

I Timothy 4, Sermon #2

1 Timothy 4

Pastor Timothy was warned by God that some people will depart from the Faith.

They will believe lies instead of holding to the truth.

We call this – apostasy

Apostasy is the willful and deliberate turning away from the truth of the Word of God.

Now this work of deception is Satan's work (vs. 1). How does the church combat such a devastative work?

God focuses on the leader of the church of Ephesus – His name was Timothy, and God gave him specific instructions. 1st in vs. 6-11, in His relations with His congregation and 2nd in vs. 12-16, in relation to Himself.

I have entitled today's message "A Good Pastor – Part 1"

I Timothy 4:6

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word.

I Timothy 4:6-11

Let us pray

You may be seated

A Good Pastor – Part 1

Pastors are often evaluated on the basis of the wrong criteria.

A congregation often looks for the wrong thing in a pastor—degree, dress, charismatic personality, experience, etc.

There are certain qualities that are to characterize the ministry of a good pastor.

Much of the ministry of a good pastor is that of communication.

Notice he is to communicate with the congregation – Vs. 6a.

“**the brethren**”, God’s people

Part of this communication is reminding the people of error. These things in vs. 6 refers to the false teachings of verses 2 & 3. Remind the people of what the truth is .

That phrase “To put in remembrance” – is one word in the Greek. It means to lay down, to lay it out.

He was to tell the people – we call this educating the flock, or warning the flock. Of course, the ministry is not to be dominated by a negative blasting, because a preacher can easily fall into this trap with all the sin of our culture. Political problems, Hollywood, sin.

Timothy was to also focus on positive doctrines in building up their faith through God’s Word (Vs. 6c, 13, 16).

The sinfulness of man, his need for a Savior, biblical creation, the love of God, the judgment of God, the whole counsel of the Word.

God’s people need to have a strong foundation; this enables the believer to discern good and evil, truth and falsehood.

The way to defeat false doctrine is not only by denouncing and refuting it, but also by positively teaching what the truth is.

The primary focus of the ministry is to be positive, to build up the people of God, because holiness is more than avoiding error, it is being built up with truth.

When we have learned this book and things come – we should be able to say – something is not right. That is the doctrine of demons or that is the doctrine of God.

We do not have to go out and spend all of our time studying false doctrine, false teachers, leaders, cults and so on. These things will continue to change, evolve in order to seduce. But the Bible does not change. This Bible is where we must spend the majority of our time. We have to have a balanced ministry.

And the failure to think Biblically has cost the church dearly.

It has allowed the infiltration of all sorts of error.

That in turn, has led to the church's becoming confused and weak.

Soft preaching with no conviction - consisting of watered down teaching and weak theology has replaced doctrinally strong expositional preaching.

The resulting legacy has been one of charismatic confusion, psychological babble, social endeavors, and disunity.

Much of that chaos can be attributed directly to the failure of pastors to think critically and preach with conviction.

So many pastors have failed to draw the line clearly between truth and error and build their people up in the rich and sound doctrine of God's Word.

Such weak preachers are often said to compensate by having what some call a “pastor’s heart.”

A pastor’s heart, however, is not measured by how good a man is at petting sheep, but by how well he protects them from wolves and feeds them so they grow to be mature and strong. Ezekiel 3:17-21 teaches we have the duty to warn people regarding the truth. 2 Timothy 4:1-3. People want to be with people who make them feel good about themselves.

The Bible is offensive – rock of offense and a stone of stumbling, 1 Peter 2:8. They stumble at the Word, being disobedient.

A man of God must develop with strong conviction.

- He must continually warn his people of error as the need arises.
- He is the protector of his flock.

I. So a good pastor reminds the people. Recalls the truth to them.

II. Secondly, A good pastor refutes false teaching. He has got to say it as it is.

4:7a

Refuse means “to have nothing to do with it” – is a strong word, meaning “reject” or “put away.”

Refuse anything that contradicts the Word of God or adds to the Word of God.

Fables oftentimes takes the Bible out of context.

From September 11 – all people go to Heaven. He that hath the Son hath life.

We all serve the same God.

Turn to II Timothy 4:4

1 Timothy 4:7, Old wives tales.

As a young boy I remember there were a lot of sayings that the older people would quote to me. Superstitions – black cat, broken mirror, ladder.

“Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.

The pastor is to remind, refute

The pastor is to communicate with authority – vs. 11

Paul’s command to Timothy contrasts sharply with much contemporary preaching.

Preaching in our day is:

- often intriguing, but seldom commanding;
- often suggesting but seldom demanding,
- often entertaining, but seldom convicting;
- often popular, but seldom powerful;
- often interesting, but less often transforming.

God does not ask Timothy to share or make suggestions to his congregation.

Rather, he is to deliver the truth to them, “to command,” or “to order” as in a mandate – a call to obedience by one in authority.

Everything God commanded Timothy to be he was to command others to be.

The minister’s preaching and teaching are to be authoritative, done in a command mode.

The Bible is our authority for eternity. All of it.

Titus 2:15, *“These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.”*

A faithful servant of the Lord is bold.

He confronts sin, unbelief, and disobedience without waffling.

Now, his authority is built not upon himself, or his giftedness or his education.

His authority to build upon a number of things.

- **First**, a strong commitment to the authority of God's Word.
A man who is unsure if the Bible is God's Word will lack authority in his preaching.
- **Second**, proper interpretation of Scripture.
The man who is not sure what the Bibles means will also lack authority in his preaching.
- **Third**, a knowledge that the truth of God's Word will be upheld and enforced by Church discipline. Does this church hold to the Bible and if necessary discipline its members?
- **Fourth**, the knowledge that the preacher is not to please men. He is preaching to please God
-

A good pastor preaches with authority.

- His preaching is marked by commands based on the authority of Scripture.
- He is not afraid to boldly proclaim the Word of God and let the Word do its work.

Vs. 11 – That word “command” – is a military word.

It means to pass along the orders

We are under orders

The people must voluntarily, willingly bring themselves under the orders.

Hebrews 13:17, *“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”*

God is the General of the Lord's Army. Jesus Christ is the head of the church.

- Churches are companies of soldiers spread out all over the world.
- Pastors don't originate the orders. They just pass them along.

Why won't the Church engage in the combat God says for the Church to be in?

- Soulwinning
- Discipling
- Baptizing converts
- Preaching

Too many delay in their obedience

Too many question the directives of the Commander.

Some believers do not obey God's orders – march in wrong direction.

We are a people under orders, but when the Church decides to do its own thing and go AWOL—you ever heard of a court marshal?

The good pastor is a minister, a servant of Jesus Christ (vs. 6c). Jesus is the Master. What he commands are the marching orders for the pastor. The good pastor is to remind his people of the truth, refute error, teach and preach with authority.

The good pastor is to be a student of Scripture.

Look at vs. 6D

This quality is basic to excellence in ministry, but is sadly lacking in the church today.

Nourished up – this is how the pastor is to grow in the Word of God.

Much of today's preaching is weak and produces weak churches because it reflects a lack of Biblical knowledge, and a minimal commitment to the study of Scripture.

The result is impotent sermons, malnourished people.

The good pastor was to be in the Word so he could spot false teachers and teachings. He is the first line of defense and he was also to be teaching doctrine to the people.

The continual experience of being **nourished** on the truths of God's Word is essential.

- It's not a one-time deal. It was to be a consistent and constant diet of this Book
- Many pastors are nourished on the news, Limbaugh, O'Reilly, magazines, books

No, it's the faith and good doctrine – synonymous terms of vs. 6.

Faith reflects the body of Christian truth contained in Scripture.

A preacher must know it.

Such an exhortation is needed because any man of God can be tempted to lose his heart for the Word and when he loses his heart for the Word, he will lose his heart for the work.

An excellent minister must be an excellent student of Scripture.

He cannot give out what he does not take in.

Vs. 13

A good pastor publicly reads the Scriptures

A Good Pastor – Part 1.

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Every eye closed.

Are we toying with false beliefs?

Are we paying more attention to the Da Vinci Code, psychological jargon, positive thinking, New Age beliefs?

Are we constant and consistent in the Word of God? Is our Bible used every day?

Are we following the Lord's commands or just picking and choosing what we deem necessary?

Jesus said, "ye must be born again."

God has commanded men everywhere to repent and believe on His Son Jesus Christ.

Have you done that?