Healthy Churches

**Discern Truth From Error**

(1 Timothy 4:1-16)

(continued)

*11 Command and teach these things. 12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. 14 Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. 15 Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. 16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. (ESV)*

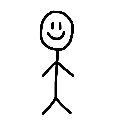
**Satan’s strategies for destroying Christ’s church**

Persecute it – Divide it – Poison it

***1 Timothy 4:4-5***

*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.*

**False teachers on the Left and Right**

Libertine (Enjoy life)  (Holy life) Legalist

Take from the Bible Add to the Bible

*Healthy churches are alert to various attacks on the gospel* (1 Tim 4:1-5)

*Healthy churches counter the influence of false teaching* (1 Tim 4:6-10)

* The congregation is alert to false teaching (v. 6)
* They are careful not to be gullible (v. 7a)
* They pursue godliness (vs. 7b-10)
* They nurture spiritual maturity in young people (vs. 11-12)

speech – conduct – love – faith – purity

***3 John 1:3***

*“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth”*

* They provide regular opportunities to study the truth of Scripture (v. 13)

***Bible Basics***

*Bible – God – Jesus – Holy Spirit – Sin – Salvation*

* They develop people in leadership (vs. 14-16)

“Do not neglect”

***Acts 13:1-3***

*1Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” 3Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.*

“Practice these things”

“Paul’s purpose in the appeal was for Timothy to make a powerful demonstration of the spiritual advance since his earlier years. If Timothy obeyed Paul’s advice, his friends in Ephesus would not see him an inexperienced youth but as a growing man of God. Church members will follow someone whom they respect when the mere authority of the office makes them react or resist.”

***Thomas Lea***

“Keep close watch”