



leadership manual

1 Timothy



Sermon Series Notes

“Life & Doctrine” Part 2 (1 Timothy 4)

Danny Hodges – NT3507

Intro: Paul left Timothy in Ephesus to command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer. Some of these teachings involved asceticism, which simply means one who practices self-denial or self-mortification for religious purposes. Two things mentioned in the text are marriage and abstaining from certain foods. The idea was that those who remained single were more holy/closer to God than those married. Likewise, those who maintained a certain religious diet were more holy/closer to God. They not only taught that one could get closer to God by these practices, but that these practices were the initial path to God.

Right away the text teaches us that true godliness is not based on these false teachings. We will never connect with God or get closer to Him by 1. Self-effort 2. Law/regulations connected to the Law. Let's look at a few verses: Col.2:20-23; Heb.13:9; 1 Cor.8:8; Rom.14:14a; Mark 7:14-19; Acts 10:9-16ff.

Our emphasis in the text last week was pretty much “have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives tales” (false teaching). Though we transitioned near the end to the basis for our righteousness/godliness (grace/faith), we only opened the door for the emphasis this week, and that emphasis is “rather, train yourself to be godly.” So, where do we begin?

I. WHAT BIBLICAL GODLINESS LOOKS LIKE

* Areas of my life that true godliness will affect:

- Speech; James, control of the tongue; Eph.5:4

- Life (conduct, behavior); not bound by religious traditions; not living by OT Law; reminds people of Jesus...full of joy (Heb.1:9), that's why kids were attracted to Jesus, and parents on behalf of their kids...

- Love (agape); not selfish; others oriented; love God, love your neighbor, sum of all Law and Prophets...

- Faith; trusts God; not rooted in this life (Heb.11); not focused on circumstances but on things unseen...

- Purity; lives by a biblical standard of moral purity, without compromising (living with someone not your wife/husband)...

* True godliness begins with inward character, not outward conformity.

II. THE BIBLICAL PATH TO TRUE GODLINESS

A. Freedom From The Old Covenant

* Made righteous by faith; based on promise given to Abraham, not based on the Law (Gen.15:6; John 1:16-17; Heb.10:16-18; Gal.3:1-5, 10-12, 25; 5:1; 6:15-16; II Cor.5:17, 21).

* Blessing not based on obedience, but rather grace through faith (Gal.3:12). Obedience is the natural response to the grace of God in my life (Titus 2:11-13; Rom.6:15-18; James 2:14, 18). Note: discipline in a believer's life is the result of disobedience to Christ, not breaking the Law (I Cor.11, etc.).

* Striving **from** righteousness, not **for** righteousness.

* Rom.3:21; Isa.6:1-8, touched with the coals of the altar, what altar? Could not have been the altar of sacrifices under the Law, had to be the new covenant altar of Isa.53:6; Zech.3:1-9.

* There are five biblical terms that describe our salvation. The first term that's used to summarize our salvation is the term justification. In justification, the sinner stands before God as the accused and is declared righteous (II Cor.5:21). The second term is redemption. In redemption, the sinner stands before God as a slave and is granted freedom by a ransom (Gal.4:7). The third term that summarizes our salvation is forgiveness. In forgiveness, the sinner stands before God as a debtor and the debt, having been paid, is forgotten (Col.2:13). Fourth is the term sonship, where the sinner stands before God as a stranger and is made a son (Rom.8:15). Think of it. We stood before God as the accused and He declared us righteous. We stood before God as a slave and He granted us freedom. We stood before God as a debtor and He cancelled our debt. We stood before God as an enemy and He made us a friend. We stood before God as a stranger and He called us a son. Fifth, reconciliation. In reconciliation the sinner stands before God as an enemy and becomes a friend. Peace with God is made (Rom.5:1).

* New covenant obedience is not to be blessed, but because I am blessed! If you love me, you will keep my commandments. Eph.1:3-8; I John 4:19.

B. Led Of The Spirit

* II Cor.3:6; Rom.8:1-14; Gal.5:26; Rom.2:25-29

C. Renewed (Daily) Through The Word

* Rom.12:1-2; Col.3:10; Heb.4:12

* The Word of God is essential to my continued transformation. The Spirit of God uses the Word of God to keep my heart right with God.

* Note: New (and immature) believers need to be bottle fed (Heb.5:11; I Peter 2:2).

D. Transformed Progressively By The Spirit Of God

* Phil.3:15-16; Heb.10:14; II Cor.3:17-18

III. SOME FINAL PRACTICAL POINTS

A. Diligence Required

- Progress depends on diligence/discipline; word for train is “gymnasia” (gym).

- I Cor.9: 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

- The Changed Life on this point

B. Perseverance Essential

C. Having A Plan Is Necessary

1. Developing a routine (Spending Time With God)

2. Things that need to be done daily

- The Word (daily bread)

- Prayer (if my heart is out of tune, my prayer is hindered)