

## I Timothy Sermon #4

Turn in your Bibles tonight to the Book of I Timothy

Last week we looked at the leadership's response to false teaching, heteras doctrine. And vs. 3 told us the proper response and that is to refuse its teaching in our assembly.

That they teach no other doctrine.

I've entitled tonight's message "The Goal and Aim of Preaching"

I Timothy 1:3

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

I Timothy 1:3-8

Let us pray

You may be seated

## The Goal and Aim of Preaching

Last week we looked at the effects of teaching on the assembly

Healthy teaching – positively (vs. 5) – recognize its benefits and

Unhealthy teaching – negatively (vs. 19-20) – recognizing its danger

God's truth always purifies the human spirit, while error putrefies it

Four things about variant teaching (vs. 4):

### I. First of all, it is endless – real problems

Anything that is endless – no termination which means they could argue about it from

here to when Christ comes and it would never be settled

Why can it not be settled?

We don't have clear revelation about it.

Today we are still weighed down with controversies which have been haggled about for

centuries dividing God's people—it's unnecessary!

### II. Secondly, they raise questions/doubts — they send God's people out fishing, trying

to find some verse to prove their theory – what I call “out-of-the-way research.”

Anything that keeps people away from the Lord and His path – out of the central stream

– that is variant teaching

### III. Thirdly, vs. 4, variant teaching is not good stewardship

Godly encouragement – vs. 4

One of its problems is we don't get accomplished what God want us to do – we are to

be profitable servants

### IV. #4 – Fourth characteristic of variant teaching is that it doesn't rest in faith

Variant teaching rests in works or the desire to satisfy the intellectual mind – heavy

doctrinal matters

So rather than having simple faith about these things, we go beyond revelation logically

and we don't rest in faith

Trinity, hypostatic union

Where evil came from – sin came from – God came from

He has always been and that's what He said

Now, beginning in verse 5, Paul gives to Timothy the goal of pastoral preaching  
He gives Timothy one of the reasons why he should respond strongly to variant teaching

The goal should always be in focus for the teaching and preaching of the Word

Vs. 5 – now, the end, the point of, (the goal) of the commandment!

What commandment? To refuse variant teaching (vs. 3)

What is the whole purpose of the commandment I just gave you?

Paul discusses the goal of pastoral preaching

Love – agape – the whole reason – the promotion of agape love

What is the connection?

Love is not an emotion – think of love – it is a self-sacrificing action

The same kind of love – Matthew 22:36-40,

*“Master, which is the great commandment in the law?”*

*Jesus said unto him, ‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

*This is the first and great commandment.*

*And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.*

*On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”*

Love shows itself in action

If we love God correctly, we will automatically be keeping the Word of God

If we love people correctly, we will automatically be treating them correctly

Proper promotion of a love that fulfills God's commands

Then Paul gives us the source out of which that love comes

Look at vs. 5

Out of three things – the sources of the love

#1 – a pure heart – that is in contrast to our old nature – only comes by the cleansing power of the blood of Christ

#2 – a good conscience – can only come by confession – daily communing with God

#3 – an unfeigned faith – literally, unhyprocritical faith

Those three are the springs from which flow the love that makes me fulfill my obligation to God and man

Let's turn those three around and look at their opposites

For instance, a clean/pure heart – impure heart

How does an impure heart respond to man?

What is my response? Matthew 15:19

Matthew 15:19, *“For out of the heart proceed evil thought, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”*

Out of the heart proceed evil things

My heart naturally brings forth opposite of what God demands

Vs. 5

How about a poor conscience?

Hypocritical faith – profess but in practice

Therefore, my practice does not match my profession

If God really cleanses my heart, my heart will spontaneously erupt with love to both God and man

And, my conscience will not approve of anything that violates that love

And, my faith – my practice will be in keeping with my profession to really love God and man

That really gives to us the aim a preacher must aim at in his preaching.

He wants to get that kind of love promoted in the church

How does he do that?

Well, in his preaching, he looks at his people and he has three targets:

One – is clean heart – he wants clean heart

Second is a good conscience – a conscience that approves what's right

Thirdly – a sincere faith

These three things are the targets of any teaching and preaching and thus they are the  
test of preaching

Is my personal study of the Word producing a (good) clean heart, good conscience,  
good faith?

Does my teacher, does my preacher – help produce in me a clean heart, a good  
conscience, a good faith?

If that is not taking place, either the doctrine is wrong or the emphasis is wrong

That's what vs. 5 is saying

Our preaching must shoot at these targets

The goal is love and love springs from three sources

Now, did you know it is possible to miss that goal?

It is.

Paul talks about them in vs. 6 and 7 – preachers and teachers who miss that goal

He says the goal of love can be missed

Vs. 6-7

Vs. 6 – Paul gives us a pattern for missing the goal – it has three steps to it

You'll see this from the text

First, some having swerved – that just simply says, “to miss” the proper mark

Or, it means not to aim at the right thing

The word “which” (vs. 6) is plural, referring to all three of those things in vs. 5

Some people have not aimed at those three things – they have swerved to miss them  
and are shooting for a different goal.

Not aiming for a clean heart – aiming for crowds

Not aiming at a good conscience – aiming at laughter

Second step (vs. 6) they have turned aside – they have not aimed at the right things  
They have gone off course.

They have turned aside to what? vs. 6

Turned from three things to what?

It could be a thousand things and they have landed in vain jangling – literally empty talk

Talk that does not meet the goal – speech that is no profit – fruitless discussion

It does not result in the fulfillment of God's goal

Now there is a reason for this pattern and that reason is given to us in vs. 7 – the  
reason for missing

Vs. 7

7a – desiring to be a teacher – is a good thing

7 b, c – desire without knowledge

People who long to teach, but they do not have knowledge

Very religious Jews who now desired to teach. They were not trained.

They affirmed – they didn't even understand the things they were very confidently  
affirming

They were making confident assertions and they didn't even understand what they were  
confidently asserting.

James 3:1 – be not many teachers

Stop presuming to be teachers – why? – because a teacher has grave responsibilities

A desire without knowledge

A desire without the proper knowledge to go with it

Let us stand for closing invitation.

These three wonderful graces:

A pure heart

A good conscience

A sincere faith

Are the things the Bible says should be manifested by believers in the local church