

Week 29  
194/171

### **Transforming Daily**

*“ . . . love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith . . . ”*  
*1 Timothy 1:5*

Paul is addressing timothy, his “son in the Lord,” a young pastor, about the dangers of false teachers. His message to timothy is fairly simple, know the truth and preach/teach it. Paul’s point is if Timothy knew the truth of God’s Word, he would be less likely to be deceived, and further, he would be able to discern truth from error. The threat of false teaching has been the single form of attack by the enemy since the Garden of Eden. The attack then was, and still is, on the authority and inerrancy of God’s Word.

Satan deceived Eve with this same ploy in order to undermine her faith and confidence in God and in her husband, Adam. Adam of course chose to follow after Eve instead of following after the Word of God. But the point here is that Satan took What God said to Adam, and what Adam conveyed to Eve, and mixed in just a little error, and presto falsehood and death. Paul’s warning to Timothy is basically the same message. If one gives ear to the teachings of false teachers, death, eternal death, may be the outcome. The only recourse is for Timothy to know the truth and to teach and preach that truth especially in the face of spiritual warfare.

The message from Paul to Timothy is the same message from Paul to every believer, know the truth of God’s Word and teach/preach it. There are various reasons why one who knows the truth would not speak the truth. One of the reasons is doubt. Of course, doubt leads to compromise and compromise leads to the lack of authority and credibility.

What causes doubt in a person’s mind is the lack of faith in the truth of God’s Word. It has been said that if you sow a thought, an attitude is reaped, and if you sow an attitude, an action is reaped. Therefore, the whole process is based on the believer’s faith in the authority of God’s Word. That is why Paul elsewhere in the New Testament admonishes the believer to renew one’s mind according to the will of the Lord (Romans 12). In the book of James, 1:8, he says, “a double minded-man, unstable in all his ways.”

What is your mind on the inerrancy and infallibility of God’s Word? Is the Bible just another book to you? Do you include other religious sources equal to that of the Bible, God’s Holy Word? It definitely boils down to a matter of faith to believe that the Bible is God’s Self-revelation, and that we are to honor no other teachings with such reverence. For the purpose is, as Paul told Timothy, “love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith.”