

Combatting Demonic Deceptions

1 Timothy 4:1-6

Introduction:

- Are we living in the last days? _____
 1. Acts 2:14-17 – the apostle Peter quoted Joel 2:28-32 as being fulfilled, which states that in the last d_____, God would pour His Spirit on all mankind and their sons and daughters would prophesy.
 2. I Jn 2:18 – the apostle John wrote that he was living in the last h_____.
 3. I Tim 4:1 – the apostle Paul wrote that the Spirit said that in latter t_____ some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and demonic doctrines. (This was happening in the Ephesian church).
- Satan is at war with Christians
 1. He knows his time is s_____ (Rev 12:12).
 2. He is warring against those who keep Jesus's c_____ (Rev 12:17)
 3. He wants believers to be d_____ (I Tim 4:1)
- How do we combat demonic deceptions?

K_____ God's truth (1,2,6)

- In verse 2, the picture given is of a branding iron s_____ demonic teachings into one's mind.
 1. Some believers were paying a_____ to false teachers because they sounded convincing.
 2. Satan's l_____ are always designed to be convincing.
- In verse 6, the picture given is of being n_____ by the words of faith and of sound doctrine.
 1. Where did these words of faith and sound doctrine come from? – the a_____
 2. Where did the apostles get these words of faith and sound doctrine? – from J_____
 3. How do we know if the apostles are accurately passing on Jesus's teachings?
 - a. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would bring all His teachings to their m_____ (Jn 14:26)

- b. The early church devoted themselves to the apostle's t_____ because they knew it was Jesus's teachings (Acts 2:42).
- Common sense steps to understanding God's word as He intends
 1. Make a distinction between an o_____ about God's word and the truth.
 - a. We must always check a statement about God's word against God's word (e.g. Acts 10:11)
 - b. This requires us to examine God's word.
 2. Make a distinction between a s_____ about God's word and an interpretation.
 - a. Many speculate about the identity of the Anti-Christ, the mark of the beast, the time of Jesus's second coming, etc.
 - b. Satan want believers to get l_____ in speculation because the focus is off God's word.
 3. Make sure you have the right interpretation
 - a. What is the h_____ setting?
 - b. What is the c_____ issues, if any?
 - c. Who is the target audience?
 - d. What is the a_____ trying to communicate?
 - e. How would the readers understand what is written?

A _____ **God's truth (3-5)**

- What demonic deceptions were affecting the people in the Ephesian Church? (v. 3)
 1. Some false teachers were forbidding m_____
 2. Some false teachers were forbidding certain f_____
- What was Paul's reply to the above teachings? (vv. 3,4)
 1. Everything created by God is g_____.
 2. If you can receive it with g_____ it is not to be rejected.
 3. Everything is made holy by God's word and p_____.
- Applying the above to marriage and diet
 1. If you receive marriage in gratitude to G_____ and base it on God's word, then it is holy for you (if you cannot, don't marry).
 2. If you receive food in gratitude to God and base it on God's word, then it is holy for you (if you cannot eat it in good conscience, that don't eat it).

●Mistakes to avoid in application

1. Uniform application – *you must apply God’s word to your life the same way I apply it to mine*
 - a. Example – I Cor 6:12 (Believers are not to be addicted to anything)
 - 1) M_____ teach that Christians must not consume coffee or tea because it is addictive.
 - 2) Many B_____ teach that Christians must not smoke because it is addictive.
 - b. This was the error of the Ph_____ in applying the fourth commandment (Ex 20:8-11)
 - 1) Since a chicken farmer cannot pluck chickens on a Sabbath, no one can pluck their h_____ on a Sabbath.
 - 2) Since a farmer cannot plow on the Sabbath, no can s_____ on the ground lest it stir the soil.
 - c. Application is individual - *How should I apply this teaching to my life.*
2. Misapplication – often due to taking things out of context.
 - a. Example – 1 Jn 2:27 (the Holy Spirit is our ultimate teacher)
 - 1) Someone may misapply this by saying, *I don’t need to go to c_____ because the Holy Spirit can teach me God’s word at home.*
 - 2) The above application misses the point of the passage which was contrasting f_____ teachers trying to deceive believers with the Holy Spirit teaching them truth. There is a clear distinction between them.
 - 3) The above application violates other mandates of scripture – Heb 10:24,25; Eph 4:11-16
 - b. Always be prayerful in applying God’s word – *Lord, shine this word on my life and show me how I need to live it out.*