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**Thursday, June 15, 2023 ▫ 2Timothy 2:17–19**

*Questions from the Scripture text: What will happen with preachers who do not preach and teach expositionally (v17)? Who were two examples of this? What did they do (v18)? What did they say? What did they do to whom? But what still stands (v19)? What is its seal/guarantee? What do those who are His Name? What do they do?*

**What is the danger of innovative theology?** 2Timothy 2:17–19 looks forward to the second serial reading of in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these three verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the danger of innovative theology is ending up straying from Christ ourselves and leading others to Hell with us.**

**Making a name for oneself**, v17. The apostle is instructing Timothy in the training of elders (v2), in part because in every age there are elders like those described in Ac 20:30, who lead people astray with their innovative ideas, and make disciples for themselves instead of for the Lord. Sadly, theology that is just empty noise sounds plausible enough to "spread like cancer." But there is a warning for men who make a name for themselves on the preaching and teaching circuits. Hymenaeus and Philetus made such a name for themselves that they ended up being named in Holy Scripture! It is very short-sighted to enjoy people making much of us. In the final analysis, what happens with our name will be a direct consequence of how it relates to the truth and Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Making a "truth" for oneself**, v18a. How far did Hymanaenus and Philetus stray from the truth? They didn't even believe in a future resurrection anymore! Start straying from the truth, and you could end up being a full preterist.

**Making a following for oneself**, v18b. For whom did these elders create a following? Not for the Lord Jesus. They themselves ended up believing that the resurrection was past, and those who followed them and their various errors suffered the overthrow of their faith, too. The pride of our flesh enjoys having a following. But at what cost? They may end up following us to Hell. If it is well between our souls and the Lord, between our minds and His Word, one of the ways this will be seen is by always making disciples for Christ, always pointing people to Christ. We will strengthen their faith in Him, rather than overthrow it.

**God making His own followers, on the foundation of His truth, glorifying the Name of Christ, and sanctifying those He saves**, v19. Whatever happens with us, or even with false teachers, the Lord is still building His church. "The Lord knows those who are His." This is the foundation that seals, that ensures, that someone's faith will not be overthrown. Either the Lord is saving those who are His through us, or He is saving those who are His despite us. But He is saving them.

And there are two things that will always be true of those who are actually the Lord's: they name the Name of the Lord, and they depart from iniquity. Just as 1John identifies these two as the great marks of a true Christian (together with the love as the third great mark).

**Are you truly the Lord's? Whose name do you really want others to know? Whom do you want them to admire? What do you believe about the Lord Jesus? What are you doing about your sin?**

*Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for giving us Your word of truth. Forgive us for when we follow those who explain it in a way that diverts glory from the Lord Jesus or diverts them from loving Him, longing for Him, and straining toward the resurrection. Grant unto us to love Christ's glory and long for His appearing, we ask in His Name, AMEN!*

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**ARP24 "The Earth and the Riches" or TPH390 "Christ Is Coming!"**

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Second Timothy 2 verses 17 through 19. These are the words of god and their message will spread like cancer. Hibernation for leaders are of this sort. You have strayed concerning the truth. Saying that the resurrection is already passed. And they overthrow the faith of some Nevertheless, the solid foundation of god stands having this seal, The lord knows those who are his Let everyone who names the name of christ.

Depart from iniquity. So far the reading of god's inspired and inherent word. He's been telling Timothy. To stick to the truth and to entrust. The true teaching of scripture to men, Who will also? Uh, Teach the truth, the truth. That glorifies jesus first and foremost, naming the name of christ.

And then the truth that also is instruction from jesus. In how to? Live, as someone who obeys jesus independence upon the grace of jesus. So two main things, the glory of christ in true doctrine and the glory of christ in the application and true living, this is what Timothy and those who he ordains And so on down the line, throughout the centuries throughout the generations of the church.

Among the elders, that's what they are to do. But there's a temptation among those who teach and those who learn. Because they accumulate for themselves such teachers. There's a temptation. To try and say something new or say something clever to make a name for yourself. Instead of bringing praise into honor To the name of christ.

And this is, What hymenaeus and filetus did and the warning in verse 17 is that if you want to make a name for yourself, you will just won't be a good name. Many faithful elders in ephesus and other Other congregations in the new testament, didn't get their names in the bible.

I'm an ass, got his name in the bible and filetus got his name in the bible. But they're not famous. They're infamous, aren't they? They're they're famous as examples. Of those who trying to say something new or clever. Ended up speaking. Empty words, empty noise. Uh, just babbling as far as good theology is concerned.

However, clever, it sounded, whoever wise, and Helpful, it sounded to men. It was not from the word of god and so they made a name for themselves making a truth for themselves. A strayed concerning the truth How far did they stray? Well, once someone starts being innovative with theology, It tends to be an addiction of sorts and they get further and further in this age where Uh, you can trace people are made authors.

And even worse off, the rest is, And you can trace their quote unquote, development, or progression in their books. As soon as i start departing. From the the faith delivered once. For all. Once for the ages. Uh, you can almost guarantee and watch with horror and grief. As they depart further and further and then they end up saying really crazy things.

There was an example earlier this week. Um, With an author whose books we had had On the table for and on the wall at harvest. Uh, some 10 15 years ago. And then this author started writing. Stuff. Don't know if that's true and then things that were definitely not true.

Very upset at all of the critics. Uh, and I just read an excerpt this week out loud. Here at the table. I don't know how many of you were around. And it was just absolute insanity. Blasphemy against christ blasphemy against the holy spirit blasphemy against the word of god.

All the while. With the author thinking that what they were writing was really wise and godly and a real corrective. To all those. Uptight. Uh, people are uptight about theology. Um, Well, we don't know what the first thing hyman ass if i lead has started straying in or departing in was But how far did they go?

They got to the point where they weren't even looking forward to the resurrection anymore. They said the resurrection was already passed. And of course, paul has taught in other places. And taught Timothy, of course. Uh, timothy was his son in the faith and in the ministry. That if the resurrection, if a future bodily, resurrection is not true.

Then christians are of all men to be the most pity. And high minute i'm an ass. And finally, just put themselves right in that place because they started. Making their own truth. Watch out for people who say speak your truth or believe your truth. They make truth something that is Malleable and variable.

Uh, no. We must speak the truth of christ and so there's great danger in wanting to make a name for ourselves and it's not just for bible teachers. Any desire that people would admire us that we would get noticed any enviousness of the people who are getting noticed. Which often they're getting noticed, not for good things.

Uh, but any of any of that desire envy in our hearts, There's, there's great big danger there. That we would be those who want to make a name for ourselves. And rather than desiring to be taught of god. To learn from his word to embrace. Uh, the faith once delivered.

Uh for the ages to embrace the truth of the bible, any desire instead to be creative or to come up with new ways. Clever ways of thinking things. Um, big danger there. As soon as as you start down that path. You're in danger. And even worse. Because we're all sinful and susceptible to such things.

You're in danger, not only of harming yourself, but harming others that sad phrase at the end of verse 18. And they overthrow the faith of some Those who had not had an inward change. But at least their intellectual doctrine was accurate. And There's always good hope as someone is reading and agreeing with the bible that the holy spirit is going to take That truth of the bible that is going to use his word.

He's going to give grace and the heart. But he's going to give life and real faith. Um, but how how dreadful? To end up being the instrument by which Uh, someone has drawn away intellectually. As the way of exposing that, they weren't a believer to begin with. We've had a couple said, instances of That happening with someone from our own church.

In the last few years, someone who Gets enthralled with a new idea that they see or hear somewhere. And it turns out that that becomes the occasion of discovering that they were never really saved that. They didn't have rough spiritual life. And their quote, unquote faith. The sort of faith that the demons have the demons believe and shutter says the bible.

Their faith gets overthrown. And so, there were people who Um, At least up until the point that they heard hymena ser felidis. The at least were orthodox in their doctrine. And then, And they get drawn away and such faith as they had. Is overthrown. And yet the faith of those who are genuine believers, cannot be overthrown.

Verse 19 immediately follows that phrase up to assure us. Nevertheless, the solid foundation of god stands having this seal, the lord knows who those who are his And so, for us, that means That we never hold on to the accuracy of our doctrine. We hold on to the god.

About him. We have this accurate doctrine. None can be lost clinging to christ. None can be lost, hoping in him. Everyone. Who calls upon the name of the lord will be saved. None who believe in him. Will be put to same sense of scripture. Also, concerning yourself always cling to christ.

And then if you see in the church, False teachers. My time in Arison, Philetus. That being famous. They were famous. And, Famous in the church, at least. Uh, if you see in the church, false teachers, or people who are going after false teachers, And yes, it's a great grief.

And yet, if we are resting in god and hoping in god, and our desire is that he would get glory and his elect would be. Be saved. Would be gathered into the church and we'd be grown in christ. Uh, this will happen. And so even as we grieve over, what happens to some souls, we do not need to despair.

Over what is happening to the church as if the plan of god could somehow feel Or as if an elected person could somehow be lost, that's impossible. Just as it is impossible for you to be saved if you're clinging to sorry impossible for you to be lost if you're clinging to christ.

It is impossible that the plan of god to redeem his election fail. And so, make sure that you Uh, you distinguish, you separate grief over what you see happening in many cases. From. Discouragement or despair. Is never any reason for the discouragement or the despair. The lord knows who are his And what is going to happen with them.

Well, Uh those who are his instead of following a man, they're going to follow the lord, they're going to follow christ. And yes, christ uses elders. But the elders that christ is using the elders that are properly called and ordained or not making a following for themselves. Uh, they are serving the lord jesus and serving the flock in teaching the flock to follow jesus.

So the right following and then the right truth. Let everyone who names the name of christ. Um, The part from iniquity. Wow. So the right name not making a name for themselves, but making a name from jesus for jesus and then the right truth. The doctrine that as The apostle says, in a couple places.

The doctrine that accords with godliness. That teaches people to hate their sin. And to hope. In the resurrection to hope in being holy and happy forever. And if

we are going to be Happy with the lord forever. We need the holiness without which we won't see the lord. If we.

Hope if our hope is that when he appears, we'll be like him. Because we'll see him as he is, then those who hope this way. The scripture says in verse john purify themselves Even as he is pure. And so the following for christ, the praise of christ obedience to christ.

Those are the things. That mark a genuine ministry. And those are the things. That god won't let his elect. Failed to have, he knows who is And he will do that for them. And if we are his Then let us make much of the name. Of the lord jesus and let us.

Believe the bible as the truth of the lord jesus. And let us follow him. An obedience and holiness. Then, let's pray. Lord, i pray for my children, in each of them would shortly be yours. And that they would. Know that they are yours. In this way, the Their praise would be all for the name of jesus and that they wouldn't desire.

The praise of man. Not give that which belongs to christ. To mirror men instead. Pray that you would make them. Followers of the lord jesus. A lot of men. I pray. Lord that. As they. Grow and understanding your word and the knowledge of what it teaches. How it all fits together that your spirit would be using.

That knowledge and that understanding not to puff them up in themselves. But to help them. Puts into that walk. With christ by faith the united to him. And, And that you would grow them in that holiness. That is necessary for seeing you and being with you forever. Grant that this would be true for each of them.

That they would. Call upon the name of the lord jesus that they would put their trust in Which we do ask. Also in his name, Amen.