

I Timothy 4:1-8
Proper Training

Demonic Teaching (1-5)

Warnings from the Holy Spirit (Acts 20:28-31) – ***it will arise from within***

Faith will be abandoned (II Timothy 4:3-4) – ***it will lead people away from the Word***

Followers of deceiving spirits (II Peter 2:19) – ***are slaves of depravity***

Who brings these teachings?

Hypocritical liars (Matthew 23:4-5, 13-15, 27-28) – ***those who pretend to be righteous***

Hot-irons have seared their consciences – ***they don't recognize their own sin***

(II Tim. 3:13)

What they teach – external rules taught by men (Mark 7:5-9, 19) – ***makes them appear holy***

Celibacy – ***how can they be the husband of one wife? (I Timothy 3:2)***

Certain food restrictions – ***adherence to the O.T. Law (Colossians 2:16-17)***

Whom they oppose – the Creator of all things – ***suggesting that they know better than God***

Created good – ***see Genesis 1***

For those who believe – ***we use the things of Creation as God intended***

For those who know the truth – ***we worship the Creator, not His Creation***

Consecrated by prayer and thanksgiving – ***thankful for God's provision***

Discipline for Godliness (6-8) – ***important for us who serve Jesus our Lord***

Good teaching – ***teaching based on the Scriptures!***

Truth of who we are in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17) – ***we have been made new***

Truths we have been taught (II Thessalonians 2:15) – ***things we have learned from Him***

Godless myths – ***ideas and practices that do not have their origins in God's Word***

Worldly (profane) teachings (II Peter 2:18-19 / Jude 4) – ***pursuing the flesh***

Worthless – not worth the time (I John 4:4-6) – ***not in line with Jesus' teaching***

Godliness: - ***our goal! One of the building blocks of our faith (II Peter 1:3-9)***

Physical training is inferior (though it has some value) – ***healthy bodies are good***

Preparing spiritually – a disciplined life (I Corinthians 9:24-27) – ***greater importance***

Promise for this life and the next – ***living with purpose and hope***

Discussion questions for I Timothy 4:1-8

What causes the heart to become hardened – the conscience to be seared? How can this be avoided? (Genesis 4:6-7 / II Chronicles 36:16 / Hebrews 3:12-13; 5:14 / James 1:13-18, 22)

Ignoring God's warnings concerning sin. Ignoring God's message, refusing to repent. Allowing sin to be practiced, becoming habitual in my life. Not putting God's disciplines into practice. Not recognizing the source of temptation (myself) and allowing sin to flourish. Not believing that what is good comes only from God and not putting God's word into practice, deceiving myself.

God's response to His Creation: "And God saw that it was good." What makes things that are created good become bad? (I Timothy 1:8 / Mark 7:5, 13,14-19 / Proverbs 5:18-21 / I Corinthians 7:1-2, 9)

Using what God gave, which is good, in the wrong way or for the wrong purpose. Putting man's traditions and rules ahead of God's law thus trying to make ourselves appear as righteous. Going outside the bounds God has set for enjoying the privileges of marriage. Taking anything that God has given and abusing or using them in a way that dishonors God.

What makes false teaching attractive? (II Peter 2:18-19 / II Timothy 3:1-5 / Galatians 6:12-14)

It appeals to the flesh. It either gives us a sense of pride and superiority or it offers license to indulge fleshly desires. It ignores the truth that our hearts are wicked, and encourages us to follow our hearts. It lies about who God is (holy, just and good) and who we are (sinful, wicked and rebellious). It gives us something that we can boast about in ourselves – thus blinding us to our need of Jesus.

How can we train and discipline our lives unto godliness? (II Timothy 3:16-17 / Hebrews 5:11-6:3 / Philippians 4:6-9 / I Thessalonians 5:16-24)

Allow His word to teach, rebuke, correct and train us. Put the clear teachings of Scripture into practice in our lives such that they become our manner of living. Get our focus in the right place – not on ourselves, but on Him who is worthy. Let rejoicing, prayer, and thanksgiving overflow from our lips and hearts. Avoid that which is evil and practice that which is good. Understanding that we need Jesus to have control of our lives through the Holy Spirit who dwells within us – that we might accomplish anything of value for Him.

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