



“Detect Error” 1Timothy 4:1-5

Satan doesn't leave fang marks on the skin but lies in the heart (John 8:44). A lie believed to be true will affect your life as if it were true (Pro4:23). Lies will imprison you but the truth will set you free (John 8:31-32). Who you are can be no better or no worse than the thoughts you entertain in your head.

“Sound doctrine originates with God, is recorded in the Word of God, and is consistent with the whole revelation of God.” -Daren Dirksen: Captivated [series] Colossians-Unity in Doctrine

Why Detect Error? v1

- If Satan can't get you to doubt God's existence, he'll get you to doubt God's goodness. Gen3:1-5; John10:10 He does this by distorting God's character (Who God is) and/or God's Word (What God says).
- He blinds the minds of unbelievers (2Cor4:4) and seeks to lead astray the minds of believers (2Cor11:3).
- Two ways to defect: Religion (Moral Conformity) or Irreligion (Self-Discovery) Luke 15:11-32 Irreligion: Deceived by the pleasures of sin. Religion: Disillusioned by the pain of suffering.

What is Error? vv2-3; 1Tim1:18-19

Religion Run Amok: (All rooted in doubting the goodness of God)

- Follower-ism – More devoted to a specific leader, denomination, or church than Christ. v2; Gal4:17; Rom16:18
- Asceticism – My right standing with God is based on my sacrifice not Christ's. v3; Col2:23
- Legalism – I keep the rules; therefore, God accepts me and blesses me. Eph2:8-9
- Moralism – I deserve a good life because I'm basically a good person. Rom3:23, 6:23
- Mysticism – Pursuit of an emotional experience rather than the pursuit of Christ. 2Cor5:7; Heb11:1
- Formalism – I'm involved in a lot of church activities with very little heart change. Isa29:13
- Activism – More concerned about temporal suffering than eternal. Matt5:16
- Biblicism – I know a lot about God and the Bible but don't know God. 1Cor8:1

- Prosperity-ism – Health and wealth are always God's will for you. 1Pet. 4:19
- Narcissism – life is all about me. Beware of man-centered churches vs. God-centered churches. 2Tim4:3-4
- Therapeutic-ism – God wants me to be happy and feel good about myself. 1Pet1:15-16
- Deism – God exists to bless me & make my dreams come true. Mrk8:34-35
- Cultism – denial or distortion of essential Christian faith. Who is Christ and what did He do? John14:6 In the essentials there is unity, in non-essentials liberty (harmony), but in all things Love.

How to Overcome Error? vv4-5

- Everything created is a gift from and a pointer to the only One who can satisfy your heart. v4a; Ps19:1-6; James 1:17
- It is to be received with Thanksgiving that is rooted in who God is, not in what God gives. v4; Hab3:17-18
- Created things can awaken and strengthen our thanksgiving in God (made holy) through the Word of God and Prayer. v5; 2Cor10:31
- The Cross secured our eternal satisfaction in the Creator so that we could maximize our enjoyment (older bro) of creation protecting us from idolatry (younger bro). v5; 2Cor5:21, 8:9

Growing Notes

- 1) Who you are can be no better or no worse than the thoughts you entertain in your head. Explain. How do lies imprison you but the truth will set you free (John 8:31-32)? What is sound doctrine?
- 2) Read 1 Timothy 4:1-5. What stands out to you? Why is it important to detect error (v1)? If Satan can't get you to doubt God's existence, he'll get you to doubt God's what (Gen3:1-5)? What does Satan do to unbelievers (2Cor4:4) and believers (2Cor11:3)? What are the two ways people defect?
- 3) What is error (vv2-3)? Review the list of Religion Run Amok. How are all these rooted in doubting the goodness of God? Which one(s) on the list do you struggle with the most?
- 4) How to Overcome Error (vv4-5 specifically asceticism)? How should we view everything that is created (v4a; Ps19:1-6; James 1:17)? What does it mean to receive something with thanksgiving (v4)? How can created things awaken and strengthen our thanksgiving in God (v5)? How does our eternal satisfaction in Christ secured by the cross maximize our enjoyment of created things while protecting us from idolatry? Pray