**Week Five – 1 Timothy 4**

In chapter 4 of his letter to Timothy, Paul now turns from describing gospel-shaped worship and leadership to deal with pressing matter at hand – countering the false teaching that is leading to ungodly attitudes and actions compromising the Ephesian church and its witness.

A Social Media Influencer is a user on social media who has established credibility in a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A Godly Influencer is a person who has established credibility by living a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**I. Three Things Every Godly Influencer Needs:**

**a. Discernment – Truth based clarity (vv. 1-5):**

The ability to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ truth and error, or right and wrong, is called discernment.

 i. Who is being influenced? (v. 1)

* The Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- of what Paul is about to say here.
* The latter days Paul refers to correspond with age of the Spirit, or the age of the gospel, that began with Christ’s finished work on the cross and the outpouring of the Spirit.
* Those who are being affected by the false teachers in Ephesus are people who have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from faith in Christ and as a result are no longer being led by the Holy Spirit but by deceiving spirits that are demonically inspired.

 ii. Who is doing the influencing? (v. 2,3)

* False teachers - ‘*hypocritical liars*’ whose consciences have been seared (that is, desensitized and rendered ineffective) by their rebellion against the gospel.
* By consistently ignoring the voice of the Spirit convicting them of sin, they have become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit.

 iii. What is the nature of the influence (false teaching)? (v. 4,5)

* The false teachers:

 1. Forbade people to marry

 2. Ordered people to abstain from certain foods.

* These two prohibitions are a reflection of some form of Gnosticism that had crept into the church. The Gnostics taught that all matter is evil; only the spirit is good. So, all physical pleasure is sinful. Holiness was about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the body and its natural desires.
* So why was this such a big deal to Paul?
	+ Creation is good; and created pleasures, in their proper and appropriate forms, as God designed them to be, should be received with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Marriage is God-ordained. Food is God’s provision.

**b. Discipline – Living a Gospel-Shaped Life (vv. 6-10):**

 Dallas Willard wrote that, when it comes to spiritual maturity, God is opposed to earning,

 But not to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We grow spiritually not by trying, but by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* “*These things*” – likely refers each time at least to the preceding paragraph, and it may well refer more broadly to the entire letter. See also 3: 14; 4: 15; 5: 7; 6: 2b.
* “*Train yourself to be godly”*. - Paul says to Timothy teaching gospel shaped living begins with leading by example. Spiritual training, on the other hand, has value for this life and for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The value of teaching and modeling the Christ-centred Ife in so inestimably significant that it is worthy of Paul, Timothy’s, and our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* The statement that God is the “*Savior of all people, especially of those who believe”* has been used teach universalism. The more likely interpretation is that salvation is available to all people because Christ died for them but only those who believe in him are saved.

**c. Direction – Engaging God’s Redemptive Agenda (vv. 11-16):**

 “*Until I come”* (v. 13) – the accountability connection. Paul is looking to see \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 in Timothy’s ministry and life when he returns.

1. *“Command and teach”* v. 11 - Paul here calls Timothy not to wilt in the face of the opposition and pressure he is facing, but to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in living and teaching the gospel.
2. *“Devote yourself”* to the work of the gospel *(*v. 13)
3. “*Do not neglect your gift” (*Gk. *charismatos*) (v. 14)
4. *“Be diligent”* (Gk. *meleta*) (v. 15)
5. *“Watch your faith and doctrine closely”* (v.16)

**II. The Mentoring Moment – Accountability**

 There is a difference between being fan of Jesus and a follower of Jesus. In Matt. 7:24, Jesus says,

 *“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like the wise man who*

 *built his house on the rock.”* Accountably is not about micromanaging or fault-finding. It is about

 providing support and encouragement someone needs to help them \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 to God, themselves, and others. Mentors provide accountability by asking questions like these?

 a. Pay attention to yourself. What kind of person are you becoming?

b. What is the way you are living forming you into? Is this who you want to

 become?

 c. What is your game plan for becoming the person you want to be?

 d. Who will help you keep your promises to God, to yourself, and to others?

 Mentoring relationship flourish long-term in a climate of both \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.