

THE CHRISTIAN LEADER

2. What he is to Teach (1)



(A series of studies from 1 and 2 Timothy)

Introduction

In two short letters the Apostle Paul can't cover all that he had taught Timothy! He primarily focuses on the needs of the Church at that time. However many of these instructions are relevant for us today. He begins by dealing with the problem of false teaching.

In Timothy's day there were many pagan and anti-Christian religions, just as there are today. However the most troublesome to the Christians were those that based their teaching on Scripture, but had swerved from the truth. Paul emphasizes that Timothy should teach the truth and warn against that which was false.

1. A Warning 1 Timothy 1:3-11

- ✧ How were these people spending their time? V4. What should we be more concerned about?
- ✧ What wrong emphasis were the false teachers making? V7-10
- ✧ These false teachers had misunderstood the purpose of the Old Testament Law. Why does Paul say the Law was given? V9-10

2. A Prediction 1 Timothy 4:1-5

- ✧ What is the 'faith' referred to in v1 of this passage? Look at 1 Timothy 3:16. This is perhaps a summary of what this 'faith' includes.
- ✧ What will be the cause of some departing from the Christian faith in the last days? V1-2
- ✧ What do these verses tell us about this false teaching, and the effect on the lives of those who are deceived? V1-3
- ✧ How does Paul show that this teaching is false? V3-5

3. The Dangers 1 Timothy 6:3-5

- ✧ Contrast the teaching, attitudes and life of those who follow the truth and those who have swerved from it in v3-6.
- ✧ Why do such people swerve from the truth? See 2 Timothy 4:3-4.
- ✧ What description does Paul give of such men and what is the result of their teaching? V4-5
- ✧ How can we deal with those who are false teachers? 1 Timothy 1:3-4 and 2 Timothy 2:24-26
- ✧ How can we protect ourselves from being influenced by false teachers? 2 Timothy 1:13-14, 2:16



What kinds of false teaching affects the Christians where you live? Discuss what truths need to be taught in its' place. How can you better equip believers so they are not swayed by every new 'teaching' that comes along?

Conclusion

As Christian leaders we have the responsibility of teaching truth and protecting those under our care from false teaching. Let's make sure that we study God's Word carefully, so we are well grounded ourselves, and teach others well. As Paul says to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:15-16, "Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them ... watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."