

2 Timothy 3:1-9

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Background

The underlying theme of 1&2 Timothy is for Timothy to proclaim sound doctrine and to live it out

1. Secular forms of leadership don't match God's form for leadership in the church
2. God's form only has two major requirements
 - a. The proclamation of sound doctrine 1Tim 4:11-13, 4:6
 - b. Godly Character 1 Tim 4:16, 1 Tim 3
3. 2 Tim continues this theme
 - a. Proclaim sound doctrine 2 Tim 1:13
 - b. Expand the teaching of sound doctrine 2 Tim 2:1-2
 - c. Remind congregation of sound doctrine 2 Tim 2:14
 - d. Godly Character 2 Tim 2:20-21
 - i. Character is key to becoming vessel of honor
 1. The result of becoming a vessel of honor is being made "meet" & "prepared"
 - ii. Character is key to growing in sound doctrine
 1. Sound doctrine necessary for Godly Character.
 - a. Bible study is not for duty but pursuit of how/what God defines how to live
4. Conclusion: Biblical leadership is founded in knowing sound doctrine so that you can live as a vessel for honor and to proclaim sound doctrine. For the one who does this God promises to use and to save those who listen to him. - Special notice given to parents on this

Transition: What about the other vessels in the house, the dishonorable ones. Note that there are only two types, there is no in between. These vessels of dishonor are a destructive force - Hymenaeus and Philetus in 2Tim 2:17

Heretics, dishonorable vessels, defined (2Tim 3:1-5a)

1. We are in the last days - Acts 2:17, 1 Peter 1:20
2. Paul gives a list of the worst of the worst bracketed by the guiding attitudes of heretics. The evidence of the guiding attitudes are the evils bracketed by them

3. Despite their attitudes and behavior, heretics believe they have a form of godliness (piety)
 - a. Evidence in secular society today
 - b. They are convinced of their heresy
4. The lack the power of God
 - a. Briefly expound on power of God in a believer
 - b. since they lack power of God they promote their position in a dishonorable way
 - i. "creep into houses"
 - ii. Go after "silly women"
 1. clarify archaic translation
 - a. Paul is counter culturally for women 1 Tim 2:11
 - b. The greek is a term used for women of higher status, as seen in following verses
 2. They are educated and privileged vs7
 - a. The type often susceptible to cults - "Holy Hell"
 3. Here, they are loaded down by sins and have ungodly desires
 - a. perfect prey for heretics in the church
 - b. Plays out today with women preachers - Gen 3:16b
5. The immediate results of heretics
 - a. Pulls people away from the sound leaders
 - b. Would have affected the financial state of Tim's church
 - c. Tim may have been tempted to squash the heretics by arguing against them

Response to the heretic vs8-9

1. vs5b turn away, avoid, shun
 - a. This may not sound wise to Tim
 - i. Remember that effective leadership is based on proclaiming sound doctrine and living it out
 - ii. To argue and fight against the heretics would take Tim away from what is effective
 - iii. But Tim may be stressed over what is happening
2. Trust in God's power
 - a. The example of Jannes & Jambres
 - i. Explain who they are and where their story comes from
 - b. As Moses remained faithful his opposition (Jannes & Jambres) faded in front of God's power. In time they became nothing
 - c. Same thing will happen with heretics

Passage contains a general warning to believers today. The heretics destruction started with their attitudes. Lovers of self and lovers of pleasures more than God. Is this us?

Questions

What thoughts do you have knowing that the love of self and the love of pleasure more than God is the heart of the heretic?

What has to change in your life to address self love or a love of pleasure more than God?

The principles of biblical leadership can be summed up with two ideas. To proclaim God's truths and to live them out. How can this passage encourage you to stay faithful to that when it looks like something else would be better?