

**Sermon Title: Training For Godliness Requires Sacrifice**

**Sermon Text: 2 Timothy 2:14-19**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to sacrifice non-essential debates in pursuit of Godliness.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 4 truths related to training for Godliness that require sacrifice.**

- I. Understand the Pastor's responsibilities. Vv.14-15
- II. Understand what is at stake if you don't fulfill your **responsibilities**. V.16
- III. Understand why you must **discredit** the false teachers and teaching. Vv.17-18
- IV. Understand the **benefits** of sound teaching. V.19

I. Understand the Pastor's responsibilities. Vv.14-15

A. **Remind** God's people. V.14a

B. **Reject** foolish propaganda. V.14b

Avoid arguing with false teachers i.e. deceivers who use human reason to subvert or redirect God's Word, not only is it foolish [**Proverbs 14:7** *Go from the presence of a foolish man, When you do not perceive in him the lips of knowledge.*]

and futile [**Matthew 7:6** *"Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.*],

but dangerous (**vv.16-17 cf v.23**). This is the first of 3 warnings to avoid useless arguments (**see v.16, 23**).

**1 Timothy 4:6-7** If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. **7** But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.

**1 Timothy 6:3-5** If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, *even* the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, **4** he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, **5** useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a *means of gain*. From such withdraw yourself.

**2 Peter 2:1-3** But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction. **2** And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. **3** By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

Avoid, because it only leads to ruin of the teacher and the hearer. The word "ruin" in the Greek means "overturned" or "overthrown," it appears only one other time in the New Testament

**2 Peter 2:6** and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned *them* to destruction, making *them* an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;

where it describes the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Because it replaces the truth with lies, speculation, or opinions. False teaching and debates bring spiritual catastrophe and ruin to those who listen to it, believe it, and act on it.

C. **Resurrect** diligent preparation. V.15

The word “diligent” denotes persistence in accomplishing a goal. Timothy, like all who preach, teach, and shepherd the people of God, by the Word of God, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, were to give maximum effort to impart the Word of God, completely, accurately, and clearly to their hearers. This is crucial in order to counteract the devastating and disastrous impact of foolish discussions in the church.

1. Be **diligent** in preparation. V.15a
2. Be **dedicated** in preparation. V.15b
3. Be **deliberate** in preparation. V.15c

In order to be exact you must “cut it straight”. The “it” is the Word of God. This would have been demanded in any trade such as carpentry, masonry and tent making. Precision and accuracy are required in biblical interpretation, beyond all other trades because the interpreter is handling the Word of God, the voice of God, the mind of God, the character of God, the testimony of God. To do any less is shameful, this is what the man of God has been entrusted with earlier in Timothy, the Scriptures

**John 17:17** "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

and the Gospel message in particular.

**Ephesians 1:13** In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

**Colossians 1:5** because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

II. Understand what is at stake if you don't fulfill your **responsibilities**. V.16

**1 Timothy 6:20-21** O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane *and* idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge-- **21** by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace *be* with you. Amen.

Such destructive heresy leads to only “more ungodliness.” Heresy, man based opinions, feelings, or emotions can't save or sanctify. This is Paul's second warning. (**vv.14, 23**)

III. Understand why you must **discredit** the false teachers and teaching. Vv.17-18

A. It **spreads** like cancer. V.17

1. It's impact is dangerous.
2. It's multiplication is dangerous.

B. It **separates** people from the truth. V.18

This speaks of those whose faith was not genuine (**Matthew 22:24**). Genuine saving faith cannot and will not be permanently and completely overthrown. But false non-saving faith is very often common in the church. (**Matthew 7:21-27**)

**Matthew 13:18-22** "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: **19** "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. **20** "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; **21** "yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. **22** "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

**John 6:64-66** "But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. **65** And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father." **66** From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. **John 8:31** Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

**1 John 2:19** They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

#### IV. Understand the benefits of sound teaching. V.19

- A. They mark the ownership and intimate relationship of those who belong to Christ. V.19a  
**Numbers 16:5** and he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, "Tomorrow morning the LORD will show who *is* His and *who is* holy, and will cause *him* to come near to Him. That one whom He chooses He will cause to come near to Him.  
**John 10:27** "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. **28** "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.  
**Galatians 4:9** But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how *is it that* you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?
- B. They mark the ownership and intimate relationship modeled by a pursuit of holiness.  
**Numbers 16:26** And he spoke to the congregation, saying, "Depart now from the tents of these wicked men! Touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins."  
**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? **20** For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.  
**1 Peter 1:15-16** but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, **16** because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."