

4.1-5.2 Leadership in the Local Church

Ch 3 Ends with ref to TRUTH and TRUE TEACHERS > Now False

PRIMARY Place of TEACHING is LOCAL CHURCH

LOCAL CHURCH leaders > Shepherds who PROTECT from Wolves

4.1-10 Recognizing False Teaching

‘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

‘Spirit clearly warns’ // Message of Jesus: “At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people” Matt 24:10-11

Rev 2:29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

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...He was a murderer from the beginning, 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

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.

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

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

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

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.

2 Cor 5:17 if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Blessing on what GOD CREATED not what MAN PERVERTED

SEX – as God ordained only – IS BLESSED (ie. Not Homo, Adultery)

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

1 Tim 6:17 God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights,

Ethical Test: Godliness

v. 6 POINT this out i.e. Like WAITER Serving Guests > TEACH them
Good MINISTER // Good TEACHER > DO this and TEACH this

v. 7 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

Ps 16:8 I have set the LORD always before me.

To be TRAINED in God’s Book you need GODLY BEHAVIOR

Vs. 9,10 Savior of ALL > ‘TO BE PRECISE’ those who BELIEVE

Paul is NOT UNIVERSALIST > Gospel for ALL NATIONS, Peoples

4.11-5.2 Supporting True Teaching

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??

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.

We are LEADERS NOT LORDS / SERVANT Leaders NOT FORCE!

v. 12 Tim is be BROTHER, not a BOSS // NO SENIOR PASTOR/CEO

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

Our Authority

v. 13 WORD of God is Authority, NOT US! > Word STUDIES US!

READ ALOUD – Continue Tradition of Reading OT from Synagogue

Neh 8:8 They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.

Luke 4:16-17 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. 17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him.

NT Letters are on SAME LEVEL as OT Scriptures:

1 Thess 5:27 I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers.

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

Our Gifts

v. 14 GIFT (charisma) > teaching? discernment? leadership? All?

IMPORTANCE of a MINISTRY TEAM > One Person not have All

‘Prophetic Message’ (1.18) > Message from among Ordaining Elders?

‘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 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 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

Phil 2:12-13 Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

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

1 Cor 9:22 I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.

Our Relationships

5.1,2 Tim led Churches of Men /Women, Old/Young > Respect All

OLDER – Do not be SHARP or Severe, but Kind and Respectful

Rom 16:13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me, too.

'Uncle' and 'Aunty' – Words of RESPECT / Patronymic? / Cultural

PEERS – Do not be PROUD, Treat with PURITY

Church is FAMILY: We do NOT TREAT Everyone in Family the Same