

# Lessons From I Timothy

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## Things To Avoid

(I Ti 6:20-21)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
    - a. Greetings...
  2. Series of “Lessons From I Timothy.”
    - a. Last week we looked at “The Financially Wealthy Christians.”
      - i. **I Ti 6:17-19** <sup>“1</sup>
    - b. Today we will be examining what Paul had to say concerning “Things To Avoid.”
      - i. **I Ti 6:20-21** <sup>“</sup>
  3. Paul having laid out to Timothy how Christians with wealthy financial means ought to act now reminds Timothy to guard the “deposit” that was entrusted to him.
    - a. This word deposit is only found three times in Scripture and all of them are in Paul’s letters to Timothy.
      - i. **I Ti 6:20; II Ti 1:12; II Ti 1:14** <sup>“</sup>
      - ii. “...Timothy was not to simply keep it buried in his heart and home, but to keep it like a banker who keeps a great deposit of money. Thus it would not only be intact, but would be used and increased to the owner’s advantage.”<sup>2</sup>
    - b. This deposit is the gospel.
      - i. Paul, entrusted with the gospel (**I Ti 1:11**) now charges Timothy with the same.
        1. Thus each and every gospel preacher is charged with the heavy responsibility to guard the gospel to maintain its purity.
  4. Paul then explains “how” Timothy is to guard the gospel and keep it pure.
    - a. By avoiding irreverent babble and contradictions in false knowledge.
      - i. It is these that we will focus on tonight in our lesson.
  5. With this in mind let us examine our lesson for this evening.
- I. **Avoiding Irreverent Babblings Based On False Knowledge**
- A. Irreverent babblings defined
    1. Just looking at several translations can show us the idea behind this phrase.
      - i. **ASV** – profane babblings
      - ii. **KJV** – profane & vain babblings
      - iii. **LEB** – pointless and empty talk
      - iv. **NASB** – worldly and empty chatter
      - v. **NIV** – godless chatter
    2. Thus it means “empty and worthless talk that brings no value to anyone.”
  - B. False Knowledge defined
    1. The word for “knowledge” here is “gnosis.”
      - i. This word is dealing with the idea of “gathering information” not understanding that information.
    2. However this is “false knowledge” meaning it is empty information.

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

<sup>2</sup> Notes on I Timothy by College Press pg. 127

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- i. Many people and groups have taught only they or only a select few have access to “secret knowledge.”
  - a. Gnosticism, Catholicism, and Mormonism are all examples of this type of thing.
- C. Unfortunately preachers, even in the church, can fall prey to false knowledge
  1. Have you ever heard a preacher say something like this “I’ve been studying and have found something new that no one else or that few have found.”
    - i. This is typically used when false doctrine is being introduced.
      - a. I knew a preacher that desired to sing worship songs with mechanical instruments tell me “Landon I’ve been studying this and I have found something I don’t think anyone has ever discovered before.”
- D. Thus...
  1. Paul warns Timothy that preachers cannot and should not ever preach irreverent babblings because it leads people to more and more ungodliness.
    - i. **II Ti 2:16**“

## II. Avoid Contradictions Based On False Knowledge

### A. Contradictions defined

1. When one opens different translations there are two basic concept of words used but both point to the same thing.
  - i. **ASV & KJV/NASB95/NIV** “oppositions/opposing arguments/opposing ideas
  - ii. **ESV, LEB, & NKJV** “contradictions”
2. Louw-Nida “a statement which involves direct contradiction or is logically inconsistent—‘contradiction.’”<sup>3</sup>

### B. Contradictions based on false knowledge

1. What happens when you combine the Bible with man’s desires/creeds?
  - i. You find a plethora of contradictions.
    - a. Examples
      1. Man: Baptism does not save.
      2. Bible: “...baptism now saves you...”
        - i. **I Pt 3:21**
      3. Man: We are saved by faith alone.
      4. Bible: “You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.”
        - i. **Ja 2:24**
      5. Man: There is no biblical pattern set forth by God just suggestions.
      6. Bible: “Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.”
        - i. **II Ti 1:13**

### C. Thus...

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<sup>3</sup> Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 439). New York: United Bible Societies.

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1. Paul warns Timothy that false knowledge can lead a preacher to preach contradictions to the Word of God.

### III. Avoid Swerving From The Faith

#### A. Swerve defined

1. Notice the variances in other translations
  - i. **ASV/KJV** – erred concerning the faith
  - ii. **LEB** – deviated concerning the faith
  - iii. **NASB95** – gone astray from the faith
  - iv. **NIV84** – wandered from the faith
  - v. **NIV** – departed from the faith
  - vi. **NKJV** – strayed concerning the faith
2. Vines “to miss the mark”<sup>4</sup>
3. Louw-Nida “to go astray as the result of departing from the truth – ‘to abandon the truth, to lose one’s way.’”<sup>5</sup>

#### B. Thus...

1. Paul warns Timothy and every other preacher if you preach irreverent babblings and contradictions to God’s Word you will be the cause of not only your own soul departing from the faith but of some others as well.
  - i. **I Ti 4:16** “

### CONCLUSION

1. Brothers and sisters I plead with you that you make sure to always hold me and all other preachers accountable and that you rejoice always when sound doctrine is proclaimed.
  - a. Never be satisfied with sermonettes but rather desire sermons.
2. Question: Are you striving to make sure you are not being filled with false knowledge?
  - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
  - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent and confess your transgression before God so He can forgive you and bear fruit of repentance by dedicating the rest of your life for Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”
  - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required for you to become a child of God.
    - i. Hear/Study God’s Word **Rom 10:17**
    - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Heb 11:6; Jn 3:16; Jn 14:15**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:3**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32**
    - v. Obey The Gospel **I Cor 15:1-4; Rom 6:3-5**

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<sup>4</sup> Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*. Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.

<sup>5</sup> Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition.). New York: United Bible Societies.