

May 15, 2022  
1 Timothy 4:1-10

Thrust: the way to fight against false teaching is through the reading and understanding of God's word.

**This morning we will be in the book of 1 Timothy looking at verses 1-10**

**Background on book:** Timothy apparently became a Christian as a result of Paul's missionary work in Lystra (Acts 14:6-23). He joined Paul on the second missionary journey when the apostle's evangelistic team passed through that area where Timothy lived (Acts 16:1-3). While on the second journey Timothy helped Paul in Troas, Philippi, Berea, Thessalonica, Athens, and Corinth. During the third journey he worked with Paul in Ephesus. From there Paul sent Timothy on to Macedonia (Acts 19:22). Later he was joined by Paul in Macedonia (2 Cor. 1:1, 19) and apparently traveled with the apostle to Corinth (Rom. 16:21). On the return trip to Ephesus Timothy accompanied Paul through Macedonia as far as Troas (Acts 20:3-6). Still later Timothy was with Paul in Rome (Col. 1:1; Phile. 1; Phil. 1:1), and from there he probably made a trip to Philippi (Phil. 2:19-23). Timothy's function in Ephesus was to represent God to the church.

**Background to ephesus:** Tradition says that in early times near the place where the mother goddess of the earth was born, the eastern people built a city and a temple in which they might worship. This little city of the east, bearing at different times the names of Samorna, Trachea, Ortygia and Ptelea, flourished until in the early Greek days it aroused the cupidity of Androclus, a prince of Athens. He captured it and made it a Greek city. Still another tradition says that Androclus was its founder. However, under Greek rule the Greek civilization gradually supplanted that of the eastern people, the Greek language was spoken in place of the Asiatic; and the Asiatic goddess of the temple assumed more or less the character of the Greek Artemis

- I. **1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith**
  - A. "Spirit expressly says in later times"
  - B. "Some will depart from the faith."
    1. Not loss of salvation

2. Depart from faith= everytime we sin, fall short, any act that doesnt involve faith, fall short of the word.
  - a) Cover verse v. 6 = BROTHERS & GOOD DOCTRINE
3. "Depart from" is SPELLED out in the verses below. That is what Paul means.

**C. by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits**

1. Active participation
  - a) Time – Energy – Thoughts
2. Duped sometimes

**D. and teachings of demons,**

1. Applied to the school of demons
2. Wanting to learn more

**2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,**

**a) 3 who forbid marriage**

- (1) 1st Century = Staying single
- (2) Catholic priests

**(3) ILLUSTRATION: "Living together" CULTS illustration**

**b) and require abstinence from foods that God created**

- (1) to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.**
- (2) FASTING VS. AVOIDING CERTAIN FOODS FOR "SPIRITUAL REASONS"
- (3) "DANIEL DIET"
- (4) THE DIFFERENCE IN BELIEFS COMES FROM KNOWING "THE TRUTH"
- (5) Truth is available but one must believe the truth= what God has said. TRUTH IS AVAILABLE BUT ONE MUST BELIEVE

ILLUSTRATION: Asceticism in food, religion(taking out pleasure wasnt meant by god)  
Are you doing it for god or personal.

APPLICATION: We too can be influenced by liars. We also have to be cautious because all of us have bits and pieces of unbelief and falsehood. These things travel the halls of churches.

TRANSITION: So the Bible tells us to be wary of statements and beliefs that stray away from the Bible's good doctrine. What is the truth that God has said?

**Verse 4 says.....**

**4 For everything created by God is good,**

- A. God created the universe.
- B. No thing in the universe is inherently bad
- C. Is sin man made?
  - 1. John 8:44 father of lies (I need to see how you make this fit)
- D. Is this specifically talking about the food earlier mentioned
  - 1. yes

**and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,**

- A. All foods on earth are good
  - 1. Always give thanks to God for the good food.
  - 2. No Dietary restrictions mandatory for fear of contaminating spirit
  - 3. HEALTH REASONS COVERED (e.g., ALLERGIES, MEDICAL PROBLEMS)

**5 for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.**

- A. It being food
  - 1. Set apart because of God's blessing

So everything made by God is good, but it was stated earlier that some will depart from the faith or the teachings of God. What are we, as believers in Christ, supposed to do?

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**6 If you put these things before the brothers,**

- 1. If = conditional
- 2. "Put these things before the brothers = Paul wanted this taught in the church!
- 3. Things referring to the deceitful spirits and teachings of demon
- 4. Brother meaning someone who is also in the fellowship of Christ
  - a. Means not loss of salvation

## **you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus,**

1. There is no such thing as a non good servant/average?
  - a. Difference between initial sanctification and doing what God has called all Christians to do.
  - b. Servant is a person who performs duties for a master
  - c. Servant is a servant until a master fires them. God does not fire us when after we accept the job application.

NEED Transition Where we have been. Where are we going?

## **being trained in the words of the faith**

The means = being trained = discipleship

Being trained

Words of faith

1. Words of faith = EAT BY FAITH!
2. ILLUSTRATION: paul talking to peter Galatians 2:11-14 11 But when Cephas( aka Peter) came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. 13 And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"
3. Bible training
4. Taught by someone
5. Paul teaches that in these things, without faith " trust in God", you can not succeed.

ILLUSTRATIVE: Steven being stoned. Priestly prayers. Words of faith

## **and of the good doctrine that you have followed.**

1. Doctrine is the thoughts that people have about God and how they view the earth.
  - a. Good modifies the word doctrine. We know gods word is good. Means accurate
  - b. Some people have untrue thoughts about God, leading to false doctrines.

i. May lead to idol worship- a God made in THEIR image

1. The gospel is the good doctrine.

2. Verse makes sure to make a distinction between word training and knowing the gospel.

2. Have followed = past tense = evidence = LIVING LIFE WITH = Timothy knows how.

3. Not loss of salvation

ILLUSTRATION

APPLICATION

Transition: So Paul reiterates to Timothy the good doctrine and what he has been taught because he has been practicing it. Now Paul will point Timothy's attention to what not to do. Look at verse 7.

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### **7 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths.**

1. SILLY MYTHS CONTRASTED WITH THE GOOD DOCTRINE

2. SILLY MYTHS = MAYBE REGARDING FOOD

3. Irreverent: having or showing a lack of respect for someone or something that is usually treated with respect.

a. That someone is God

b. Believing some of these myths shows a lack of respect of God.

2. Myth being something that is not true

a.

**CONTRAST:**

**Rather train yourself for Godliness;**

1. Rather is a CONTRAST ~~comparison~~ word.

2. TRAIN = READ, LEARN, LISTEN, PRACTICE, SELF-DISCIPLINE

3. "YOURSELF"

a. SELF ACCOUNTABILITY

- b. REMAIN IN THE VINE = ALL THINGS
- 4. GODLINESS
  - a. DEFINE = ACTING LIKE GOD - RIGHT ACTIONS, THOUGHTS OF GOD
  - b. THE BALANCE OF GODLINESS REMAINS WITH US
  - c. **GOD IS ALWAYS DOING HIS PART**
    - i. **AND THERE IS NO POTENTIAL WITH HIM**
  - d. **HE WORKING PERFECTLY IN ALL OF OUR LIVES**
  - e. **ONE CANNOT BE GODLY APART FROM GOD**
    - i. **GODLINESS WITHOUT GOD IS IMPOSSIBLE**
- 5. INTERPRETATION = WORK to become more like Christ
- 6. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY
  - a. GOD IS ALWAYS DOING HIS PART
  - b. You have the personal responsibility do do your own part

**8 for while bodily training is of some value,**

- 1. GODLINESS VS BODILY TRAINING
- 2. BODILY
  - a. FEEL BETTER
  - b. MENTALLY SHARPER...
  - c. EXTRA BIBLICAL "BODILY TRAINING"
- 3. **"THE WAY I SEE THIS IS," ABSTAINING FROM FOOD HAS VALUE FOR THE PHYSICAL, BUT WHEN APPLIED TO THE SPIRITUAL IT BECOMES A SILLY MYTH**
- 4. Bodily training being physical, tangible training which in this context is talking about food
  - a. FOOD CANNOT TEACH ANYTHING ABOUT GOD
  - b. JESUS SAID: FOOD GOES IN AND WHAT'S LEFT GOES OUT
    - i. MARK 7, 17-23: 17 And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. 18 And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, 19 since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) 20 And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. 21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

- c. In the context it is NOT specifically talkING about things that teach you more about God or his teachings ie. going to the gym is bodily training that has some value.

**Godliness is of value in every way,**

1. How much time do people spend on physical training compared to spiritual training?
  - A. HIT HARD

**as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.**

1. it= value of Godliness
2. Promise is a guarantee
3. Present life is life on earth
4. Life to come= life after death
  - a. Heaven or hell

ILLUSTRATION:

APPLICATION: Time working out vs. spiritual things

TRANSITION: Paul EXPLAINED to Timothy that godliness has the most value in life. We will now see why the Christians at Ephesus needed to focus on godliness.

Paul then tells Timothy starting verse 9 why they as christians live their lives yearning for godliness.

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**9 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance.**

1. saying= verse 7-8
2. trustworthy= you should believe that it is true
3. Full acceptance= believe it fully

4. full belief in something, in reality, looks like living your life according to that thing.
5. I.e. if you fully believe you can swim, and you are in water, would you not swim?

### **10 For to this end we toil and strive,**

1. WHAT IS "THIS" IN THE SENTENCE? GODLINESS
  - a. to grow weary, tired, exhausted (with toil or burdens or grief)
2. "This end" = life goal = looking more like Christ daily.
3. STRIVE = ESV POOR JOB= undeserved reproach or revile

### **because we have our hope set on the living God,**

1. we= christians= believers
2. hope= salvation?
3. HOPE IS CENTRAL TO THE WHY

### **who is the Savior of all people,**

1. CONSIDER: NO OTHER CHOICE
2. Referring to God's ability to save all people from their sins
3. Not necessarily saying all people WILL be saved

### **especially of those who believe.**

1. "Especially" ??? SPECIAL FOCUS
2. Those who believe = Christians
3. Referring to God being a just judge?

### **FOCUS ON CONTEXT**

### **FOCUS MORE ON HOLY ASPECT THAN FOOD. TRAIN YOURSELF FOR GODLINESS**

3. Illustration
4. conclusion illustration (why do they need to listen to me)

Constable notes: Timothy apparently became a Christian as a result of Paul's missionary work in Lystra (Acts 14:6-23). He joined Paul on the second missionary journey when the apostle's evangelistic team passed through that area where Timothy lived (Acts 16:1-3). While on the second journey Timothy helped Paul in Troas, Philippi, Berea, Thessalonica, Athens, and Corinth. During the third journey he worked with Paul in Ephesus. From there Paul sent Timothy on to Macedonia (Acts 19:22). Later he was joined by Paul in Macedonia (2 Cor. 1:1, 19) and apparently traveled with the apostle to Corinth (Rom. 16:21). On the return trip to Ephesus Timothy accompanied Paul through Macedonia as far as Troas (Acts 20:3-6). Still later Timothy



was with Paul in Rome (Col. 1:1; Phile. 1; Phil. 1:1), and from there he probably made a trip to Philippi (Phil. 2:19-23).

Timothy's function in Ephesus was to represent Paul to the church. The church in Ephesus at this time would have consisted of a number of housechurches (cf. 1 Cor. 16:19). Timothy evidently was not an elder in that group of house-churches. Paul spoke of the Ephesian elders in this epistle as individuals who were different from Timothy.

When Paul had met with the Ephesian elders toward the end of his third missionary journey he had warned them about false teachers who would arise in their midst (Acts 20:29-30). This situation had since happened as he predicted (cf. 1:6; 6:21; 2 Tim. 2:18). Evidently Hymenaeus and Alexander were two of those dangerous people (1:20). Paul alluded to others in this epistle as well (1:3-11; 4:1-5; 6:3-10).

First and Second Timothy and Titus are called Pastoral Epistles because Paul wrote them to pastors (shepherds) of churches outlining their pastoral duties. The term Pastoral Epistles first appeared in the eighteenth century, though as early as the second century the letters had been grouped together within the Pauline body of writings.<sup>4</sup> The addressed leaders' main pastoral duties were to defend sound doctrine and to maintain sound

Discipline.<sup>1</sup>

"There are ... several reasons that Paul wrote the first epistle to Timothy: (a) to encourage Timothy to stay on at Ephesus and deal with the significant and difficult issues that had arisen; (b) to provide authoritative instruction on how the household of God was to conduct itself in case Paul delayed in coming; and (c) to combat directly the opponents and their teaching and to remind Timothy of how he was to conduct himself and what he was to teach. The underlying purpose was then to encourage Timothy in his work but also to transfer Paul's authority to Timothy in his fight against the opponents."<sup>1</sup>