

Keep Fighting the Good Fight: God's Methods of Teaching

1 Timothy 1:18-20 (Part 5)

¹⁸ This command I entrust to you, Timothy, *my child*, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may fight the good fight, ¹⁹ keeping faith and a good conscience, which some, having rejected, suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith. ²⁰ Among these are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan, **so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.**

1. The Right Path: Faithfully Fighting the Good Fight (continuously)

2. The Wrong Path: Shipwrecked Faith

a. Rejection of Belief & Good Conscience – HOW does this happen?

- 1) By rejecting the accurate *CONTENT* of belief
- 2) By rejecting the aligning *CONDUCT* of belief
- 3) By rejecting the *ALARMS* of a Biblically-informed conscience

b. Result of Rejecting: Shipwrecked Concerning the Belief

suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith – *WHY* does this happen?

- 1) Love of this *AGE*: Focusing on this Present *TIME*
- 2) Love of this *WORLD*: Focusing on this Present *PLACE*
- 3) Love of this *World's RELATIONSHIPS*: Focusing on *PEOPLE*
- 4) Love of *EASE*: Focusing on the *EASY PATH*

c. Paul Names Some of Them

1) Hymenaeus

2 Tim 2:16-18 ¹⁸ who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some.

2) Alexander

2 Tim 2:14-15 **Alexander** the coppersmith showed me much harm... ¹⁵ ... for he vigorously opposed our words.

d. Paul Hands Them Over to Satan

whom I have handed over to Satan,

1) God Uses Satan as an Avenue of Discipline

1 Cor 5:5 deliver such a one to **Satan** for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

2) God Identifies Satan as the Leader of Unbelievers

Acts 26:18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the authority of **Satan** to God...

3) God Identifies Satan as the Tempter of Believers

1 Cor 7:5 Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that **Satan** will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

4) God Identifies Satan as the Hinderer of Believers

1 Thes 2:18 For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet **Satan** hindered us.

e. Paul Explains His Action

so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

1) To Teach Them (next week...)

2) Not to Be Blaspheming (~ ongoing)

a) The Meaning of Blasphemy (To speak evil / To slander)

b) The Means of Blasphemy (how it happens)

○ By speaking evil myself

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness and anger and wrath and shouting and **slander** be put away from you, along with all malice.

Jude 1:8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and **speak evil** of dignitaries.

○ By causing others to speak evil due to my actions

1 Tim 6:1 All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor **so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be slandered.**

2 Pet 2:2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth **will be maligned.**

Summary Thoughts:

1. Serving God faces **RESISTANCE** from outside & inside the Church.

2. God tells me how to **THINK**, how to **TALK**, and how to **WALK** as believers.

3. What I think, what I say, and what I do are all extremely important to **GOD** and greatly influence others regarding God.

whom I have handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme.

Elements:

1. What Leaders/Believers Must Do: Fight the Good Fight
2. What Some Leaders/Believers Do: Suffer Shipwreck in Regard to Their Faith
3. Who Some of Leaders/Believers Are: Hymenaeus and Alexander
4. What Action Paul Took Towards Them: Whom I Have Handed Over to Satan
5. What Reason Paul Gave for His Action: So that They Will Be Taught Not to Blaspheme

The Good News in This Bad Situation: **so that they will be TAUGHT not to blaspheme.**

The Extraordinary Word Used by Paul: Taught

- **παιδεύω**/*paideuo* (“to instruct, train, educate”): verb form is used 13x
- **παιδεία**/*paideia* (“training, instruction, discipline”): noun form used 6x
- **παιδευτής**/*PAIDEUTES* (“instructor, trainer, corrector”): noun form 2x

Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness,

Heb 12:5–11 And you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when you are reproved by Him; ⁶ For those whom the Lord loves **He disciplines**, And He flogs every son whom He receives.” ⁷ It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father **does** not **discipline**? ⁸ But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to DISCIPLINE us, and we respected them. Shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? ¹⁰ For they **disciplined** us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He [disciplines] us for our benefit, so that we may share His holiness. ¹¹ And all discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful, but to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

The fact that Paul does this to teach them suggests that ...

- 1. God seeks to correct, not simply to punish***
- 2. Believers can deviate greatly from the correct path (sin)***
- 3. Deviating from the faith is a serious offense that must be addressed***
- 4. Believers deviating can be corrected through teaching if the believer is open to learn***
- 5. Some teaching comes in the form of difficult and drastic discipline***
- 6. Teaching occurs at multiple levels:***

a. Positive (formal) normal instruction by pastors

Matt 28:20 teaching them to keep all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

John 21:15-17... do you love Me more than these?” ... “Tend My lambs.” ¹⁶ ...do you love Me?” ... “Shepherd My sheep.” ¹⁷ ... do you love Me?” ... “Tend My sheep.”

Col 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

Eph 4:11-16 And He Himself gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ,

Heb 13:7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.

b. Positive (casual) teaching / exhorting one another

c. Negative (casual) admonishing / exhorting one another

Matt 18:15 Now if your brother sins, go and show him his fault, between you and him alone; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another...

d. Negative (formal) reprove, rebuke, exhort

Eph 5:13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to reprove those who contradict.

Titus 2:15 These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. (cf. Heb 12:5)

2 Tim 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and teaching.

e. Negative (formal/disciplinary) expulsion / exclusion

Matt 18:17 And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as the Gentile and the tax collector.

1 Cor 5:9–13 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people; ¹⁰I did not at all mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the greedy and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world. ¹¹But now I am writing to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is a sexually immoral person, or greedy, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one. ¹²For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Are you not to judge those who are within the church? ¹³But those who are outside, God will judge. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.

f. Negative (formal/disciplinary) turning over to Satan (drastic)

7. Salvation is permanent, but deviation is very harmful to self and others and requires serious correction