

Sermon Title: Training For Godliness Requires Instruction

Sermon Text: 2 Timothy 2:23-26

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to key remedies needed for ungodly teaching.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 keys to healthy instruction.

Introduction:

- I. The **instruction** to **obey**. V.23
- II. The **instructors** to **observe**. V.24-25a
- III. The **instructive outcome**. V.25b-26

I. The **instruction** to **obey**. V.23

The leader as well as all Christians are commanded to avoid 2 activities.

A. Christian leaders are to avoid **foolish** disputes. V.23a
This is the 3rd of 3 warnings of avoiding useless arguments with false teachers and false believers. (vv.14, 16) The word foolish describes the verbal wrangling as frivolous and unskilled because it produces nothing useful.

B. Christian leaders are to avoid **ignorant** disputes. V.23b
This is a reference to meaningless argument and discussion related to human knowledge that opposes or contradicts the Word of God, sound doctrine. This is not a reference to confronting people when the gospel or truth was at stake. An example, Paul opposes Peter to his face in **Galatians 2:11** Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed;

Jesus confronts the hypocrisy in the temple in the Gospels. False teaching is pictured critically as uneducated in its source.

Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.

C. Christian leaders are to avoid **unproductive** strife. V.23c

II. The **instructors** to **observe**. V.24-25a

A. The instructors to observe are servants of the Lord. V.24a
With the word (dulos) slave, Paul is referring to men who preached the Gospel (**Romans 1:1; Galatians 1:10; Titus 1:1**)
Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

This picture is developed from the Old Testament identification of God's servants (Moses and prophets), it includes the thought of being invested with divine authority in order to discharge various duties.

B. The instructors to observe are not **quarrelers**. V.24b
Verses 24-25a provide the pattern Pastors are to model and follow. Our behavior is to be decisively different, as the contrast created by wordplay demonstrates (the false teaching produce "machas" [quarrels]; but the Lord's slave must not "maches thai" [quarrels]). This is to be the leaders standard of operation and practice.

- C. The instructors to observe are **gentle** to all. V.24c
The Christian leader is to be an agent of kindness and peace, in order to nurture others.
- D. The instructors to observe are **able** to teach. V.24d
This is one word in the Greek meaning “skilled in teaching.” The preaching and teaching of God’s Word is the overseers/pastors/elders primary duty (**1 Timothy 4:6, 11, 13; 5:17; 2 Timothy 2:15, 24; Titus 2:1; 1 Timothy 3:2; Nehemiah 8**).
Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do *it*, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.

This indicates positive instruction in doctrine, correction, application, and obedience for those who are learning and are in error.

- E. The instructors to observe are **patient**. V.24e
This is referring to a specific type of patience, it means literally “to endure evil without resentment,” this envisions a capacity for tolerance (of insults, contradictions, and denial of truth) in the face of opposition.
1 Timothy 3:3 not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;
2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

- F. The instructors to observe **correct** gently. V.25a
This refers primarily to unbelievers, false teachers, who are (captivated by Satan, v.2b), but also could include believers deceived by the “foolish and ignorant” (v.23) speculations of the false teachers; and possibly the people like those at Ephesus.
The term “instruct” or “correct” is a verb in the Greek (paideuo) covers a wide range of activity from education
2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
Acts 7:22 "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.

to disciplining action

1 Timothy 1:20 of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Hebrews 12:9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

for individuals who are in opposition to the Apostles message and the leadership authority.

III. The **instructive outcome**. V.25b-26

- A. The 1st instructive outcome hoped for is **repentance**. V.25b
- B. The 2nd instructive outcome hoped for is **acknowledgment**. V.26a
- C. The 3rd instructive outcome hoped for is **sobriety**. V.26b

- D. The 4th instructive outcome hoped for is freedom. Paul often describes humanity as being enslaved by the devil, this world system, and their fleshly desires, therefore they are in need of rescue.
- Galatians 6:1** Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.
- 2 Corinthians 4:4** whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Deception is Satan's traps, he schemes, he is clever, and subtle, a purveyor of lies.

(**Genesis 3:4-6**)

John 8:44 "You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. **14** And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. **15** Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

Revelation 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Only knowledge of the truth brings the sobriety necessary to escape enlistment in the devil's army.

Conclusion:

1. Realize the danger of false teachers and teaching, which is capable of upsetting faith. (v.18)
2. Realize the Lord desires to act, and will act, through the corrective teaching of his slaves.
3. Realize that the possibility of repentance, conversion, and coming back to one's senses I held open to all.