

Sermon study 1 Timothy 4:1-16 "Irreverent Silly Myths"

Use this outline as a guide. You can talk about it a different way if you like but whatever you do make sure the depth of this study is depth of APPLICATION. Do not make it your goal to get sidetracked determining the meaning. The goal is to move forward from the message into actual real life and specific application. Be creative and follow up about application. Imagine a church where the people actually applied what they learned. Wow.

The problem this sermon addresses

Irreverent silly myths.

Here is a list of untrue myths out there. (these are examined from a secular perspective) :

<http://www.marcandangel.com/2008/06/12/60-popular-pieces-of-false-knowledge/>

Here are some Christian ones:

<http://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/sayings.cfm>

What are some of the philosophical truisms that you know? For example, 'all religions teach the same things,' or 'mind over matter.' see how many you can come up with.

Are they true?

The Central Proposition of the text:

A pastor must do more than pet the sheep. He must protect them from wolves. He must teach them the Word and show them the Word in his life.

Main Idea:

Have nothing do do with irreverent silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness.

I. Bad Wolves (1 Timothy 4:1-5)

A. Paul warns Timothy about those who are teach doctrines of demons. They are liars with seared consciences. Their lies specifically regard asceticism for its own sake. They forbid marriage and the abstaining of certain types of food.

1. Read 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Matthew 7:15-20 and Acts 20:28-30.

- a) False teaching in the church is not innocent.
- b) What characterizes wolves?
- c) How do we know them?
- d) How important is warning?

2. Read Jeremiah 6:13-15.

a) They spoke against God's Word and were not ashamed. They disregarded His Word and did so boldly. There was no fear and trembling in their ministry.

3. Read Colossians 2. Notice that the ascetic teachings did not do anything to stop sin. Further, they are sinful, going against God's good creation.

a) Here is an article worth studying and discussing: <http://www.brucesabin.com/alcohol.html>

(1) Though we are a southern Baptist church. I have always taken the stand that alcohol is a matter of conscience. Personally I abstain for the sake of others who struggle.

II. Good Shepherds (1 Timothy 4:6-10)

A. Paul goes on to say that a good servant of Christ will put these warnings before the flock. A good servant or good under-shepherd is one trained in the Word and in godliness. His advice is to have nothing to do with irreverent silly myths but instead to be trained in godliness.

1. Read John 10:1-16. Notice that this is who we work for. This is how we serve. This contrasts greatly with the wolves and hired hands who flee. As good shepherds we are to train the sheep in the Word and in godliness. To do so we must ourselves be trained in these things.
2. As referenced in the article above, abstaining from alcohol is a matter of conscience. Read Romans 14:13-23; 1 Corinthians 6:12 and 10:23-33.
 - a) What are Paul's criteria for godly abstinence?
 - b) How does this differ from asceticism?

III. Key to Victory (1 Timothy 4:11-16)

A. Godliness is not exceptional. It is expected but it must be trained for. Timothy was to devote himself to training the flock in the Word and to pursue the work he had been called to setting a good example of developing the gift God gave him for the building up of the body.

1. The pastor role is one of authority. Read Titus 2:15.
 - a) What is this authority based on?
 - b) What does an un-authoritative preacher say about the Word of God?
2. Read Nehemiah 8:1-8. This is what God's people did when they wanted to reform themselves and protect themselves from the false teaching that earlier caused them to go astray. The public teaching of the Word is to nourish the church.
3. Timothy was responsible in his persistence (1 Timothy 4:16) in teaching the Word to bring his church to salvation. People are not saved through irreverent silly myths but through the gospel. The church will not persevere with a steady diet of irreverent silly myths but with the regular authoritative preaching of the Word of God. Preachers are responsible to grow the church through the Word and through their example.

IV. Spiritual Athleticism

A. Notice the emphasis on toil and striving and training in this passage. Underline the terms that speak of discipline and work. Notice that this is in contrast with the abstinence of the false teachers.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. Notice that spiritual athleticism is normative for the Christian life.
Godliness is not attained through asceticism but through athleticism.
 - a) Discuss the difference between training for a sport or activity and torture. Godliness is not exceptional but expected but it must be trained for. Discuss.
 - b) Athleticism has its own irreverent silly myths. One is the myth of spot reduction; that you can work out one part of your body and it will get thin - spot reduction - is what sells all those ab devices that don't work. It is a silly myth. The whole body must work out.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-7. Notice that the body is made up of members with specific and differing gifts of service for the upbuilding of the church. The example for the church was to see Timothy not neglect his gift and to show the church the progress he made in the usage of his gift for the church.
 - a) Godliness is not exceptional, it is expected but it must be trained for in the whole body. Do not devote yourself to irreverent silly myths
 - b) don't settle for infomercial faith**
 - c) devote yourself to the Word and to the work you have been specifically called to instead.
 - (1) Here is a brief article regarding your spiritual gift for service:
 - a) <http://www.lifeway.com/ArticleView?storeId=10054&catalogId=10001&langId=-1&article=Deacon-Magazine-Discover-and-Use-Your-Spiritual-Gifts>

Discuss 3 ways to specifically apply this sermon to your lives.