

ISSUES:

Contaminates

1 Timothy 4:8 *For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.*

Lesson: Read 1 Timothy 3

- What are we called to be as Christians -not just elders and deacons but all of us?

We are called to holiness. 1 Timothy 3 begins with a description of requirements for an overseer or elder and also includes qualifications for deacons, but these requirements and qualifications apply to all Christ-followers. Above reproach, faithful, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money, managing the family and seeing that children obey and doing so in a manner worthy of full respect. Some of these are a lot more difficult than others. We may not all teach in a classroom, but we all have opportunities to teach even just one on one. Someone is watching everything that we do. We are called to be holy – set apart - different from the world. I wear a ring (the one that saved my fingers) that says Man of God. On the other side is 1 Timothy 6:11 which says “You Man of God, flee from all this and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.” That verse applies to all Christians (not just men). Those are the things we are called to.

- What contaminates can distract us or trip us up and how can we avoid them?

Share about things in life that distract us from God. In our reading this week, Paul warns against a number of things that we are to be on guard against. 1 Timothy 6:3-5 talks about false teaching, unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels as well as people who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. The alternative from verse 3 is the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and godly teaching. 1 Timothy 6:17 talks about hoping in wealth and reminds us instead to hope in God. 2 Timothy 2:14-18 talks about quarreling about words and godless chatter but verse 15 says “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” It seems like one of the biggest distractions Paul and Timothy were facing – and that we face as well – is arguments among the church that were distracting them from focusing on the truth of Jesus Christ.

- Can we see 2 Timothy 3:1-9 as a description of today?

This passage could easily describe the world of today – maybe the USA especially. Maybe even the church! We are comfortable, undisciplined and unfocused. Lovers of selves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying it’s power Tough words, but I think too often they describe even God’s people. Think of the cycle that Israel repeated all through the Old Testament. God blessed, they got comfortable, they forgot and God had to discipline them to remind them. Aren’t we going thru the same cycle now? Read 2 Timothy 4:3. Sounds like a “seeker-friendly” approach to the Gospel doesn’t it?

- How should we respond?

2 Timothy 3:14-15 tells us what we should do, but maybe explore with your group the seeming disconnect between sharing the grace and mercy of Jesus and 2 Timothy 3:5b “Have nothing to do with such people.” I’m still struggling with this one so feel free to email me any discussion responses you come up with! 😊

Daily Devotional Reading:

- Day #1: 2 Thessalonians 1
 - Focusing on God and responding to His Word:

- Day #2: 2 Thessalonians 2
 - Focusing on God and responding to His Word:

- Day #3: 2 Thessalonians 3
 - Focusing on God and responding to His Word:

- Day #4: 1 Timothy 1
 - Focusing on God and responding to His Word:

- Day #5: 1 Timothy 2
 - Focusing on God and responding to His Word: