

HEARING THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

II Timothy 4:3-5

Intro:

- A. Paul has informed Timothy about the Holy Scriptures.
 - 1. They are inspired of God.
 - 2. They can make one wise unto salvation.
 - 3. They are profitable.
 - 4. They completely equip the man of God.

- B. Paul charged Timothy to preach them.
 - 1. The Lord would judge him.
 - 2. He should not be turned aside.
 - 3. How would men listen?

I. The Hearers Would Not Endure The Truth.

- A. Vs 3a "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine;..."
 - 1. "Time" = καιρος = "season", "period of time".
 - 2. "Endure" = ανεχομαι = "to put up with", "bear".
 - 3. "Sound" = υγαινω = "to be well", "in good health".
 - 4. "Doctrine" = διδασκαλια = "teaching".
 - 5. "There will be a season when people will not put up with wholesome teaching." 3:17
 - 6. Let this stand in opposition to the teaching that causes cancer, gangrene, and open running sores.

- B. "...but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"
 - 1. "Lusts" = επιθυμια = "strong desire".
 - 2. "Heap" = επισωρευω = "to pile upon", "heap up".
 - 3. "They shall procure for themselves a great crowd of teachers", "A continuous succession of new teachers".
 - 4. "Itching" = κνηθομαι = "to tickle", "to scratch", "to itch" These hearers were anxious to hear spicy bits of information. These new teachers

were willing to relieve their itch by preaching things that were wrong.

NEW STYLE ALTERNATIVE CHURCHES: Here in Texas the traditional church has been taking a beating in many areas. With both scandal and apathy taking their toll, many are unchurched and lost. Rather than getting back to basics with old-fashioned preaching of God's Word, many are looking for something new, different, something entertaining.

In Bedford, northeast of Fort Worth, Sam Carmack (40) has started a new church. Sam's a graduate of Baylor and Southwestern, has served as a missionary in Brazil and pastored in both Oklahoma and Kentucky. According to press reports here in South Texas, Sam believes you are going to see "gobs of churches like this starting up."

What is this? "Everything about Bear Creek Valley Church was developed, and then marketed, to attract people... From the casual atmosphere to the contemporary music to the sermons relating the Bible to such modern problems as divorce and career failure, even to its soothing, subdivision like name, this new-style Baptist church was designed in response to the stated needs of nonchurchgoing baby boomers."

On a typical Sunday, Sam stands before the congregation wearing a flowered shirt and casual slacks. Most of the audience is similarly attired, including shorts and T-shirts. Nancy Carmack signs and plays an electric keyboard; another soloist does tunes "that sound like something Amy Grant would sing." There is little organized prayer or congregational singing. The focus of the service is an entertaining video about finding true faith, beamed onto the big movie screen, and "a quiet 20-minute talk Sam delivers on reconciling evolution with the Bible."

There is much in the average church that needs changing; some traditions that are killing many churches and pastors. But turning churches into social clubs is not the answer! May God burn revival into our hearts.

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C. Vs 4 "And they shall turn away their ears from the truth,..."

1. "Turn away" = ΑΠΟΣΤΡΕΦΩ = "to turn away from".
2. "They will give up listening to the truth" - MOF

- D. "...and shall be turned unto fables."
1. "Turned" = εκτρεπομαι = "to be turned out of the way to somewhere else".
 2. "Fables" = μυθος = "a tale or story", "always denotes fiction".
 3. "Will be turned away to belief in foolish stories"
BAS

II. Timothy Must Not Turn Aside. Vs 5

- A. "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions,..."
1. "Watch" = νηφω = "to be sober", "to be vigilant", "to take careful note of what is happening around one and to stay on a true and steady course".
 2. "Endure" = ανεχομαι = "to hold one's self upright", "to hold one's self against a thing", "to hold or sustain an equal mind".
 3. "Afflictions" = κακοπαθεω = "to suffer evil".
 4. "But you must always be composed; do not shrink from hardship." - GSPD
- B. "...do the work of an evangelist,..."
1. "Work" = εργον = "activity", (energy).
 2. "Evangelist" = ευαγγελιστης = "one who proclaims correct good news". This word was found on a non-christian inscription with the meaning, "a proclaimer of oracle", "one who proclaims what another has said or taught".
 3. We must consider the context. This is a plea or command for Timothy to make sure what he proclaims is the truth as he has been taught.
- B. "...make full proof of thy ministry."
1. "Full proof" = πληροφορεω = "to carry full", "to make full", "to accomplish".
 2. "Ministry" = διακονια = "service".
 3. "Work to spread the gospel" - NEB "And do all the duties of your calling" - NEB
 4. "Discharge all the duties of your ministry" - MON