

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 June 2019.....1Timothy 1.....Entrusted
- 2) 09 June.....1Timothy 2.....On Mission
- 3) 16 June.....1Timothy 3.....Setting the Example
- 4) 23 June.....1Timothy 4.....Staying the Course**
- 5) 30 June.....1Timothy 5.....Being Responsible
- 6) 07 July.....1Timothy 6.....Lasting Investments
- 7) 14 July.....2Timothy 1.....Confidence
- 8) 21 July.....2Timothy 2.....Focused
- 9) 28 July.....2Timothy 3.....Diligent
- 10) 04 August.....2Timothy 4.....Enduring
- 11) 11 August.....Titus 1.....Living with Opposition
- 12) 18 August.....Titus 2.....Living with Integrity
- 13) 25 August.....Titus 3.....Living to Do

INTRODUCTION

- Paul stresses the need to “pay close attention” to sound doctrine so people can be saved, both from Hell and from deception
- Paul also **STRONGLY** stressed the following to Timothy, and to us:
 - ♦ v6. Point out to everyone the truth we should adhere to and the fallacies some are falling far
 - ♦ v7. Stay spiritually fit (discipline yourself to godliness)
 - ♦ v10. Again, labor & strive to stay spiritually fit
 - ♦ v11. Command & Teach these things
 - ♦ v12. Be an example of these things
 - ♦ v13. Focus on Bible reading, exhortation, & teaching
 - ♦ v14. Be diligent about all this, and let others see your growth
 - ♦ v15. Pay close attention to yourself and to your doctrine
- Out of 16 vvs, 8 vvs stress the importance of knowing and teaching sound doctrine & hammering it while being spiritually fit to do so.
 - ♦ If this is so important to Paul, what are we doing about it?

Passage	Comments
4:1	<p>Identifying False Teachings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. Why is it easy to leave the TRUTH and chase after the LIES of “deceitful spirits & doctrines of demons?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Is the “flash & bang” of false teachings exciting? ♦ Are we prone to have our flesh & ears “tingle” ♦ Is the desire to follow legalistic rules more enticing? ♦ Do we prefer immediate gratification? ♦ ...and who has got the right truth? Every denomination believes they have hold on The Truth
<p>Major branches within Christianity</p> <p>Src: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Christian_denominations_by_number_of_members</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 2.4B Christians in the world today <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half of all Christians are Catholics (1.2B) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Baptists only constitute 1% of all Protestants (~15M) • We can't get too haughty that we have a hold on The Truth 	
4:2-5	<p>Stumbling Blocks to Believing the Truth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv2-3. What is a seared conscience? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The conscience is our God-given faculty to know or discern good and evil (Gen 3:22) ♦ However, one's conscience can be weak (1Cor 8:12) or defiled (Titus 1:15) or evil (Heb 10:22); or shipwrecked (1Tim 1:19) or even seared (1Tim 4:2) ♦ To be sensitive to the Lord's leading, we need to exercise our conscience in righteousness to develop a conscience that is good (Heb 13:18), pure (1Tim 3:9), and purged from sin & dead works (Heb 9:14)

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv4-5. Apparently dietary restrictions were still a stumbling block for many at this time. All food items (including pork & lobster) are no longer forbidden - PTL • What other restrictions do some churches impose today to give an appearance of holiness?
4:6-13	<p>Be a Positive Example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v7a. What are some “worldly fables” that can trip us up? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> We need to “tolerate” alternative life styles? <input type="checkbox"/> One religion is as good as another? <input type="checkbox"/> Evolution? • v7b-9. How do we discipline ourselves for godliness? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider setting times for prayer & bible study ♦ Consider obeying the small things, e.g., speed limit ♦ ...and guard our tongue, control our eyes, do good • vv11-12, “Let no one despise your youth...” – True respect is not demanded; it is earned through example • v13. “...give attention to public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching” – Sound doctrine is what saves us and keeps us from deception, so know it well
Public Reading of Scripture within the early Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture reading in the early church played a major part of their worship, far beyond what it does today • Justin Martyr (100-167AD) described to pagans what goes on in a Christian service about the reading of “the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets for as long as time permits.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Expositor's Bible Commentary, p636
4:14-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v14. “Neglect not the spiritual gift within you, through prophecy and with the laying on of hands by the elders” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Does this happen today? Should it? ♦ CAUTION. We are not told what Timothy's gift was; we can only speculate it had to do with evangelizing or administering as an Elder. • v15. “Practice these things, be absorbed in them, so your progress will be evident to all” – Faithful, growing leaders breed faithful, growing churches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify God. • v16. Sound doctrine and persistent teaching saves. This needs to be a priority in all churches

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Notice that Paul's emphasis was on TEACHING believers, not preaching at them. Teaching involves 2-way dialogue, not a one-way monologue. **This is why Sunday School is so vital to church growth.**
- Teaching what? Easy doctrines? Non-controversial doctrines? The whole counsel of God?
- How seriously do we “labor & strive” to know & teach doctrine?
- How many hours do we spend a week in God's word?
- How many times have you read the Bible since getting saved?
 - ♦ A rule of thumb is to read through the Bible at least once a year

NEXT WEEK: 1Timothy 5. Paul addresses how to handle difficult people and situations for God's glory and the benefit of the church

