subtle (Gen. 3), and his most effective methods are masked in beauty and manipulation.**

- This doesn't mean that all people that believe these lies are evil, but that many have been lured by the master of lies into following ideals that will eventually be their demise.

### MANY WILL COME IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

Satan will even use people that claim to follow Jesus to trick others into bad theology. In Tim's time, it was the belief that what you ate and getting married dictated salvation.

- The belief that we can earn salvation through our deeds is bad theology! **We are saved by grace through faith to do good works (Eph. 2:8-9).**

### RULES DON'T CREATE RIGHTEOUSNESS

Paul is teaching Tim that rules are good because they point out what is bad, but **just because one follows rules doesn't mean their heart is in the right place.**

- **We're saved by grace because we can't constantly uphold the rules.** Rules give a target and our reliance on Christ reminds us we don't always hit it.

### THEIR "CONSCIENCES HAVE BEEN SEARED"

Paul told Tim that people that mislead others do it for personal gain and to satisfy their own appetites. In other words, they have no moral compass.

- Go back to Eden. Satan didn't trick humanity into worshiping him, but themselves! **The basis of Satanic thought is self worship.**

### "...SANCTIFIED BY THE WORD OF GOD AND PRAYER."

"Everything created by God is good" isn't a license to partake in whatever we want. When we use the Bible and prayer, we can be set apart by God to live the way we are called to live.

- **We grow closer to God by the Word, prayer, and by using some common sense.**

## THE SERVANT (1 TIMOTHY 4:6-10) TOUGH LOVE

Paul reminds Tim that he is a leader and that he has a responsibility to point out false teaching and bad behavior.

- **The truth must be guarded.** This is often painful and counter-cultural, but **if we deny Christ and His principles on earth we will be denied in heaven (Matt. 10:33).**

### POINTLESS AND SILLY MYTHS

Not everything that is promoted as spiritual is healthy. We are warned to stay away from "pointless and silly myths," but how often do we get distracted by ridiculous philosophies, conspiracy theories, and empty religious practices?

- **If the devil can't distort he will distract!**

### KNOWING WHAT IS REAL

We can protect ourselves from distraction and distortion by **"training ourselves in godliness."** This means we intentionally read, study, pray, surround ourselves with good people, and work to grow closer to God.

- Our relationship with God should permeate everything we do: work, school, family, and relationships.

## "THIS SAYING IS TRUSTWORTHY..."

Paul tells Tim that taking care of the physical has benefits in this life, but taking care of the spirit transcends into the afterlife.

- So, we are to "labor and strive" and to put our "hope in the living God Who is the Savior of all people..." **We are to work hard but know it is God that saves by grace.**

### ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO BELIEVE?

Jesus has changed the human condition. Even though not all people will be saved (because they will not accept Christ), all people have been positively affected by what Christ has done.

- The work of the church also plays into this. Christianity has been a global blessing for almost 2000 years.

## SOLID (1 TIMOTHY 4:11-15)

### WE'RE ALL SERVANTS CALLED TO PROTECT THE TRUTH

Being a good servant is not just for pastors and ministers, but for all people that claim Christ. That means **everyone in this room is responsible for guarding the truth.**

- **To guard the truth one must know it first. Then, we must have enough courage to stand by it regardless of the cost.**

### DON'T GIVE PEOPLE A REASON TO DOUBT

Timothy was a young man, but Paul encourages him **to not let youth be an excuse to not step up** or to let others discourage him because he is young.

- Interestingly, we often say "Well, they're young," but **we are not to let our age determine if we are moral or not.**

### WE ARE TO SET AN EXAMPLE

- **In speech:** How we talk to and about others.
- **In conduct:** How we act in our daily lives. Work ethic, honesty, and hospitality matter.
- **In love:** We are called to love ALL people. **Love isn't agreeing with all people, but genuinely caring for everyone.**
- **In faith:** Our confidence in Christ.
- **In purity:** Sexual integrity.

### SOME BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE CHURCH

Tim was told to dedicate his energy into "public reading, exhortation (preaching), and teaching." These are basics of what leaders in the church should be doing.

- Paul knew **the Word holds wisdom, truth, and power and that the congregation needed to hear it.** Sadly, few churches read the word.

### A PERSONAL REMINDER TO HIS PROTÉGÉ (V14)

Paul gets very personal when he reminds Tim that he has been called to do a specific task. Elders had prophesied over Tim while laying their hands on him in prayer.

- **When we think we hear from God it's wise to get council and confirmation from elders in the church so we can know it isn't just selfish ambition.**

### "PRACTICE" AND "BE COMMITTED"

Doing great things is never easy! God has called all of us to take part of His plan, but we must remain diligent and work at staying the course!

- **Why? Because everything is in the balance: salvation, families, marriages, and societies! Christ came to save and without Him we are lost.**

### "PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO YOUR LIFE"

- First, we must determine the meaning of our lives. Is it pursuit of self (happiness), or something far greater? **The target dictates the direction.**
- Christ said that we must **"lose our lives in order to find them."** We must establish in our minds who we really serve.
- If life is really about the glory of God, **we must know what we believe and protect it at all cost.** We do this through reading the Bible, praying, and surrounding ourselves with strong believers.
- We must be **sacrificial, selfless, intentional, knowledgeable, and dependent on Christ!**
- How we live matters, and **there is too much on the line to not pay attention.**
- We must be acutely aware of the subtleties, distortions, and distractions of Satan. **If we fail to be alert, a strong enemy waits to destroy everything around us (1Peter 5:8).**