**Those Who Believe and Know the Truth**

*1 Timothy 4:3*

**Introduction**

1. Paul wrote to Timothy concerning apostasy that would come – **1 Timothy 4:1**
2. The Spirit revealed some details concerning error of a specific apostasy – **1 Timothy 4:1-5**
   1. **(vv. 1-2)** – departure from true standard, deceiving spirits, demonic doctrine, lies, people who are going against their conscience till it is seared.
   2. Forms of asceticism **(cf. Colossians 2:20-23):**
      1. **(v. 3a)** – celibacy
      2. **(v. 3b)** – abstaining from certain foods.
3. Those who ***“believe and know the truth”*** receive these things, and understand them as authorized – **1 Timothy 4:3**
   1. **(v. 4)** – God created the animals to be received as food.
   2. **(v. 5)** – sanctified by word of God – i.e. God’s word shows such is lawful (**cf. Romans 14:14).**
4. There is a key factor Paul reveals by inspiration regarding this departure from truth:
   1. **(v. 2)** – indicates that for a time they taught and did things which violated their conscience learned of God’s will until their conscience didn’t affect them anymore – I.E. THEY KNEW.
   2. **(v. 3)** – their error, and practice contrasts with those who ***“believe AND know the truth.”***
      1. ***“and know the truth”*** modifies ***“those who believe”*** – i.e. it is explanatory (speaking of same people).
         1. “Because but one article is used, the two terms are regarded as constituting but one class of individuals so that *kai* (and) is epexegetical: believers are such as have realized.” (Lenski)
      2. However, the two together manifest the importance of each in being faithful to the word:
         1. They believe because they know.
         2. However, they don’t just know, they believe.
         3. “The perfect participle also includes their present state: having been brought to this realization of the blessed truth, **they still continue in it.**” (Lenski)
5. We must be those who are active in believing the truth. We need to know the truth first.
6. However, merely knowing the truth is not enough, WE MUST BELIEVE IT.
7. Believing and Knowing the Truth
8. To Know
   1. Ignorance Destroys
      1. **Hosea 4:6** – destroyed for lack of knowledge.
         1. **James 4:17** – not saying you MUST know for it to be sin – highlighting sins of omission.
      2. Ignorance does not mitigate. If anything, it causes problems.
      3. **Leviticus 5:17-19** – ignorant sin makes one guilty.
         1. Coming to knowledge of sin is implied – why else would he bring the offering?
         2. **Cf. Leviticus 4:13-14** – sins of the whole assembly – ***“hidden from the eyes”*** implies ignorance – ***“when the sin…becomes known…”***
   2. Knowing is Essential to Doing
      1. **Deuteronomy 29:29** – whatever God reveals is essential to know – that we might do.
      2. **2 Timothy 2:15** – essential in presenting self approved.
   3. Knowing Involves Understanding
      1. **1 Timothy 4:3** – know – *epiginōskō* – (a) “to know thoroughly” (*epi*“intensive,” *ginosko*, “to know”); (b) “to recognize a thing to be what it really is, to acknowledge,” (VINE)
      2. **Cf. Acts 8:30** (Ethiopian Eunuch) – do you understand?
      3. **Ephesians 5:17** – we need to come to a knowing of the facts of God’s will, and understand them.
9. To Believe
   1. Persuasion
      1. Example – Agrippa – **Acts 26:2-3, 24-28** – Agrippa knew Jewish custom and belief, Paul presented evidence of Jesus’ resurrection, though Agrippa knew the facts, he didn’t believe.
      2. Contrast – **Acts 4:16** (undeniable miracle – unpersuaded); **Acts 4:19-20** (Undeniable proof of resurrection – persuaded)
      3. **Romans 8:31-39** – questions of opposition, followed by gospel facts, leading to full persuasion.
   2. Trust
      1. Rising out of knowledge and persuasion.
      2. **Proverbs 3:5-8** – trust in God’s will leads to leaning on it, acting on it, and believing it to be for your good.
         1. Knowing the law is good.
         2. Though, if trust is absent, knowledge is insufficient.
      3. **1 Timothy 6:17-19** – command to rich to trust in God, not riches.
         1. One thing to know what the gospel says about heavenly treasure.
         2. Another thing to trust it to the point of emphasizing it possibly to the neglect of gaining more of what you can see.
   3. Application (Obedience)
      1. **John 3:36** – ***“does not believe”*** – *apeitheō* – translated “disobedient” in other places.
         1. ***“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (NASB)***
      2. **John 13:17** – know, blessed to do.
      3. **Hebrews 3:18-19** – did not obey, unbelief.
      4. **James 2:21-24** – Abraham’s belief was completed in works of faith.
   4. Love
      1. Ultimate part of saving, scriptural belief – knowledge, persuasion, trust, and application will only go as far as the love we have for the truth.
      2. **1 Timothy 4:1-2** – depart from faith speaking lies.
         1. **2 Thessalonians 2:9-12** – did not receive the love of the truth, believed a lie.
      3. Our estimation of the truth – **Proverbs 23:23; Matthew 13:44-45** – valuing it above all else.
         1. Love truth even more than family – **Matthew 10:34-37**
         2. ***“Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division” (Luke 12:51).***
         3. The sword that divides is the truth (**cf. Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12)**.
      4. Love of Jesus and truth are inseparable – **John 14:6**
10. Believing and Knowing What the Truth Says About:
11. Parenting
    1. **Proverbs 22:6** – general truth concerning parenting. (Are times of exception – departing after growing.)
       1. There is a way each child SHOULD go – **Proverbs 1:7-9** – fear of the Lord.
       2. The child must be TRAINED in that way.
       3. The specific training in the way he should go WORKS – he will not depart.
    2. Believing and knowing what God says about parenting involves:
       1. Trusting God’s ways are greater, and effective – **Isaiah 55:8-11**
       2. Not conforming to the world, but being transformed – **Romans 12:2**
          1. Realize there is ONE standard – **Colossians 2:1-3**
          2. Beware of false standards – **Colossians 2:4-5, 8-10** – persuasive, appealing, but false (empty).
    3. Paul’s inspired revelation on parenting – **Colossians 3:21; Ephesians 6:4**
       1. Fathers – primary responsibility – not simply the breadwinner.
          1. Mothers – **1 Timothy 5:14** – ***“manage the house”*** – *oikodespoteō* – to rule a house (VINE).
       2. NOT provoke to discouragement, to wrath:
          1. Implies an apparent FORCE of AUTHORITY.
          2. Abused authority – NOT REMEMBERING FUNCTION OF AUTHORITY – **Ephesians 6:4** – training and admonition of the Lord.
       3. Training and admonition:
          1. **Training** – *paideia* – the act of providing guidance for responsible living, upbringing, training, instruction. (BDAG)
             1. BUT HOW…
             2. Translated ***“chastening”*** – **Hebrews 12:5** – denotes more than mere education, but correction through physical chastisement – **v. 6** – paired with “scourges.”
             3. **Hebrews 12:11** – painful, but necessary.
             4. INVOLVES CORPORAL DISCIPLINE – Training implies education with the positive reinforcement of chastening when negative behavior occurs contrary to the education.
             5. CAN’T SPANK FOR NO REASON. (PROVOKE)
             6. CAN’T EXPECT EDUCATION TO BE EFFECTIVE WITHOUT REINFORCEMENT OF CORPORAL DISCIPLINE. (education itself is not training)
          2. **Admonition** – *nouthesia* – lit., “a putting in mind” (nous, “mind,” tithemi, “to put”). (VINE)
             1. “*Nouthesia* is “the training by word,” whether of encouragement, or, if necessary, by reproof or remonstrance. In contrast to this, the synonymous word *paideia* stresses training by act, though both words are used in each respect.” (VINE)
             2. Informing about what is correct or incorrect, but with the following training by act if needed.
          3. God’s will for parenting is the discipline of words (education, admonition) and action (chastening).
             1. Eli left one out! – **1 Samuel 2:22-24; 3:13** – HE DID NOT RESTRAIN THEM.
          4. Translations giving the sense:
             1. ***“chastening and admonition of the Lord.” (ASV)***
             2. ***“discipline and instruction of the Lord” (NASB, ESV*)**
          5. Provoking a child to wrath CANNOT MEAN SPANKING IS WRONG.
          6. Do you believe and know what God says about parenting?
             1. **Proverbs 13:24; 23:13-14** – physical discipline out of love. To save him.

I love my child too much to spank them?

* + - * 1. **Proverbs 19:18** – physical discipline while there is time, and for their future.

My child will grow out of it? It’s just a stage?

* + - * 1. **Proverbs 22:15; 29:15** – physical discipline to purge foolishness. Not abandon him.

I want my child to be independent, and figure things out his way?

1. God’s Plan for Pardon (1st and 2nd laws, NO 3rd)
   1. 1st Law of Pardon – Pardon for the Alien Sinner
      1. **Romans 1:16** – gospel is God’s power to salvation for everyone.
         1. 1st law of pardon is universal – none can be saved differently.
         2. **Romans 2:11, 16** – no partiality with God, all judged by gospel.
      2. Gospel of Christ – good news of Christ (**cf. 1 Corinthians 1:18** – message of cross God’s power for being saved.)
         1. Blood – **Hebrews 9:22-26** – no remission (pardon, forgiveness) without blood, Christ offered the only blood that would suffice.
         2. For everyone who believes **– Romans 3:24-26** – justified by grace through Christ’s blood, through faith.
            1. Propitiation – satisfaction of God’s wrath.
            2. By blood – i.e. Christ’s blood satisfies God’s wrath.
            3. Through faith – faith in Christ’s blood to appease God’s wrath on account of your sins.
            4. His blood washes sins away – **Colossians 1:14**
      3. What act of faith according to God’s word accesses Christ’s atoning blood?
         1. **Acts 2:38** – baptism for remission of sins. (only Christ’s blood can lead to remission of sins) (for – *eis* – to or into)
         2. **Matthew 26:28** – Christ’s blood shed for remission of sins. (Same phrase)
      4. Do you believe and know this plan? – **Colossians 2:12** – faith in the working of God.
   2. 2nd Law of Pardon – Pardon for the Erring Child
      1. **1 John 2:1-2** – writing these things to deter Christians from sinning.
         1. Why? – **1 John 1:5-7** – God can’t have fellowship with sin.
         2. If we do though – **(v. 2)** – Propitiation.
            1. For the whole world – Distinct from ***“our”*** – 1st law of pardon.
            2. **For our sins – those who are children of God who fall short again.**
      2. **1 John 1:8-10** – 2nd law of pardon (especially **v. 9**).
         1. **(vv. 5-7)** – DON’T SIN…
         2. BUT IF ANYONE SINS…
            1. **(v. 8)** – Don’t act as though the sins are inconsequential (Gnostics – my body sinned, but not my soul)
            2. **(v. 10)** – Don’t deny that God’s word said what you did was sin. (**Romans 7:7** – saying God’s word is not true)
            3. **(v. 9)** – CONFESS (implied repentance, seeking forgiveness).

**Faithful** – something you can trust (not just know, but believe)

**Just** – because still based on Jesus’ blood (**cf. 1 John 2:2**).

**(vv. 7, 9)** – go together – walking in light = blood of Jesus Christ cleanses = confess our sins

**If you can’t reach the blood without baptism then you can’t reach the blood without confession, repentance, and prayer for forgiveness.**

* + 1. Some have advocated for a 3rd law of pardon (though perhaps unbeknownst to them):
       1. **Amorphous/arbitrary** – because there is no other pattern than discussed.
       2. “God’s grace will just cover it…”; “God wants us to be saved, not lost, so why would He punish one (who hasn’t submitted to the 2nd law of pardon).”; Etc.
  1. Do you know and believe this 2nd law of pardon?
     1. **1 John 5:14-15** – we can know, and be assured that God forgives if we submit to this law.

**Conclusion**

1. It is imperative that we know the truth.
2. However, knowing the truth is not enough, we must believe it.
3. God’s children are not those who simply know about His will for them but believe it and trust it entirely to the end of total application of it.