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Able to give Wisdom

2 Timothy 3:6-15

In the last days Paul tells impostors luring unsuspecting naïve Christians away from the faith of biblical truth spiritually & morally.

The lifestyles of professing religious people will be a sham & copy the worst elements of society prior to Christ return. True believers are to avoid them—turn away from their teaching & lifestyle. James puts it's this way: ***'hating even the garments polluted by the flesh.'***

Paul contrasts himself to these wolves in sheep's clothing. His walk of consistency, integrity & sound in doctrine, *matched how he taught & lived*. So should we.

Nothing is more devastating to the body of Christ than Christian leaders living a lie. They appear to be one thing in their public Christian persona & teaching but then it's discovered they have a secret life hidden corruption that rivals the worst of sinners. That is not ordinary Christianity, but apostate Christianity.

We've all had our share on individuals, maybe we looked up to, depended on, had good fellowship w/ & later discovered they were living a lie. Don't be that kind of person but rather follow Paul's example as he follows Jesus

1-**Avoid** fake believers 1-9. 2-**Follow** faithful ones 10-12 3-**Abide** in truth 13-17 Paul listed 18 corrupt practices in the last days to avoid vs 2-5.

Shameful things in news & media today. ***Have nothing to do w/ them.***

Now we're told what the followers of these perverse leaders do

6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

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Creeps who creep into houses of silly, weak-willed women, guilt ridden & looking for escape from trouble. They don't control their desires (emphasis is sexual problems). Teachers sneak in under false pretences, and bring them under their influence.

A great virtue of womanhood is a trusting spirit. And yet Satan can turn it into a liability, even as he did Eve...*you shall not surly die, you will be wise.*

A person whose mind is burdened w/ guilt is an easy target for the enemy. Often willing to get relief from a tormented conscience by any means, even following false teachers. Satisfies a religious craving but fails to deal w/ root issue which is a sin issue.

Always searching for truth, w/o discernment & become fair game for cults & religious charlatans. False shepherds take advantage of weakness by promising a quick fix, easy way out. Ending up controlling followers lives, manipulating their thoughts, taking advantage of person & property. Worse off than before. And gain unhealthy influence over the spiritually naive.

EF Brown 'There is a type of person who is eager to discuss every new theory, who is always to be found deeply involved in the latest fashionable religious movement, but who is quite unwilling to accept the day to day discipline & even drudgery of living the Christian life. No amount of intellectual curiosity can ever take the place of moral earnestness. We are not meant to titillate our minds w/ the latest intellectual crazes; we are meant to purify and strengthen our lives in the moral battle to live the Christian life.

8 And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected as regards the faith. 9 But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, as also that of those two came to be.

Poster boys of Pharaoh who tried to imitate miracles of Moses—Paul uses as illustrations of false teachers who are demonically inspired & opposed God's servants.

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Progress - to lengthen out by hammering – penny train tracks – but exposed at some point & cease. The folly of what they do & madness of behavior & false teaching exposes who they really are.

Satan can counterfeit but he can't create life. Nor does false teaching produce life in the believer.

Satan is the master counterfeiter & in the last days will counterfeit faith to promote a lie & subvert the scriptures. Replace God's word w/ human wisdom, secularism, worldly philosophy, conform to cultural trends, fables, speculation & error---anything & everything to corrupt the inerrant word of God. John Clifford 1800's in blacksmiths shop seeing a pile of hammers worn out on a single anvil--*The Church is an anvil which has worn out many hammers*"

10 But you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord delivered me! 12 And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

Paul, like His savior Jesus, had nothing to hide. *John 18:20 Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues, and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret.*

Acts 26:4 "So then, all Jews know my manner of life from my youth up, which from the beginning was spent among my own nation and at Jerusalem;

1 Sam 12:3 "Here I am; bear witness against me before the LORD and His anointed. Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? I will restore it to you."

Doctrine is the gold standard by which the value of a ministry is to be judged not personality, popularity, charisma, crowd appeal, funny stories, etc. *"WW On radio & TV today, we have a great deal of 'pseudo-Christianity' which is a mixture of psychology, success motivation, and personality cults, with a little bit of Bible thrown in to make it look religious. Beware!"*

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1 Cor 2:3-5 And I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. —power of a changed life--

Paul didn't preach cream & live skim milk--preach sacrifice and live luxury.

There was never a question of Paul's purpose in ministry--***to do God's will & finish the course***. Paul endured no matter what the cost—enemies or circumstances--never deterred him from God's call on his life.

Persecution comes from the world when uncompromising witness to the truth of the word of God & standing up for it. Paul's suffering is fact for those who stand apart from the crowd by their Christian living & speaking.

He endured trials & persecution for the sake of the saints & was persecuted from city to city for his witness and reputation.

Today false teachers w/ heath & wealth--blab it & grab—successful Christian mantra—is w/o persecution because it's a message for the worldling. Paul would be appalled at teachings that promote affluence as a way to identifying those who are living godly lives.

Some of the most ungodly people have scammed the body of Christ and are horrible examples of what true Christianity is. Paul says godly believers will experience persecution. Ostracized because of their uncompromising stand on the scriptures.

13 But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

I like to live in a happily ever after world but it not happen until face ti face w/ Lord.

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Far from these false teachers going away & fading into nothingness in the last days--they will increase & gain a greater audience, become more popular & in demand. *Deceitful spirits will be running rampant in the last days, the closer we get to Christ return.* The only sure way to determine truth from error is to know the word of God.

Charles Spurgeon, often quoted others like John Bunyan, describing a deeply scriptural person as having "Bibline blood". Metaphor as if the Bible flows through them—they are so saturated with the Word of God that their thoughts, speech, & life are entirely scriptural.

14,15, Tim had been taught from his youth by his mother Eunice & grandmother Lois the ABC's of OT but now go onto maturity, after salvation & grow deep in the things of God so you can tell truth from error. *Bank tellers (UV light-security thread) but are so familiar w/ touching real money can id counterfeit simply by how it feels and looks.*

You never outgrow your need for milk of the Word. Parents like E&L take the time to teach your children every day. They develop a hunger for the bible. *Mother's in Israel put date on finger & child suck and acquire appetite.* Salvation comes by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross, buried, raised, then after that we are to grow in faith by the word of God the bible to point you have Bibline blood. ***Faith comes by hearing & hearing by the word of God.***