

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for October 16-17, 2004

"The Defense of the Church"

1 Timothy 4:1-9

1. The Demonic Cause of the Attack (4:1)

The word for "times" is plural and means "seasons" or "eras." As the seasons come and go and return again, so the demonic doctrines will continue to come around to us in the future.

The demonic target: desertion (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

The demonic technique: deceit (John 8:44)

The demonic tool: doctrine (2 Corinthians 11:3)

Our beliefs dictate our behavior.

2. The Deceitful Course of the Attack (4:2)

Demons work through people (2 Corinthians 11:13).

The telltale sign of the devil's agents is their inability to perceive their own double-standard.

3. The Destructive Content of the Attack (4:3-5)

Our faith is attacked when we believe that abstaining from what God has created is a means of godliness (4:3).

Rather than avoiding what God has created, we must use what God has created for His purpose, with thankfulness (4:4-5).

4. The Disciplined Confrontation of the Attack (4:6-8)

a. Point out fabrications

We improve our ministry through our teaching.

Christ's servants speak up for truth (Matthew 16:11-12).

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b. Provide with feeding

We improve our teaching through learning.

Christ's servants seek out the truth (Matthew 4:4).

c. Put out fables

We improve our learning through discernment.

Christ's servants shun error (1 Timothy 1:4).

d. Plan for the future

We improve our discernment through discipline.

The Greek word for discipline gives us our English word "gymnastics."

Christ's servants strive for godliness (Proverbs 6:6-11).

Godliness is more profitable now and later.

5. The Desired Consent Against the Attack (4:9)

The disciplined opposition to the devil's desire for people to fall away from faith is the responsibility of everyone.