

# I Timothy 4 – 4 February 2024

## “The Word Made Dangerous”

### Introduction

\*For those of you that enjoy outlines, I Timothy’s 6 chapters is outlined as TILDAS

\*Teaching, Intimacy, Leaders, Dangers, Aged, & Suspicions

\*‘Tilda’ is French word from ancient Germanic for ‘*mighty in battle*’ or ‘*mighty in strength*’

\*Key verse of the book (Read) I Tim 1:18

\*Paul opened Chap 1 w/ the value of teaching

\*In Chap 2, he discusses a manner of praying & teaching in the church that brings intimacy

\*In Chap 3, we saw a Christian leader’s character

\*Now in Chap 4, we see how the Word of God can actually become a thing unhelpful & even dangerous

\*Satan knows God’s Word & used it for harm (Gen)

**Today, we’ll see 3 ways we can dangerously misuse the Word of God**

# #1 – There's the danger of denying the Word (Vs 1-5)

## Intro

1. No greater example than Satan in Gen 3:1

## Read Vs 1

1. Notice he's talking about people that have claimed to be Christians
2. They've stopped trusting the Bible & started trusting teachings of men inspired by the devil
3. When you stop trusting God's Word, you're deceived into believing anything
  - a. Read II Thes 2:10-11

## Read Vs 2

1. Paul warned the Thessalonians (I Thess 5:19) not to quench the Spirit's work in their life
  - a. This verse is the result of doing that
  - b. They're past feeling the guilt of sin and now deceive others w/ lies to join them

## Read Vs 3

1. There're always people that want to be superior to your Christianity b/c of their strict practices
2. 'Forbidding to marry' – two ways we see this
  - a. Groups like Catholic priests are forbidden
  - b. Groups advise don't marry, just sleep around
3. 'Vegetarians' – We know that truth; God put them here for our nourishment (Read Gen 9:3-4)

## Read Vs 4-5

1. OT Kosher food laws were given to picture a distinction between clean & unclean
2. Once Jesus made a way for unclean to be clean, these prototypes went away (Read Acts 10:13-15)
  - a. "Where do you draw the line" sign
  - b. By the truth of God's Word & by prayer we partake & bless God for giving us nourishment

## #2 – There’s the danger of distracting from the Word (Vs 6-10)

### Intro

1. Reminds you of Job’s 4 friends ‘other wisdom’

### Read Vs 6

1. As servants of Christ, we want to constantly remind each other of the words of Christ
  - a. This’s primary duty of pastors, but it’s for all
  - b. We’re leaky vessels that need constant filling
2. God’s Word is our spiritual food & nourishment
  - a. Drink up the milk – get the basic idea
  - b. Tear into the meat – go deep; connect ideas
  - c. Enjoy the manna – Word applies to your life
3. Notice, they’ve already attained the truth, by they need to continue in it – can’t say, “Oh I’ve already read that”

### Read Vs 7-8

1. Avoid the myths of the ungodly & old women

2. Work on or keep building on godliness
3. So just like someone exercising the body, this is the method to exercise the spirit
  - a. Avoid myths & conspiracy theories & focus on a steady routine of taking in godliness
4. There are similarities between exercising the body & the spirit – proper feeding & then exertion
5. Difference is exercising body is for temp gain whereas exercising spirit is eternal gain starting now

Read Vs 9-10

1. B/c God saved us; we have an expectation of good things to come
  - a. B/c of expectation, we labor to become godly
  - b. If we truly believe He saved us & we'll be with Him forever, wouldn't we want to become godlike in character – that's godliness
2. Jesus has done the saving work for all
  - a. All that's left is for the individual to apply the Word for godliness

## #3 – There's the danger of diminishing the Word (Vs 11-16)

### Intro

1. Samuel to Saul: What is this bleating of sheep?
2. Saul: The people spared the best & we've destroyed the rest (I Sam 15:15)
3. But God told you to destroy them all

### Read Vs 11

1. There should be a clarity that we have the Word of God; that should be spoken with authority
  - a. Jesus spoke as one having authority
2. We're not giving opinion but God's mind

### Read Vs 12

1. Don't let people discourage you with qualifiers that aren't legitimate at all
2. Rather do everything to be an example of Jesus
  - a. Read II Cor 3:2 – The world is watching us
  - b. Read II Cor 3:5 – Praise God for His spirit's enablement

## Read Vs 13

1. We'll never come to the end of taking in God's love thru His Word (Read Acts 2:42)
2. Again, we're leaky vessels that need reminded of what is good and what is harmful
3. What a wonderful thing that God has encapsulated what we need for this life in His Word
  - a. There's nothing more valuable to our souls than knowing Jesus in the fulness of his love

## Read Vs 14

1. Paul's reminding Timothy that when the elders laid their hands on him, asking for the empowering of the Spirit, a word of prophecy came declaring that Timothy would be a pastor himself
  - a. The gift of prophecy isn't new revelation but an application of the Word of God
  - b. Phil 1:6 – He that began a good work in you, we be faithful to complete it
  - c. Don't be tempted to turn to another method

## Read Vs 15

1. Is our spiritual growth & interest in the Lord becoming more apparent every day?
  - a. It will as we're being renewed in our mind
2. We want to be so affected by the love & grace of God that it just comes spilling out on to others
  - a. It becomes contagious

## Read Vs 16

1. So from vs 15 to vs 16, it's meditate and to make God's Word a priority in our lives
2. "To thyself and to the doctrine" – We read the Word with a mind to apply it to our life
  - a. And what will it do, it will "save us"
3. Not just eternally save us, but save in this life
  - a. Save us from physical consequences
  - b. Save us from emotional consequences
  - c. Save us from financial consequences
  - d. Save us from relational loss



## Conclusion

So, the Word became flesh in Jesus, let's not make the Word become dangerous by misusing it

### **1. There is a danger in denying the Word**

- a. Don't be lifted up in pride placing yourself as superior over the Word of God
- b. Isa 40:8 – The grass withers & the flower fades, but the Word of God stands forever!

### **2. There is a danger in being distracted from the Word**

- a. There is no hidden knowledge 'out there' that you need apart from what God's revealed
- b. It has all the milk, meat & manna we need

### **3. There is a danger in diminishing the Word**

- a. Don't drift away from seeing the Word in all its value and glory
- b. Where else shall we go Lord? You have the words of life