

1 Timothy 4 International Students in the Local Church

Disclaimer – Church Man – Most Exciting and Important Organiz in WORLD

The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence. Ephesians 1.22-23 The Message

NT picture of Christian > Person who is Connected to a Local Church

Churchless Christian - from Biblical Perspective - is OXYMORON

FEW People – Even People in Church – Think this > HARD to SEE any PROOF PROBLEMS in Local Churches – POOR Examples of PASTORS like ME!

COMMON that BEST & BRIGHTEST Avoid PASTORAL Ministry

1980's taught in Anglican Theol Colleges in Uganda & Makerere Univ in KLA

Students studying THEOL FAILED did POORLY on O Level & A Level Exams

1990's Dir Sem in Kazakhstan – Rare to Catch Highest Flying Central Asians

TRUE Paul told Corinthians church few WISE, NOBLE, LEARNED People

Para-Church SOMETIMES Attitude – Perhaps Unspoken – Who Needs Church?

Many go OUT to M Field and have NO Affiliation with LOCAL Church Live

Jesus CAME to BUILD His Church / Risen Jesus DWELLS There

1 Tim 3 PRIMARY Place of TEACHING Word of God is LOCAL CHURCH

the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. 1 Timothy 3.15

Paul promoted YOUNG Timothy to be COO of Strategic Church in Ephesus

As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. 1 Timothy 1.3-5

1 & 2 Timothy reference his Youth, Fears, Frequent Illnesses – REAL Person!

Paul leaving “young Timothy” to sort out the needs of the church in Ephesus was not because he was the only guy around

Paul left Tim in Charge of Strategic Min in Eph because he was Best guy around!

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. Philippians 2.19-22

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, 2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, 3 who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer. 6 If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. 7 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; 8 for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 9 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. 10 For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. 11 Command and teach these things. 12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. 14 Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. 15 Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. 16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

4.1-10 Recognizing False Teaching / Word of God Attacked

4.11-16 Supporting True Teaching / Word of God Adorned

International Students are Vital in Serving the Local Church by
Defending the Gospel from Contemporary Attacks

International Students are Vital in Serving the Local Church by
Displaying the Gospel through Christ-loving Adoration

v. 1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons...

‘Later Days’ – began w/ New ERA of Resurrection/Ascension/Pentecost

Acts 2:17 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people....

Heb 1:2 in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son

FUTURE Tense but PRESENT REALITY Now in the EXALTED Jesus

LAST DAYS and FIRST Days > in EDEN >> Satan’s Point of Attack WORD

Final Message to Eph Elders Paul warned “some of you” > Savage WOLVES

The Causes of Error

FALSE Teachers spread FALSE TEACHINGS > NAÏVE follow Them

Underlying POWER of FALSE TEACHERS –

1. DEMONS: v.1 deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

SATAN been ATTACKING TRUTH of God & His Word since Eden

John 8:44 the devil...not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

By his DECEPTION Seemingly INTELLIGENT People

BELIEVE very FOOLISH and DESTRUCTIVE LIES

2 Tim 2:26 that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

2. HUMAN TOOLS – Satan uses People to do his Dirty Work

Luke 22:3 Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.

v. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars - DOUBLE LIARS!

They DO NOT BELIEVE what THEY ARE TEACHING!

2 Tim 3:13 evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

3. MORAL FAILURE

v. 2 Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, *whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.*

No SENSITIVITY to God, His Word, His Spirit > DEAD in SIN

Last Week Coffee with YOUNG Leader > Counsel how to Approach Man

American came to Lead Healing Ministry in China > Abandoned Wife in USA

False Teaching offers them SUPPORT from their CONVICTION of Sin

PAUL: Acts 24:16 I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.

The Tests of Error

False Teaching in Ephesus: FALSE ASCETICISM (Self Denial)

Food and Sex – Two Basic, GOD-CREATED Human APPETITES

We are FREE in Jesus to be CELIBATE and VEGETARIAN but this is NOT COMMANDED for ALL BELIEVERS, Nor Superior Way to God

UNIVERSAL Appeal of LEGALISM – Something to Brag about before God

Theological Test: Creation

v. 3 Marriage and Food are CREATION GIFTS of God

THANKSGIVING: Both INWARD and OPEN Expression of Gratitude

DOUBLE CONSECRATION of God: Created and Re-Created in Christ

Gen 1:31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

Blessing on what GOD CREATED not what MAN PERVERTED

SEX – as God ordained only – IS BLESSED as God DESIGNED its USE

Today FREEDOM is Highly Regarded – Free Sex, Free Whatever we WANT

I am FREE to Eat whatever I WANT, WHENEVER I want

Then I will become EVEN FATTER 60 year old Man

WISE for Me to Restrict Freedom of Eating to Live LONGER and BETTER

People restrict FREEDOM to Discipline Selves to Master Musical Instrument,
Perfect their Skill in Sport, Excel in Academics, Earn Higher Salary, etc.

God's Word Clear Definition of God-Pleasing SEXUAL Ethics – True Freedom

God is to be CENTRAL and GLORIFIED in Every Area of All of our Lives

You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the play and the opera,

And I say grace before the concert and the pantomime, And grace before I open a book,

And grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing; And grace before I dip the pen in ink. G.K. Chesterton

Ethical Test: Godliness

v. 6 If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.

POINT this out i.e. Like WAITER Serving Guests > TEACH them

Good MINISTER // Good TEACHER > DO this and TEACH this

vs. 7,8 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

ATHELETE > Popular GAMES, Many TRAINED, More Watched

BODILY Self-Control – Eating, Sex, Exercise // GOOD TEACHING

Do NOT FEED on SPIRITUAL ‘Junk Food’ > Eat Well // God’s Word

‘Godliness’ – occurs 15 X’s in NT / 13 are in Pastorals / 9 in 1 Tim

Godliness = REVERANCE for God > God-Centered, not man-centered

vs. 9,10 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

Savior of ALL > ‘TO BE PRECISE’ those who BELIEVE

Paul is NOT UNIVERSALIST > Gospel for ALL NATIONS, Peoples

International Students are Vital in Serving the Local Church by
Defending the Gospel from Contemporary Attacks

Been 30 yrs since I was in Seminary – Just Average Student

Keen Minds – Boundless Energy – Godly Students needed in Local Church

Understand Times – Not just Old Battles – Defend Gospel well Today

Local Church – Engage with Others in Ministry – Uighurs > M’s

Place of Family and Support from All Generations

4.11-16 Supporting True Teaching / Word Adorned

Timothy has BIG RESPONSIBILITY for his YOUNG Age (30's)

Paul's FOCUS is NOT on Error but TRUTH & how to PASS IT ON

Some were JEALOUS of Tim, others UNTRUSTING, how to react??

International Students are Vital in Serving the the Local Church by
Displaying the Gospel through Christ-loving Adoration

Going to Reach 100,000 International Students in BJ for Christ

Need Hundreds of Students who Model Christ before them

They need to SEE MODELS LIKE THEM – That they can RELATE TO

Our Example

Paul often invited believers to IMITATE HIM – So should we...

1 Cor 11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

1 Peter 5:3 ...being examples to the flock.

v. 12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

Comprehensive Example: Speech, Life, Love, Faith, Purity(self-control)

Our Authority

v. 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

WORD of God is Authority, NOT US! > Word STUDIES US!

READ Word: Preach & Teach > EXPOSITION & Application of Word

Our Gifts

v. 14 Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.

GIFT (charisma) > teaching? discernment? leadership? All?

IMPORTANCE of a MINISTRY TEAM > One Person not have All

‘Elders’ > People of the Word, RECOGNIZE what GOD DOES in him

FAN into FLAME > Gift // Muscle – USE it or LOOSE it! GROW It!

Our Progress

v. 15 Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.

Be DILIGENT – DEVOTION of HEART and SOUL > Press ON!

Be KNOWN as SOMEONE GROWING > Progress NOT Perfection

If ACT Perfect: You’re LIAR, and DISCOURAGEMENT to Others

Only thing PERFECT in Church is JESUS and HIS WORD

Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Our Consistency

v. 16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

BALANCE – Watch YOURSELF and YOUR Ministry

No CONFLICT between PRIVATE Life and PUBLIC Life

Acts 20:28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock

SAVE Self and Others? > Perseverance is NOT CAUSE but Evidence

Mark 13:13 he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

International Students are Vital in Serving the Local Church by
Defending the Gospel from Contemporary Attacks

International Students are Vital in Serving the Local Church by
Displaying the Gospel through Christ-loving Adoration