

Sermon Title: Training with Effectiveness in View

Sermon Text: 1 Timothy 3:14-16 to 4:1-10

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a practice of effective training principles for godliness.

Sermon Proposition: There are 4 basic training principles for godliness.

Introduction: William Barclay has an excellent statement on men becoming tools of Satan and evil spirits. “It was from these evil spirits and demons that this false teaching came. But though it came from the demons, it came through men. ... Now here is the threatening and the terrible thing. We know that God and God’s Spirit are everywhere looking for men to use. God is always searching for men who will be His instruments, His weapons, His tools in the world. But here we come face to face with the terrible fact that the faces of evil are also looking for men to use. Just as God seeks men for His purposes, the faces of evil seek men for their purposes. Here is the terrible responsibility of manhood. Man can accept the service of God, or the service of the devil. [[The Letters to Timothy, Titus and Philemon, p.107](#)]

Hasid – This term occurs four times with reference to those who are “holy,” “good,” or “godly,” who are committed to living their lives in conformity with God’s will (cf [Ps. 4:3; 12:1; 32:6; Mal 2:15](#)) [[Expository Dictionary of Bible Words, Edited by Stephen D. Renn, Hendrickson Publishers, Peabody, Massachusetts, 2005, p.442](#)]

New Testament Words:

Eusebeia is a noun occurring fifteen times with the predominant sense of “godliness,” “piety,” denoting devotion to God characterized by a life of conformity to His will, or godly living. [[Ibid. p.442](#)]

2 Timothy 3:5 refers to false believers who merely adopt the form of “godliness” but deny its power. [[Ibid. p.442](#)]

Sound (literally, “healthy”) doctrine/teaching. This is a frequent emphasis in the Pastoral Letters. This “healthy” teaching means not simply beliefs which conform to the gospel the apostles taught, but the living out of those beliefs in Christian behavior. [[Zondervan Handbook to the Bible, Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, 1999, p.733](#)]

- I. The view of understanding the effectiveness of the [testimony](#) of godliness. 1 Timothy 3:14-16
- II. The view of understanding the effectiveness of the [transgressors](#) of godliness. 1 Timothy 4:1-5
- III. The view of understanding the effectiveness of the [teachers](#) of godliness. 1 Timothy 4:6
- IV. The view of understanding the effectiveness of the [training](#) of godliness. 1 Timothy 4:7-10

I. The view of understanding the effectiveness of the [testimony](#) of godliness. 1 Timothy 3:14-16

A. The Church is distinctive in its [conduct](#). V.14-15

- 1. The purpose of the book of 1 Timothy is to show what the church is and how it ought to function.
- 2. The Pastor must know and communicate the Word if there is going to be a standard to govern the conduct of the flock.
- 3. The goal of teaching is the transformation of lifestyles not merely the gaining of information.

B. The Church is distinctive in its [concept](#). V.15

- 1. The members of the church are to relate to one another as a family since it is a household. ([1 Tim 5:1-2](#))
- 2. The members of the church are part of an official gathering of people who have “been called out” to do kingdom business.
- 3. The members of the church make up a building to house and reflect the person and glory of God. ([1 Cor 3:11-12; 2 Cor 6:16; Eph 2:20-22](#))

- C. The Church is distinctive in its **creator**. V.15
1. Because the Church belongs to God, it is not merely a human institution.
 2. Because the members of the Church belong to God, He alone sets the standard by which they function.
 3. Because the creator of the Church is alive, then it possesses divine empowerment for its divine mission and message in a world of dead idols.
- D. The Church is distinctive in its **commission**. V.15
1. The Church is to be the foundation that holds up the truth of God just as the Temple of Diana had 127 gold laid pillars and a foundation that held up its enormous roof.
 2. The Church is to be a testimony to the truth of God just as the pillars in the Temple of Diana were a tribute to the pagan false religion of the kings who donated them.
 3. The Church is not to tamper with misrepresenting, abandoning or compromising the revelation of God as it is deposited in Scripture.
 4. The Church upholds the truth by believing it (**2 Cor 4:13**), memorizing it (**1 Pet 3:15**), meditating on it (**Josh 1:8**), studying it (**2 Tim 2:15**), and obeying it (**Luke 11:28, James 1:22, Titus 2:10**), defending it (**Phil 1:16**) and proclaiming it. (**Matt 28:19-20**)
- E. The church is distinctive in its **confession**. V.16
1. The core truth that the Church must collectively support is related to the person and work of Jesus Christ.
 2. The core truth should be reinforced by creed, song and lifestyle as indicated by the uniformity, rhythm and parallelism of the verse.
 3. The core confession of the Church embodies six truths about the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - a. He was revealed in the flesh – Jesus was not created but revealed in the incarnation (**Phil 2:6-7**).
 - b. He was vindicated in the Spirit – Jesus was declared to be the Son of God by His sinless life (**2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 2:21-22**) and resurrection from the dead (**Rom 1:4; Acts 2:24-36**).
 - c. He was beheld by angels – Jesus defeated Satan and proclaimed victory over his fallen angels in His death (**Col. 3:15; 1 Pet. 3:18-20**) and was supported by elect angels in His resurrection (**Matt 28:2; Luke 24:4-7**) and ascension (**Acts 1:9-11; Heb. 1:6**).
 - d. He was proclaimed among the nations – Jesus commissioned His disciples to be His witnesses worldwide and no nation was to be left untouched (**Matt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Col. 1:23**).
 - e. He was believed on in the world – Jesus was and will be received by multitudes from every nation beginning at Pentecost (**Acts 2:41, 47**) and culminating in heaven (**Rev. 5:9-10**).
 - f. He was taken up in glory – Jesus in His ascension demonstrated that the Father was pleased with Him, accepted His work and He has now been enthroned as Lord of the universe (**Acts 1:9-10; Heb 1:13; Phil 2:8-11**).

II. The view of understanding the effectiveness of the transgressors of godliness. 1 Timothy 4:1-5

Introduction: The challenge facing the church is to get believers to respond to the truth of God rather than the lies of Satan.

- A. The meaning of apostasy. V.1
 - 1. Apostasy is from the Greek word “aphistemi” which means to “fall away” and refers to departing from a position once held. It is willingly turning away from the faith.
 - 2. Apostasy is the result of the paying attention to error rather than truth.

- B. The participants in apostasy. V.1
 - 1. Believers are in view since they are contrasted with the demonic liars of verse 2. **(2 Tim 2:16-19)**
 - 2. Hymenaeus and Alexander apostatized and yet they were clearly believers since they had believed, had given evidence of their belief in a good conscience, and needed to be taught not to blaspheme **(1 Tim 1:18-20)**. “Taught” is commonly used of the divine chastening of believers **(1 Cor 11:32; Titus 2:12-13; Heb 12:5-6)**.
 - 3. Male believers can apostatize in life and even be worse than an apostate by not taking care of his family **(1 Tim 5:8)**.
 - 4. Female believers can apostatize and follow Satan by compromising their testimony **(1 Tim 5:14-15)**.
 - 5. Believers can depart from the faith through the influence of false teachers **(1 Tim 6:20-21)**.
 - 6. Spiritual leaders can apostatize and deny the faith (John 18:25-27).

- C. The predictability of apostasy. V.1
 - 1. The Holy Spirit predicts the inevitability of apostasy in the Word **(Deut 28:15ff; Ezek 20:38; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Thess 2:3-12; 2 Pet 3:3; Jude 18; 1 Tim 2:18, 4:1-6; Heb 3:12, 5:11-6:8, 10:26-31)**.
 - 2. The Holy Spirit predicts the inevitability of apostasy through the living Word **(Matt 24:4-12; Mark 13:22)**.

- D. The source of apostasy. V.1
 - 1. The source of apostasy is seducing spirits. “Seduce” is from the word we get our English word “planet” and means “to wander” thus “lead astray” or cause people to wander out of the orbit of the truth **(Gen 3:1-6)**.
 - 2. The Source of apostasy is the deceptive system of information that is perpetuated by the demonic realm **(2 Cor. 11:3)**.

- E. The agents of apostasy. V.2
 - 1. Human beings who are energized by demonic influence **(1 Cor 11:13-15)**.
 - 2. Human beings who intentionally live and speak falsely against the truth **(4:3; 6:5; 2 Tim 2:17-18; 3:8; 4:4; Titus 1:14)**.
 - 3. Human beings who have made themselves insensitive to the distinction between right and wrong.

- F. The content of apostasy. V.3a
 - 1. Spirituality through asceticism by forbidding of marriage which is upheld and affirmed by God **(1 Tim 3:2, 12; 5:9, 14; Gen 2:18)**.
 - 2. Spirituality through asceticism by denying oneself food which God sees as good **(Mark 7:14-23; Acts 10; 1 Cor 10:23-33; Col 2:16-23)**.

- G. The **prevention** of apostasy. V.3-5
1. Apostasy is prevented through a knowledge of God's provision.
 - a. God is the creator of all that is good
(**Gen 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31; James 1:17a**).
 - b. God intends for His goodness to be enjoyed by His children (**1 Tim 6:17**).
 2. Apostasy is prevented by a knowledge of God's person.
 - a. The goodness of God is His benevolent acts of kindness to His creation as the overflow of His nature (**Ps. 119:68**).
 - b. The goodness of God is consistent and constant because of the immutability of His character (**James 1:17b**).
 3. Apostasy is prevented by the knowledge of God's purpose.
 - a. God is glorified by our grateful acceptance of His gracious provisions
(**1 Cor 10:31**).
 - b. God is glorified through the process of sanctifying His gifts to us (**John 6:11**).

III. The view of understanding the effectiveness of the **teachers** of godliness. 1 Timothy 4:6

- A. A good servant of Jesus Christ is a **diligent** servant. V.6
1. They are diligent as **noble** servants of Jesus Christ. V.6a
 2. They are diligent as **nourished** servants of Jesus Christ. V.6b
 - a. Nourished as they **meditate** on the Word of God. (**2 Tim 2:2**)
Joshua 1:8-10 "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. **9** "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go." **10** Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,
 - b. Nourished as they **master** the Word of God.
Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.
 - c. Nourished as they **model** the Word of God. (**2 Tim 2:15; 3:16-17**)

"J. Oswald Sanders wrote, 'Spiritual ends can be achieved only by spiritual men who employ spiritual methods' (Spiritual Leadership 40)." [MacArthur, John; *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary 1 Timothy*, Moody Bible Institute, 1995, pp. 163]

IV. The view of understanding the effectiveness of the **training** of godliness. 1 Timothy 4:7-10

- A. A good servant of Jesus Christ is a **dedicated** servant. V.7
1. They reject all forms of false **doctrine**. (**Ezek 3:17-21**)
1 John 2:14 I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.
 2. They reject all forms of **worldliness**.
2 Timothy 4:4 and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.
Titus 1:14 not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.

3. They reject all forms of self-righteousness. (1 Cor 9:24-27; 2 Tim 2:3-5)

“Spurgeon described in the following words the minister who lacking godliness in his own life, would seek to lead others to it:

A graceless pastor is a blind man elected to a professorship of optics, philosophizing upon light and vision, discoursing upon and distinguishing to others the nice shades and delicate blendings of the prismatic colours, while he himself is absolutely in the dark! He is a dumb man elevated to the chair of music; a deaf man fluent upon symphonies and harmonies! He is a mole professing to educate eagles; a limpet elected to preside over angels. (*Lectures to My Students*, first series [reprint; Grand Rapids: Baker, 1980], 4)”

[MacArthur, John; *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary 1 Timothy*, Moody Bible Institute, 1995, pp. 163-164]

- B. A good servant of Jesus Christ is a disciplined servant. V.8-9
 1. They prioritize the spiritual dimensions of life. (Matt 6:33; Gal 5:22-26; Eph 4:12-16)
 2. They prioritize the mental dimensions of life. (2 Cor 10:3-6)
 3. They prioritize the emotional dimensions of life. (Col 3:1-4; Phil 4:8-9)
- C. A good servant of Jesus Christ is a dependable servant. V.10
 1. The dependable servant labors to the point of exhaustion.
 2. The dependable servant labors to the point of agony.
 - a. Because they trust in the living God.
 - b. Because they trust in the Savior of all men.
 - c. Because they trust in the Savior of all who believer. (Ps. 36:6)

“J. Oswald Sanders wrote, ‘If he is unwilling to pay the price of fatigue for his leadership, it will always be mediocre. . . . True leadership always exacts a heavy toll on the whole man, and the more effective the leadership is, the higher the price to be paid’ (Spiritual Leadership, 175, 169).” [MacArthur, John; *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary 1 Timothy*, Moody Bible Institute, 1995, pp. 166]