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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas



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God's Gift of Leadership A Study in 1 Timothy

Date	Lesson	Text
03/08	Introduction	
03/15	Strength to Serve	1:12-20
03/22	Need for Prayer	2:1-8
03/29	Leadership in Family	2:9-15
04/05	Bro. Smarto	
04/12	Easter—Bro. Smarto	
04/19	Call for Leaders Pt 1	3:1-7
04/26	Call for Leaders Pt 2	3:1-16
05/03	Guide for Teaching	4:1-16
05/10	MOTHER'S DAY	
05/17	Need for Respect	5:1-24

Food for Thought

Doctrine

We need to take the time each day
To read God's Word and pray,
And listen for what He might say
To guide us on our way.
God speaks through His Word

*Give attention to reading,
to exhortation, to doctrine.*

1 Timothy 4:13 NIV

(From "Our Daily Bread" - 03/02/06)

GUIDANCE FOR TEACHING

1 TIMOTHY 4:1-16

“Being forewarned is being forearmed.” This is what Paul is saying to Timothy and us. Many strange teachings today are paraded in the name of Christianity. These become the occasion of ridicule for the skeptics and a cause of confusion among many believers. Some in both circles are swayed by these religious fads. Although they may have different names, they still reflect the age-old rebellion against God and rejection of his Word. **Paul, through Timothy, throws light on the nature of apostasy. There will always be some who fall away from the faith and endeavor to enlist a following. So we should not be surprised at the presence of false teachers.** And rather than objecting when godly people warn us, we are to be grateful. Their adherence to sound doctrine helps us to identify and reject the false teachers. Some of us may be new believers who need to learn how to recognize truth, or some may be mature Christians who should model and teach truth, or they may be a little of both. Today's lesson will empower both. **Semantics. These are the word games that deceivers employ in leading people astray.** They use good words with which everyone is familiar but give them different meanings. In a sermon one Sunday, I cited a preacher who denied the deity of Christ and the inspiration of Scripture. Afterward a lady confronted me and vehemently denied that this was true of the man who had been her preacher for many years. The next week she confronted me again and said she had talked to her former preacher. Upon her inquiry, he responded that he believed Jesus was the Son of God and that the Bible was inspired. I then suggested that she had asked the wrong questions. She should ask him if he believed Jesus was the Holy Spirit-conceived, virgin-born Son of God. I also suggested that she ask him if he believed the Bible to be the Holy Spirit-inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God. The following week she approached me crestfallen. He had scoffed at her questions and said he only believed Jesus was “a” son of God, only to a greater degree than we are all sons of God. He also believed that the Bible was inspired only in the sense that the poet Tennyson was inspired when he wrote. False teachers are still with us! In the last lesson we saw the apostle Paul give instruction to Timothy with regard to leadership in the local church. Paul specifically wrote with regard to the selection of elders and deacons. He cited the qualities that should be found in men upon whom would be laid the responsibility of overseeing the affairs of the church and ministering to the material needs of its members. Now Paul turns his attention to Timothy's responsibilities as an evangelist (see this description in 2 Timothy 4:5). These would relate to Timothy's duties in teaching and preaching as well as in his personal life. This retraces the charge Paul had given him earlier in this letter (see 1 Timothy 1:3, 18).

(Excerpts from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Paul had left Timothy in Ephesus for a reason. The relatively new movement of churches there was in danger from a group of teachers who held strange beliefs. Whatever the dangerous doctrine may be, asceticism or something else, Paul's words to Timothy give a clear warning. **Not all teachers are good. Everything we hear taught must be checked against the clear revelation of God found only in the Bible.** Paul warned Timothy of dangerous doctrine and shared principles for truthful teaching. **The best antidote to wrong teaching is orthodox doctrine.** Sometimes knowing and keeping the truth is hard work. Finally, Paul gave Timothy some sound advice for personal progress. He called on Timothy to be an example in his way of living. Knowing his responsibility toward others would certainly motivate young Timothy to do the hard work of spiritual growth. Paul also advised Timothy to **devote time to reading Scripture in the congregation, explaining the godly life, and teaching biblical doctrine.**

(Excerpts from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

EXPOSE FALSE TEACHING (1 TIM 4:1-3)

Deceptive teaching (vs 1)

- Deception about the coming of Christ (Matt 24:5)
- Deception through signs and wonders (2 Thess 2:9-11)
- Deception through false teachings (2 Peter 2:1-3)
- Deception through spiritualism (Col 2:18-19)
- Deception through hypocrisy (Matt 7:15)
- Deception through a different gospel (Gal 1:6-7)
- Deception through fine-sounding words (Col 2:4)
- Deception through lies (Jer 23:32)
- Deception from within (Acts 20:30)

Hypocritical teaching (vs 2)

- Hypocrisy through having a form of godliness (2 Tim 3:5)
- Hypocrisy through legalism (Gal 6:13)
- Hypocrisy through stories (2 Peter 2:3)
- Hypocrisy through appealing to human lusts (2 Peter 2:18)
- Hypocrisy through promises (2 Peter 2:19)

Ascetic teaching (vs 3)

- Remember that the kingdom of God is not about eating or drinking (Rom 14:17)
- Remember that we have died to the principles of this world (Col 2:20-23)
- Remember that ascetic teaching has no value (Heb 13:9)
- Remember that reality is in Jesus (Col 2:16-18)
- Remember that to the pure, all things are pure (Titus 1:15)

PRACTICE GOOD TEACHING (1 TIM 4:4-11)

Pray and give thanks for all things (vs 4-5)

- Be thankful for food (1 Cor 10:29-30)
- Follow Jesus' example and pray and ask for blessings on food (Matt 14:19)
- Thanksgiving can be a participation in Christ (1 Cor 10:16)
- Don't be anxious about anything, but pray and be thankful for all things (Phil 4:6)
- Pray and give thanksgiving for others (1 Tim 2:1)

Be nourished by doctrine from God's word (vs 6)

- Be nourished by holding firmly to the trustworthiness of sound doctrine (Titus 1:9)
- Be nourished by the teaching of sound doctrine (Titus 2:1)
- Be nourished by the faith that results from God's word (Rom 10:17)
- Be nourished by the word of truth (Eph 1:13)
- Be nourished by accepting God's word that is working in us (1 Thess 2:13)
- Be nourished by not seeking own desires, but only sound doctrine (2 Tim 4:3)

Train in godliness (vs 7-9)

- Train in godliness by striving to keep the conscience clear (Acts 24:16)
- Train in godliness by pursuing it (1 Tim 6:11)
- Train in godliness by seeking and using God's grace (Titus 2:11-13)
- Train in godliness by using and living God's word (Heb 5:14)
- Train in godliness by maturing in the faith (2 Peter 1:5-8)

Teach trust in God (vs 10-11)

- A man is blessed by trusting in God (Ps 84:12)
- We must trust and not be afraid (Isa 12:2)
- All hope should be in God, not wealth (1 Tim 6:17)
- Faith, hope and trust should always be in God (1 Peter 1:21)

HOW TO BE A GOOD TEACHER (1 TIM 4:12-16)

Be a good example (vs 12)

- Be an example by following Jesus (1 Cor 11:1)
- Be an example by imitating God (1 Thess 1:6-7)
- Be an example by being a godly hard worker (2 Thess 3:7-10)
- Be an example by doing what is good (Titus 2:7-8)
- Be an example by serving (1 Peter 5:2-4)

Read and teach Word publicly (vs 13)

- Read and teach Word publicly to learn how to revere God (Deut 17:19)
- Read and teach Word publicly and be careful to do everything in it (Josh 1:8)
- Read and teach Word publicly to be strong (Ps 1:2-3)
- Read and teach Word publicly to determine the truth (Acts 17:11)
- Read and teach Word publicly so that God's word can be handled correctly (2 Tim 2:15)

Use your gifts (vs 14)

- Use the gifts God has given in proportion to faith (Rom 12:6-8)
- Use the gifts God has given increasingly (2 Tim 1:6)
- Use the gifts God has given faithfully (1 Peter 4:10)
- Use the gifts God has given in love (1 Cor 14:1)

Meditate on God's truths (vs 15-16)

- Meditate on God's truths in the heart (Ps 19:14)
- Meditate on God's truths and His works (Ps 77:12)
- Meditate on God's truths and His ways (Ps 143:5)
- Meditate on God's truths in worship (Ps 48:9)
- Meditate on God's truths by thinking on them (Phil 4:8)