

## Good Doctrine

*First Timothy 4:6 – 16*

<>-<>-<>-<>-<>-<>-<>-<>

~ Our Spiritual Safari continues on with the apostle Paul through the peaks and valleys of taking the entire Word of God to the entire world in the sound doctrine of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Our goal in this expedition is to know Christ and the power of His resurrection; and to discover our Savior and Lord on every page of Holy Writ. When we accomplish those goals, we will be conformed to His image, and the mystery of Godliness shall be revealed unto us. Quite candidly, there is no other way to know God, His Son, or to recognize the Holy Spirit within us; outside of an educated, sincere, systematic, daily, proper, correct, complete, Spirit-filled and Spirit-led Bible study, taught by the man who loves Christ, loves His Word, and obeys God in every aspect of his life, then it's just not going to happen. You can sit in the front row of a church pew every single day for the rest of your life, sing the hymns lustily and fall down at an altar every fifteen minutes, yet still remain as spiritually dead as any lost man in this dying world. Until you make a concerted effort to know, understand, and *OBEY* the Word of God, there won't be any spirituality in your life. If there is spirituality outside of those parameters, then you may be sure those spirits are not from above.

Every book of the Bible fits harmoniously together with all other books contained in the canons of Scripture; and the sixty-six books that we examine in depth on this safari are the exclusive selections from the literary world with any credibility concerning the things of the Lord Jesus Christ. This extremely important section of Scripture that deals with church government is also a prophesy of total apostasy that will ultimately come into the church; that is, men will profess to believe, but will move away from sound doctrine until they reach the place where they deny the Word of God altogether. That is happening presently as myriad cults and isms place an entirely wrong emphasis on the Scriptures. Because of that, we need good and right ministers to warn people of heresies and modern-day blaspheme....

***6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good teacher of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.***

~ Teaching the Bible is a ministerial gift from God that some men are given, and others are not. Some have the gift of a pastor; who deals with others personally, and ministers individually. Some people have the ministerial gift of supporting a church materially; and some have the gift of a prayer ministry but, either way, all believers are to be ministers who handle the Word of God responsibly, learnedly, and in a trustworthy manner. I see so many so-called Christians go off on tangents of every conceivable subject; and, face it, friends, those who do that are not saved, they are only looking for attention, and are utterly devoid of understanding. Mass multitudes of deceived people who are totally and completely ignorant of the Word of God only desire to divide the brethren. They accept only the things they want to hear. They never study the Bible, have no intention of professing the truth, have no interest whatsoever in that which is right – except as it fits a preconceived notion they hold in error.

There is so much religion today, and the work of Satan is so blatantly obvious in religious circles, that there is a constant danger present that any pastor or preacher could easily go off the rails and crash. I see some people pass along these safari reports, but the next thing they say is absolutely contrary to what the Holy Spirit has just taught them from His Word. Many self-professing believers are so thoroughly confused in their life that they literally do not know up from down, or left from right. They embody a pathological lie. It is utterly astonishing to witness what happens on social media – all in the Name of Jesus. Many people rail against false teachers, and incessantly call the devil a liar, when they wouldn't know a truly genuine child of God from the children of the devil if Satan personally bit them on their arm. So many people believe anything and everything they see and hear; it depends only on which way the wind is blowing at that particular moment for them. Well, I thank God for those of you who are actually learning something of the truth, and coming to know the Lord Jesus Christ as a result of these reports....

***7 And refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.***

~ You and I are commanded to practice Godliness in our lives, friends. We are instructed to refuse profanity and worldly philosophies. Most of us were taught many things that are ridiculously unbiblical. In the workplace today, it is almost impossible to escape sexual innuendo and perverted insinuations without being labeled a total prude. Well, I suggest we develop the reputation for being the prude. Moreover, there are the diet-faddists running around thinking that what they eat makes them spiritual. If you ask the diet-faddist's about their recommendations, you'll quickly discover that there are literally thousands of books concerning diet, and they almost all totally disagree with each other. For example, some say eat more broccoli to cure cancer; and some say don't eat broccoli at all, because it may cause cancer. Well, I don't know if this or that would work for you or not, because certain things may or may not cure cancer in some people, and other things may or may not cure the cancer in other people. Why not take everything you eat to the Lord in a thanksgiving prayer? When we do return thanks for everything, then that thing can edify our body, be sanctified for our body, and nourish our fleshy body – as well as our soul. Even so, no minister should ever emphasize the physical body; we are *ONLY* to emphasize the Word of God....

***8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.***

~ I don't believe Paul was downgrading the health benefits of bodily exercise, because Paul spent years going from place to place; and most of that travel was done by walking. It would have taken a rugged, healthy individual to crisscross the Roman Empire as Paul did. Remember, the people in Paul's day, and in that region, were obsessed with games and athletics. Almost every city in the Roman Empire had an elaborate coliseum where great spectacles were made of human ability. So many so-called Christians today put a larger emphasis on their own bodies and health than on the Word of God – and then they wonder why they are constantly sick

and hurting. Well, the cause of chronic pain and suffering is not a profound mystery, friends....

***9 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.***

~ Many people espouse an easy-believism — an overly-simplified turning to the Lord. They assert that a Christian can live their life on their own terms, and expect God to validate whatever they dream-up. It is not popular to teach that a Christian *WILL* experience consequences for our sins in *this* life. We'll never escape that truth. Some of the consequences of our willful disobedience may carry lifelong repercussions; problems that hurt physically, emotionally, and spiritually. You can just write that down. Yes, the prodigal son got out of the pigpen and went home — but he lost his inheritance. Careless living in *this* life is going to be realized in eternity; there will be a price to be paid. If you want to be healthy, and eat right, and exercise and tone the flesh — fine, no problem — but you had better make sure Godliness comes *FIRST* — or all of our efforts will result in futility; and we will suffer loss for it. The physical being ends with this body returning to dust; but spiritual Godliness will be carried over to our eternal state in the afterlife....

***10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.***

~ If you stand for the Word of God and the Lord Jesus Christ today, it is going to cost you something; and that something will be everything. What we need to understand is that Jesus is the Savior of all who will turn to Him. Now, “.... *the Savior of all men....*” doesn't mean those who reject Him; it means all men that will believe and accept Him, trust Him, and obey Him. Any man, of any color, in any physical condition, from any nationality, and of any language can come to the Lord Jesus and be saved. Conversely, any man has the right to *reject* Christ and turn down His offer of salvation. We all have a free will — and it comes with a responsibility....

***11 These things command and teach.***

***12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.***

***13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.***

~ We are to be an example of the Lord Jesus Christ in the world. In everything we do, we are to set a Christian example. That means being mature; and “*perfect*” in Scripture means *mature*. The only way we will ever know how to be a perfect example is by applying the truth and wisdom of the Word of God to our lives – no other way, friends – none whatsoever. We *MUST* study the Bible properly, correctly and completely. I cannot overstate the imperative urgency of understanding and accepting that fact. Manifesting the Word of God publicly in our actions and attitude is what we are commanded to do *AT ALL TIMES*.

One can never think wrong and act right. There’s only one way to think right; and I think you know what I am going to say it is. Today, the last thing the church promotes is getting the entire Word of God to the entire world in sound doctrine; and that’s why the church today is missing its main component of functional usefulness. This is all applicable to *Y-O-U* personally, my friends. Only a correctly growing minister can facilitate a properly growing church and form a complete body of believers. Now, I know this is brand new thinking to some people. Even many who know to do this don’t do it. You may have your moments of self-righteousness pygmy piety – but it doesn’t last very long....

***14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.***

~ I believe Paul had predicted what Timothy would do many years before the time in which we are studying. The elders of the church laid hands on Timothy to symbolize making him a partner in ministry; and it is a good symbolic gesture to execute to new officers and church members – but the laying on of hands is purely symbolic – it doesn’t communicate spirituality or anointing or transfer healing or anything like that. Frankly, it’s just pure religious idiots talk to proclaim something by touching someone else. What

you risk is transferring some type of disease germs – but nothing else. There is simply no excuse for a child of God not to study the Word of God.

Further, the modern so-called “*daily devotions*” are not a substitute for a sincere study of the Bible, either. You can’t open the Bible at night, when the events of the day have worn you down to the point where you cannot even think straight, and expect to learn the Bible. Likewise, you can’t learn the Bible in a five minute cursory reading of a disconnected verse from a fractured passage, and a paragraph of philosophical opinion, first thing in the morning when you are already running late for work. You couldn’t study geometry, or higher mathematics, or any science that way; and it doesn’t work that way with the Word of God, either, my friends.

The Lord Jesus Christ is worthy of every moment of attention we can give Him. Even in our best moments, you won’t be able to give God the best of all He deserves. May God have mercy on the minister who neglects so great a salvation, and the opportunity such as we have today. You would be better off being a lying, murdering thief as opposed to the man who is supposed to be giving out the Word of God and supporting those who do, but neglects to do so. That’s what Paul is talking about here. Let’s learn and understand and think about all of this today as our Spiritual Safari ends another perspicacious leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God....

***15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.***

***16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto this sound doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee ~***

<>-<>-<>-<>-<>-<>-<>

...oh, let me know the power of the resurrection ~  
~ oh, let me show Thy risen life in calm and clear reflections....  
...let me give out of the gifts Thou hast freely given me ~  
~ let me live with life abundantly because Thou livest in me....

<>-<>-<>-<>-<>-<>-<>-<>