

Teaching on the Solid Anchor of Sound Doctrine

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The Teaching of Paul in 1 Timothy 4:1--4:16 Sound Doctrine Produces Godly Living

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Introduction to The Teaching of Paul Regarding Sound Doctrine in 1 Tim. 3

The Priority of Sound Doctrine to Paul (1 Timothy 3:14-16)

“These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the pillar and ground of the truth (truth is on the foundation and held up by the truth.” Paul then provides a portion of that truth in an early Christian hymn:

God was manifested in the flesh,
Justified in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Preached among the Gentiles,
Believed on in the world,
Received up in glory.”

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Paul's Basic Teaching to the Church in His Letters

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Paul's Basic Teaching to the Church in His Letters That We Will Briefly Go Through

Romans – The Gospel and God's Righteousness

Teaching: *Justification by faith, the universality of sin, the transforming power of grace, and the call to holy living.*

Perspective: The most systematic explanation of the gospel, showing how the righteousness of God is revealed in Christ and applied to all who believe.

1 & 2 Corinthians – Unity, Holiness, and the Cross

Teaching: *Christ crucified as the wisdom and power of God, the centrality of love, proper worship, spiritual gifts, and resurrection hope.*

Perspective: A call for unity, moral purity, and a Christ-centered life in a divided and worldly church.

Galatians – Freedom in Christ

Teaching: *Salvation by grace through faith apart from the Law; the Spirit vs. the flesh; the believer's freedom in Christ.*

Perspective: A passionate defense of the gospel against legalism, urging believers to stand firm in liberty and live by the Spirit.

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Paul's Basic Teaching to the Church in His Letters, cont'd

Ephesians – The Church as Christ's Body

Teaching: *God's eternal plan in Christ, unity of Jews and Gentiles, spiritual warfare.*

Perspective: A sweeping vision of the church as the body of Christ and a call to live out unity, holiness, and love in practical relationships.

Colossians – The Supremacy of Christ

Teaching: *Christ as Creator and head of the church; warning against false philosophies*

Perspective: Christ is sufficient and supreme; believers must not be taken captive by human traditions but live in Christ's fullness.

1 & 2 Thessalonians – Hope and Holiness in Light of Christ's Return

Teaching: *Assurance of Christ's coming, moral purity, correction of misunderstandings about the Second Coming.*

Perspective: A pastoral reminder of hope in the resurrection and the call to live responsibly in view of Christ's return.

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Paul's Basic Teaching to the Church in His Letters, cont'd

1 & 2 Timothy, Titus – Pastoral Care and Sound Doctrine

Teaching: Guarding the faith, appointing godly leaders, training in godliness, practical instructions for church life.

Perspective: A charge to preserve *sound teaching* and *shepherd the flock faithfully, equipping the next generation of church leaders*.

Philemon – Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Teaching: Christian love expressed in *forgiveness and reconciliation*

Perspective: A personal appeal showing how the gospel reshapes relationships, calling for love to transcend cultural norms.

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Paul's Basic Teaching to the Church in His Letters: Warning Against False Teaching

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The Teaching of Paul in 1 Timothy 4:1-5 Warning Against False Teaching

Paul's words to Timothy To His Young Disciple and Church Leader The Importance of Doctrine in Shaping Life and Community

I. Warnings Against False Teaching (1 Tim 4:1-5)

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in **latter times** some will depart from the faith, giving heed to **deceiving spirits** and **doctrines of demons**, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, **forbidding to marry**, and **commanding to abstain from foods** which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.”

Spirit warns that some will depart from the faith.

False teachings characterized by deceitful spirits, hypocrisy, legalism.

Application: how “bad ideas” still lure believers today.

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Examples of False Teaching and Unsound Doctrine Today

Prosperity Gospel

This teaching suggests that faith is a direct path to personal wealth and success. It implies that if you're not wealthy or healthy, your faith isn't strong enough. This view distorts the idea of blessings and ignores the Bible's teachings about the value of trials and the reality that faith often involves sacrifice and challenges.

James 1:2 "2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;"
Hebrews 13:16 "16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

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Close to Prosperity Teaching is Name It and Claim It

This belief treats God like a genie who grants wishes if we just believe hard enough. It misrepresents faith, reducing it to a tool for personal gain rather than a relationship with God built on trust, even in suffering or when prayers seem unanswered.

1 Peter 4:19 “Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.”

James 4:3 “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”

God supplies our needs, not all that we want.

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Universalism

The belief in universalism argues that all paths lead to heaven and that ultimately, everyone will be saved, regardless of their beliefs or actions. This contradicts the Bible's clear message that salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ alone and that there are eternal consequences for rejecting this salvation.

John 14:5–7: “5Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.”

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Work-Based Salvation

This doctrine suggests that our actions can earn us a place in heaven, essentially saying Jesus' sacrifice on the cross wasn't enough. It undermines the core gospel message that we are saved by grace through faith, not by our own efforts.

1 Thessalonians 5:8–10 “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.”

James 2:18 “Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”

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Relativism

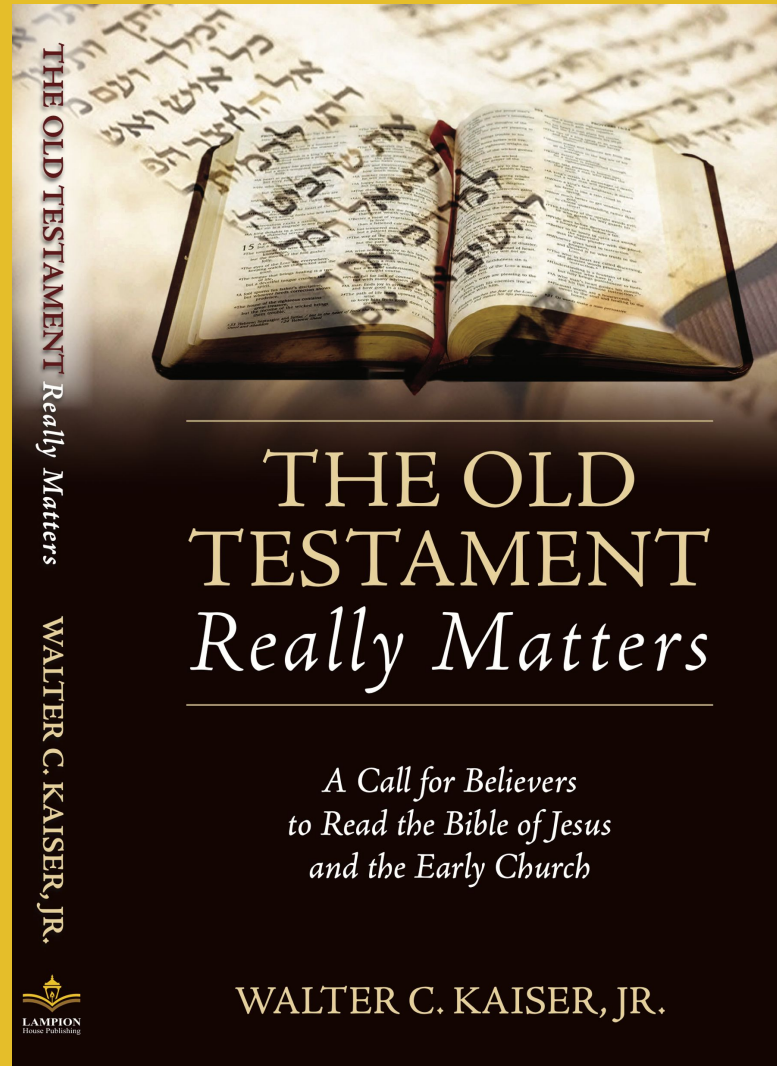
Embracing the idea that truth is subjective and personal dismisses the Bible's claim to be the ultimate standard of truth. It challenges the foundation of Christian faith by suggesting that biblical truths can be interpreted or dismissed based on personal preference or cultural trends.

Genesis 3:1–4 “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:”

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Rejection of the Old Testament for the Christian Church



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Rejection of the Belief in the Direct Creative Acts of God in Creation

1. Commitment to Darwinist Evolution
2. Commitment to Theistic Evolution
3. Rejection of the Historical Narratives of Genesis Viewing them to be Myths, based Myths of the Ancient Near East Regarding “Creation.”

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Transgenderism

Claiming that a person's psyche and body are not interconnected so that one can be a mental man but physical woman, or a mental woman but physical man.

1. This teaching contrary to nature, as Paul describes in Romans 1, and also what is taught in the Genesis creation of the male person and the female person
2. The teaching of transgenderism is an attempt to provide for the homosexual tendencies of some who reject in a manner that was not even practiced in prior centuries. See Romans 1:24-28.

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The Teaching of Paul in 1 Timothy 4 Sound Doctrine Produces Godly Living

II. Paul's Introductory Guidance to Timothy (1 Tim 4:3-5)

“For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

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Paul's Basic Teaching to the Church in His Letters

The Letters of Paul: The Role of Sound Doctrine

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The Teaching of Paul in 1 Timothy 4:6-11 Sound Doctrine Produces Godly Living

“If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. But reject profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.”

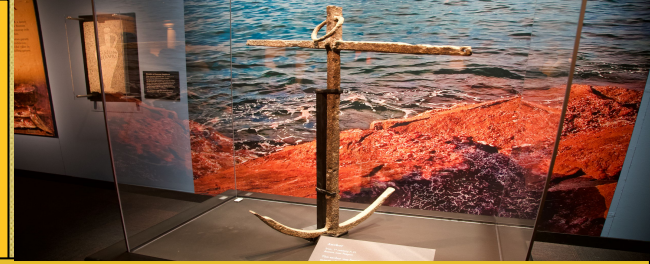
Timothy called to teach truth and refute error. **Reject Profane Myths** (v. 7a)

Avoid speculation and spiritual distractions.

Doctrine as spiritual nourishment: **Train for Godliness** (vv. 7b–8)

Bodily training has some value; godliness has value now and forever.

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IV. The Practice of Ministry Grounded in Doctrine (1 Tim 4:12–16)

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Devotion to Scripture and Teaching (v. 13)

Public reading, exhortation, and doctrine must remain central.

Use of Spiritual Gifts (vv. 14–15)

Timothy is reminded to exercise his calling faithfully, with diligence.

Guarding Life and Doctrine Together (v. 16)

“Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching.”

Salvation and perseverance are tied to both right belief and right practice.

Key Point: Sound doctrine and holy living together sustain the life of the church.

Not only are we to believe and practice sound doctrine (1 Tim 3:14-16). It matters to God what we believe and teach.

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BIG IDEA: The apostle Paul, in speaking to his disciple Timothy, says that sound doctrine leads a believer to godly living, keeping the believer from being lured to bad ideas, harmful practices, and spiritual failure, harmful practices, and spiritual failure, and the basis of a healthy and growing church.

Conclusion / Application

Sound doctrine protects from error.

Sound doctrine produces godly living.

Sound doctrine provides a foundation for a healthy, growing church.

Reflective Thought:

“Am I nourishing my life with sound doctrine so that others can see Christ in the way I live?”

This only occurs when we spend time in the Bible to know what it teaches and how we should serve God.

STOP HERE

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III. The Power of Godly Living (1 Tim 4:7–12)

“But reject profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach.”

Reject Profane Myths (v. 7a)

Avoid speculation and spiritual distractions.

Train for Godliness (vv. 7b–8)

Bodily training has some value; godliness has value now and forever.

Model for Believers (vv. 11–12)

In speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity—Timothy is to live out what he teaches.

Key Point: Right doctrine produces right living, which in turn strengthens the witness of the church.

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