

True or False? Are You Prepared to Answer? 1 Timothy 6:3-5

Introduction:

1. Remember the true or false questions we used to have in school? Did you like them? When I hadn't studied, I sure hated those questions. I had to guess, and I seemed to guess wrong every time.
2. Did you know that is even more dangerous in the spiritual realm?
3. Paul was chosen by Jesus Christ to be an apostle, but not just an apostle—THE apostle of the Gentiles. This was the position he was given by Christ, personally.
 - Paul wrote 13 books of the Bible specifically to the church, the body of Christ. He gave us sound doctrine to base our lives on today.
4. Because Paul knew his position and its importance, Paul was very adamant to Timothy about following his instructions and teaching no other doctrine, other than what Paul had given to him. Look at the end of verse 2. 1 Timothy 1:3; 3:15; 4:11, 15; 5:7, 21; 6:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:13
5. Just like today, there were false teachers that were teaching things contrary to the sound doctrine that Paul had been teaching the churches. 1:4, 6-7, 19-20
6. There is **sound** doctrine and there is **false** doctrine. Paul taught that there were doctrines of devils (4:1). Who do you think Satan uses to disseminate his false doctrine into minds? He uses people! Paul mentioned two of the men by name in chapter 1.
7. It is important to understand that they are slick. They usually aren't going to totally deny Jesus Christ and the Bible. They are going to mention Jesus often and quote the Bible often. But they always do it out of context.
 - The Bible is such a blessed book when taken in context, but a very dangerous book when taken out of context and misused.
8. Here in our text, Paul is going to give us some principles by which we can detect false teachers and not get sucked in by their false teaching. You **have** to be prepared to answer true or false when you hear somebody teach the Bible.
9. Every believer must be able to detect true and false teachers. Let's look at it. How?

First, by understanding the doctrine of Christ (as revealed to Paul). vs. 3

1. When you take in spiritual teaching (into your mind), picture it like eating. There are things you can eat that have no health benefit at all. In fact, if you continue to make a steady diet of them, they will slowly, but surely erode your health. There are other things you can eat and digest that build up your body and its cells.
2. In the same way, Paul says that there are “wholesome words” (healthy) that will build you up spiritually. But by the same token, there are unwholesome words that if digested, will wreak havoc on your spiritual life.
3. There are false teachers that desire to fill you with these unwholesome (unhealthy) words. Why is this? There are many possible reasons. Sometimes

- they themselves are deceived and believe that the lies that they are saying are true. Sometimes, it is for financial gain. Sometimes, it is to control people.
4. How do you detect these false teachers? Paul tells us that they “*consent not to... the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness.*” 6:3
 5. Over and over again, Paul talked to Timothy about following the doctrine that he (Paul) had given to him. 1 Corinthians 4:16-17
 - He told Timothy that he had fully known his doctrine and manner of life, and told him to teach no other doctrine.
 - He was to teach the doctrine that was according to godliness (this means “the gospel scheme”). But where did Paul get his gospel that he proclaimed? Galatians 1:11-12
 - Paul received his gospel directly from the lips of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 6. In 1 Timothy 6:3, Paul is admonishing Timothy that if any religious teacher teaches anything other than what Christ gave to Paul, “*He is proud, knowing nothing...*” 6:4 That is exactly what Paul told the Galatian churches in Galatians 1:6-9.
 7. It is important to understand that Jesus spoke words while on earth, but those words were specifically spoken to Israel, concerning their coming kingdom to earth.
 8. But from His heavenly position, Christ spoke to Paul about things concerning this present time period and the church, the body of Christ.
 9. Mark it down, a false teacher will not adhere to Christ’s spoken words from heaven, given to us through the apostle Paul. They love to misquote and misapply passages of Scripture from other portions of the Bible.
 - **Example:** You can lose your salvation, because in Matthew 24:13, Christ said that if you endure to the end you will be saved. If you don’t endure, you lose it.
 - **Example:** You have to be water baptized to go to heaven, because Christ said if you believe and are baptized you will be saved. Acts 2:38 says to repent and be baptized, and then you will be forgiven and receive the Holy Spirit.
 - **Example:** God desires for you to be healed, because it says that Jesus went through the cities and villages, healing every sickness and disease. Send your prayer need with your best offering to us today, and we will pray the prayer of faith that is sure to heal you.
 - **Example:** Matthew 13:23 says Christ wants you to give to our ministry and has promised that if you will sow good seed into our ministry, you will receive back thirty, sixty, or hundredfold.
 10. Do you see how easy it is for these false teachers to dupe people? They quote Scripture. But many times they quote and misapply the very words of Jesus Christ spoken on earth.

In Conclusion:

1. Our focus is to be the words Christ spoke from heaven to the apostle Paul. He wrote directly from Christ to the church. He will provide you sound doctrine on which to base your life.
2. All Scripture is profitable, and we can certainly learn from all the Bible, but it isn't all written directly to us. This is crucial. Adam and Eve ran around naked, but that is not okay for you and me. Moses said it was sinful and wrong to have a little pepperoni on your pizza, but Paul told us that it is okay for today.
3. God never changes, but His dealings with mankind change.
4. My challenge to you – read all of Paul's 13 books. Study them and know them. These are Christ's words spoken to you from heaven!

End of Part 1