

True Godliness
March 10-11, 2018
1 Timothy 4:1-16

Introduction:

I. False teaching is an exit ramp from the faith (vv. 1-5)

A. C_____ is deceiving

B. O_____ is misleading

II. Faithful teaching keeps believers on the road to godliness (vv. 6-10)

A. Emphasizes sound d_____.

B. Godliness is the r_____ (not the c_____) of God's Spirit living within you.
This understanding is absolutely essential to the gospel!

III. Pastors guide the church in staying on the straight and narrow (vv. 11-16).

A. D_____ to the ministry of the Word

B. Personal and corporate spiritual g_____

Conclusion:

Questions for reflection or small group discussion

1. Name some modern-day false teachings and how the church can guard against adopting them as truth. What things from external appearances seem godly at first glance, but at their core are idolatrous?
2. Make a list of the key elements of the apostle Paul's ministry in Ephesus (see Acts 19:8-10, 11-20; 20:18-38). What specific warning did he give the Ephesian elders? How is this warning similar to his charge to Timothy nearly 8 years later? (see 1 Tim 1:3ff; 4:1ff)
3. How do the pastors/elders of our church emphasize sound doctrine?
4. Do a word study on "godliness" – see Acts 3:12; 1 Tim 2:2; 3:16; 4:7-8; 6:3,5-6,11; 2 Tim 3:5; Titus 1:1. What do you learn from these passages about godliness?
5. Compare the godly qualities of leaders (1 Tim 3) to the character and actions of false teachers (1 Tim 1: 3-7; 19-20; 4:1-3; 6:3-10; 2 Tim 3:1-9; Titus 1:16).
6. Pray for the pastors/elders of your church, by name. Pray, like Paul urges, that they would watch their lives and doctrine closely.
7. How might you contribute to our church in a way that helps maintain its devotion to the ministry of the Word?
8. What is your "fitness plan" for spiritual growth? Who is a part of this plan?

"John Calvin writes, 'Let every part of our existence be directed towards him as our only legitimate goal.' Discover ways that you can make God the goal of all you do this week by doing 'all things with a view to God's glory.'" – Foster, Richard J., and James Bryan Smith. *Devotional classics: selected readings for individuals and groups*. 2005 ed. San Francisco: Harper, 1993, 141.