IV. False Teachers and Asceticism

February 22, 2009 1 Timothy 1:18-20; 4:1-5

Aim: To recognize false teachers and false teaching and the impact it has on the church.

A. False Teachers (1:18-20)

1. Fight the Good Fight (1:18-19a)

   a) The Charge (1:18a)
      
      Charge (parangelia)

      What is the charge that Paul entrusts to Timothy (cp. 1:3)?

     
   

   b) Timothy (1:18b)
      
      What prophecies were made in the past concerning Timothy (cp. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6-7; Acts 16:2)?

     

   c) The Fight (1:18c)
      
      Fight (strateuē, from stratus, an encamped army)

      What is the good fight that Paul is exhorting Timothy?

      Give some examples of “bad fights.”

     

   d) Faith and Good Conscience (1:19a)
      
      What two virtues does Paul join together to give strength to fight the good fight (cp. 1:5, 3:9; 2 Tim. 1:3)?
2. Shipwreck of the Faith (1:19b-20)

   a) Hymenaeus and Alexander (1:19b-1:20a)
Who were Hymenaeus and Alexander (cp. 2 Tim. 2:16-18; 4:14-15; Acts. 19:33-34)? What happened to them? Why?

   b) Church Discipline (1:20b)
What does Paul mean by saying that he handed them over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme (cp. 1 Cor. 5:5)?

What is the purpose of church discipline?

B. False Teaching (4:1-5)

1. Origins of Asceticism (4:1-2)

   a) Apostasy in Latter Times (4:1a)
Apostasy (apostasia)

When are the “latter times” (husterois kairois)?

   b) Diabolical Doctrine (4:1b)
Spirits (pneumasin)

Demons (daimonioн)

   c) Lying Leaders (4:2)
Hypocrite (hypokritēs)
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Cauterize (kauτēriazō)

How does Paul characterize these false teachers?

2. Content of Asceticism (4:3)

What is asceticism?

What lawful things were being forbidden by the false teachers?

Why is the asceticism advocated by these false teachers dangerous and wrong (Col. 2:23; cp. Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:4-6; Mk. 7:19-20; Acts 10:9-16)?

3. Answering Asceticism (4:4-5)

a) Creation’s Goodness (4:4a)

What does Paul mean by saying that every creature of God is good?

b) Christian Thanksgiving (4:4b-5)

Thanksgiving (eucharistias)

Why is a “gratitude attitude” an antidote for asceticism?

For next time: Read 1 Timothy 2:1-7.