

Title: Avoid False Teachers – Part 2

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:6-9

Series: The Pastoral Epistles

1. Introduction:

- a. Beloved, last time we studied 2 Timothy we were confronted with the truth that in the last days, the period between the first and second advent of Christ, the church would face times (seasons) of great difficulty (affliction).
- b. The apostle Paul warned Timothy that these seasons would ever increase and that the church would experience relative little periods of peace from the devastating impact of false doctrines promoted by the false teachers within the church.
 - i. Self-love, which is the mark of a false teacher, is also the root of their evil ministry. This self-love leads to a host of sins that categorizes the lives and teaching of the false minister.
 - ii. We were warned to avoid these individuals at all cost. They seem to have an appearance of godliness, and yet they deny the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.
 - iii. We concluded that in order to gauge a man, we must compare that man to the example left to us by Jesus Christ. A minister of our Lord will walk in the footsteps of Christ and not in the sins enumerated in verses 2-5.

- c. The reason why Timothy must turn away from false teachers is now declared to us in our passage today.
 - i. Timothy must turn away from such people because they will embolden the sinful heart to pursue another gospel. They emboldened the sinner to continue in their sin and never seek repentance.
 - 1. An example of this can be found in **Exodus 7:11-13** Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers, and they, the magicians of Egypt, also did the same by their secret arts. (12) For each man cast down his staff, and they became serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. (13) Still Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.
 - d. We learn that the false teachers are committed to capturing the weak to infiltrate the church even further. Their purpose is to draw people to themselves but not to Christ.
 - e. Timothy is to recognize such people and avoid them. He is to warn the church and protect the sheep. Today we look further into this command.
2. Verse 6A: Satan's Evil Desire: For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women,

- a. Out of the group of false teachers described in 1-5 of this chapter come those false prophets who specialize in the art of **captivating weak women**.
 - i. They are not successful with all the women, of course. Many women are far too godly to engage with such false prophets. The scriptures gives wonderful examples of biblically strong women.
 1. **2 Timothy 1:5** I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.
 2. **Romans 16:1-2** I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, (2) that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.
- b. While it might be tempting to read into this passage a low opinion of women on the part of Paul, the passage clearly describes a particular group that has proven especially susceptible to the false teachers and not all women.
- c. Notice the devious methods that these false teachers utilize in their deception. The bible tells us that these false teachers **creep into households**. They purposely infiltrate the homes of these weak women.
 - i. This infiltration probably took place when their husbands were not at home.

1. **Genesis 3:1** Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”
- ii. These men, then, wormed their way into these homes. Why is it that they seek out women? The answer is clear. They knew that women (especially women of this particular brand) are easier to mislead than men? The belief among these false teachers was that once they had the women on their side, the men would be sure to follow.
 1. **Genesis 3:6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.
- d. It is reasonable to imagine that the false teaching that was gripping these weak women was a new approach to the traditional female role in the household and community. We know that the church in Ephesus was fighting the adoption of cultural trends that were antibiblical.
 - i. **1 Timothy 2:8-15** I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; (9) likewise also that women should adorn themselves in

respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, (10) but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. (11) Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. (12) I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. (13) For Adam was formed first, then Eve; (14) and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. (15) Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

- e. This same danger is present in our world today. Much of the radical militant feministic theology has infiltrated the church through media, education, and entertainment.
 - i. The results are that we have a church in which we do not understand much about what it means to be a Godly man or woman.
 - 1. We have sacrificed the biblical teaching of femininity and masculinity.
 - 2. We have ignored the biblical teaching on marriage and its sanctity.
 - 3. We have redefined the marriage roles of men and women.
 - a. **Titus 2:4-5** and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, (5) to be self-controlled,

pure, working at home, kind, and
submissive to their own husbands, that
the word of God may not be reviled.

ii. The results have been devastating!

f. If you are to call yourself a Christian, you must obey
God's words in everything. I challenge you to read
the Scriptures and find all the biblical passages
regarding your role. I challenge you to adopt only the
biblical view and live accordingly.

3. Verse 6B and 7: Three Weakness Exemplified: burdened
with sins and led astray by various passions, (7) always
learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the
truth.

a. First, we find that these weak women **were burdened
with sins**. The women who false teachers had
captured are set apart from godly women in the
following way: the vulnerable women are described
as presently being in an overloaded state of sinfulness.

i. Paul's point is that the influence of sin on their
troubled conscience has made these women
vulnerable to the lies of the false teachers.

ii. These women were committing evil by disobeying
the Word of God, and the fact that they welcome
the smooth-talkers seems to reveal that their sins
have given them an uneasy feeling in regards to
their eternal estate.

1. These women were probably afraid of the consequences of their sins but were not necessarily ashamed of them.
 2. There was no remorse for present sin as expressed by Paul in **Romans 7:24**
Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?
- b. Secondly, they are **led astray by various passions**. Perhaps we may think of such things as the desire to find an easy way out of their guilt-complex, the desire to gain recognition, to be considered “well-informed,” to satisfy their curiosity, to have attention bestowed upon them by “prominent” representatives of the opposite sex, etc.
- i. **Led astray by various passions**, they were unable to fight off harmful impulses
- c. Thirdly, these weak-minded women are **constantly learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth**. They are eager disciples, listening to their immoral teachers. However, they are unwilling to confess their sins openly. They will not resist the evil promptings of their nature and this results in there **never being able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth** as revealed in the gospel.
- i. We read about this type of sin in **2 Corinthians 3:14-16** But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. (15) Yes, to this day

whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. (16) **But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.**

4. Verse 8: History Repeats Itself: Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith.
- a. In this verse, we shift our attention back to the false teachers.
 - b. Paul compares the modern-day false teachers to two characters from Israel's past. **Jannes and Jambres**, Jewish tradition holds, were two of the head magicians of Pharaoh's court who opposed Moses. Paul quotes this tradition as fact.
 - i. When Moses told Pharaoh, "Let my people go" (Exodus 5:1), and when he proved his divine commission by performing genuine miracles through the power of God (Exodus 7:10), Pharaoh's magicians performed their counter-miracles (Exodus 7:11, 22; 8:7). From the Jewish tradition, with which Paul was very familiar, he cites the example of those two ring-leaders among the magicians who, whatever their real names may have been, were known to the Jews as "Jannes and Jambres," which is translated to mean: "he who seduces and he who makes rebellion").
 - c. They were Moses' arch-nemeses who would counter his displays of divine power with various satanic tricks

of their own. Tradition holds that they falsely converted to Judaism and came out of Egypt as part of the mixed multitude. Their influence was devastating to Israel as they became prominent men. Tradition holds that they were the principal instigators of the Golden Calf rebellion. They became known as the opponents of the truth. They were pretenders, therefore, and as such very dangerous. Paul states that similarly, the false leaders he has described are all the more dangerous because they pretend to be genuine converts to Christ.

- i. Paul's purpose in this comparison is to place the false teachers troubling the Ephesian church into the same category of those who oppose God's work and who will consequently never succeed.
 - ii. **Just as** Jannes and Jambres opposed God's representative, Moses, these immoral leaders also oppose the truth of God as revealed in His word.
- d. Paul calls these types of men whom he is describing **corrupted in mind**. In their case, the very organ that God has given to men so that men might be able to receive and reflect on spiritual truths has become completely and permanently defiled.
- i. As a result, concerning "**the faith**", these men are declared to be **disqualified**. In other words, they are found to be worthy of emphatic disapproval, reprobate, condemned as worthless, unfit, utterly rejected.

- e. Beloved, we make one more point in regards to these individuals. By using the word “**just as,**” Paul is emphasizing that what has gone around is now (again, in “the last days”) coming around. In every epoch, we find men and women that we need to **avoid at all costs**. Men and women who **have the appearance of godliness but deny its power**. Men and women who will do much harm if we are not watchful.
5. Verse 9: God Loves His People: But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.
- a. Amid this terrible warning and command, we find an incredible reason for our encouragement.
 - i. As in the historical duel between Moses and Pharaoh’s magicians, the present rebels’ days are numbered.
 - b. To be sure, the enemies of the faith advance to constantly increasing ungodliness, and their word devours like gangrene (2 Timothy 2:16-17), so that for a while, it may seem that their purpose is going to be achieved and that the entire church will be destroyed. But this never happens, not in any of the many periods of the church’s history, not even toward the end of the age.
 - i. We are promised that the church of God is triumphant. **Matthew 16:18** And I tell you, you

- are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
- c. The purpose of these false teachers is always to lead the people of God astray, but they are sovereignly kept from fulfilling their desires!
- i. **Mark 13:22** For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect.
 - ii. **John 10:5** A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”
 - iii. **John 10:26-28** but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. (27) My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. (28) I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.
 - iv. If we are saved through the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, we are safe and secure forever!
- d. Beloved, remember the words we recently studied in **2 Timothy 2:19** But God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”
- i. Despite their success in the community, the false teacher will **not go farther** than what has been predetermined in sovereignty.

- e. **Their folly** (lack of understanding, senselessness) will become entirely clear to all, if not here in our time, then in the great judgment day to come.
 - i. Beloved, remember, the false teacher is a defeated foe. He is a condemned individual. He has been given up by God and walks among the church as a dead individual.
 - ii. Beloved, the true church of God WINS!

6. Benediction

- a. **John 10:5** A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

Public Reading of Scripture **John 10:22-29**