

1Tim 23-07-16b

Let's resume our study now. We're in 1st Timothy and Paul in verse 3 is urging Timothy it's so interesting to me that Paul and Timothy were together and when they reached Ephesus Paul is going to continue on to Macedonia and he left Timothy in Ephesus to charge some that they teach no other doctrine of all of the things that you could charge someone to do with a New relatively young in the faith group these are Greeks who have left the worship of Aphrodite and Who knows what else they might have come out of by way of their previous life? They might have had no interest in anything at all and They have responded to the gospel. They recognize the truth of the Lord Jesus Christ they Know that their sins are forgiven.

They have the gift of eternal life But what do I do in the meantime? How can I live in a way that is? Meaningful and fruitful and make my time count Sooner or later life is over. What did we do with our time? I was listening to a presentation Sometime back where They were talking about Interviews that they do with people who are near end-of-life many of these are in rest homes and care facilities and They ask them when you look back over your life. What is most significant? Almost never do they say, you know, I built a great business.

I was the sales leader in my division I Accomplished this I accomplished that for work. I was able to acquire I had a boat I had a RV I had a You know this that and the other I accumulated possessions I had a wonderful, you know 1.75 million dollar house. We lived in a swanky neighborhood.

We went to all kinds of parties. We traveled we saw this We saw that we saw the other when they ask people what is Significant as you look back over your life. It is always relationships the time I spent with my spouse our wonderful children Our siblings that the time we spent with loved ones The love relationships are what last they are meaningful they provide satisfaction and The the fruit of life in many And I would say probably most people's view is That connection to family to close friends and It's Perfectly legitimate.

This is what we value How much greater is it when those love? relationships are infused motivated maintained Sustained and grown with the power of God with God's love shed abroad in our hearts Knowing that they are going to not only Make our lives here fulfilling, but they will transcend this life They will survive this life and go into the eternal future that is exponentially satisfying Exponentially gratifying and that the time we spend here even as we do our work Enjoy our entertainments Cultivate a good mind and a balanced set of priorities and and goals as we Seek to live in the light of of good values that the time we invest and The days that we spend count on Eternity they are an investment. It's so easy if you have a Christless life and a hopeless future to say well I've got a day today, but once that sand runs through the hourglass, I can't get it back think about day before yesterday Can't get it back. What do I have to show for it today? Is what I have to show for it.

Maybe I earned a paycheck. Maybe I got a few things done If I mowed the lawn, well, the grass is going to grow back up if I accumulated Possessions those will eventually scatter this this is you know this about me going to an antique store is a Almost spiritual experience for me I get deeply philosophical because everything in there used to be somewhere else belonged to somebody started out new Someone hoped for it saved up for it bought it got it loved it polished it cared for it used it It was a part of their life now. They are gone and the thing is in the antique store everything gathered Gets scattered everything accumulated eventually goes apart.

I have seen estates with fine Porcelain collections that were the envy of the world fine coin collections that were unrivaled in the world And when those people died those collections were scattered those individual items were sold off and the people who own them now will eventually part with them because Or part from them because death is The end of all accumulation all effort all purpose. This is one of the observations Solomon makes in the book of Ecclesiastes So it's important and so gratifying that God gives us the gift of redeeming the time We Can take this time as we are spending it now one of the more valuable things we can do with our time is to use it to receive spiritual sustenance Something that skip gets built into our eternal soul, and I have it now. I have it tomorrow I have it next week And I will have it for all eternity and I will use it now and next week and in eternity what we learn here This is training.

This is Preparation this is education. This is experience. We have internships here we have Opportunities to Apprentice and to learn skills and to practice and What we learn here? God has designed to fit us for future purposes There is a destiny and a purpose and a plan for us not just in this life.

This is just the beginning That's why Paul can say in another place our momentary light affliction is working for us an eternal weight of glory So what a privilege to be? Enrolled in the family of God to be called his child to call him our heavenly father and to know That he loves us with an incomprehensibly great love in and through the Lord Jesus Christ that gives our life meaning and purpose and definition I Can take this day and in my mundane pursuits? Doing my job Washing my dishes or carrying to the sink for someone else to wash what I really need to do is fix the dishwasher That's part of my task, but in the things that I do The dishwasher will eventually go to the scrap heap or the recycle but in the Stewardship of it in the fixing and care in the use of it my soul is Exercised my soul is built up when we do things Heartily as unto the Lord and not unto men I always think about this when I'm tuning a piano because sometimes Especially when you're getting toward the end of the third piano of the day or the fourth piano of the day And you're tired and you think you know I could just give this upper octave a light touch nobody plays up here They're not going to know the difference But the thought constantly visits my mind And I'm sure it does yours as well if this was if this piano belonged to the Lord Jesus If he was going to come out here when I'm all done To see how I did how much time and attention where I give to it And it really puts boots on the truth do what you do heartily as unto the Lord and I will tell you I put my heart soul sweat and blood into every piano I do because that's what I that's what I do just

as an exam I'm not trying to make much of myself But it's a great way for me to look at what could otherwise start to get kind of tedious Your back is hurting and you're getting hungry and tired, and you think boy You know if I could just kind of rush this and I think what would you do if this was the Lord Jesus piano? He's going to come in here in a few minutes and want to sit down and play it I Put the last ounce of energy into every string every note If it doesn't play quite right, I was so glad because I went to this lady's house A few days back and the first thing I always do is just run the keyboard it are there any mechanical difficulties So I ran from the top C to the bottom a and it all sounded pretty good But one note was kind of faint and so I went back up and this g-sharp Just didn't didn't have energy like the rest of them did and I thought is this a leverage thing why is this not playing hard and in Trying to put a little more Thickness under the balance rail and give it more throw as a lever in Playing with all of the different things you can adjust to give a note more force everything I did made it worse and I thought how can it possibly be that when I give this more leverage it gets weaker. I Took things out. I put things back and the more I fiddled with it, and I thought you know when I came here It was almost unnoticeable.

It was only me that noticed. It was a little weak But I thought if this was the Lord's piano what I leave it this way if it was my piano what I leave it this Way no, so I kept messing. We'll come to find out the stick That makes up the key and makes everything in the in the weapon in the action play Was actually cracked and cracked nearly all the way through and if I had left it in Very short order that thing would have broken and I would have been back trying to glue it Well, it turned out there were four keys that way and the more I got to looking and I was so glad Because it took me nearly 15 minutes to figure out that first key but once I saw what it was doing I identified the next three very quickly and Was able to get them clamped and glued at the beginning but I use that as an example of Persistence and and an interest in doing things to the very best of our ability as Unto the Lord because it counts it matters and the vindication of that God gives us Satisfaction he shows us That he's glad we stuck with a thing because there will be fruit in our lives and fruit in the lives and blessing in the Lives of other people that are around us because our lives are dedicated to God What did Jesus say? They will know you are my disciples because you love one another and I think Probably close to 100% of my piano customers are believers Everybody's got hymnals and verses on the walls and wants to talk about the Lord and where they go to church and where I go to church and it's just a joy to be around fellow believers and it is a delight and an honor to go in and Make something a little better in their life We're going to be in a place this afternoon Gentleman fine Christian gentleman is 93 his wife passed away since the last time I was there We're going to put up his piano broke we're going to be able to put a piano in there that he can play and play hymns, that's pretty much all he does is play hymns and what a privilege to get to do that and to put something in his life that is a positive and not it's an addition and not a loss and That is what God does in us and through us in ways you don't even know The pastor I spoke of in the in the first session that I was visiting with he I think he was a little bit discouraged Because he wasn't sure that what he is doing makes any real difference And I told him, you know, this is the third or fourth time I've been there and visited with him and I always get a blessing.

He is such an encouragement he doesn't realize that just being in the same room with him is an encouragement just because He's just always got a slight smile. I know he's 83 He's got no end of difficulties But he just has joy and peace in the Lord and he's kind of scratching his head. He has no idea the the kind of blessing he can be to people who come around him and that is the way with you and That is the way with all of us God works in ways that are unknown to us and won't emerge until the judgment So what a privilege to understand that the way that that comes about is not by me trying to go and be a blessing or trying to See where God is at work and get involved in his work but to focus on cultivating the presence the guidance the power of the Holy Spirit who brings into my life the presence and power of the Lord Jesus himself and The Lord Jesus does his work.

He blesses he enables he empowers he works and You know, there's a sense in which We're the stick that Moses uses to strike the rock and the water comes out What if that stick had broken? What if that staff had been unsound? What kind of a picture would have that would that made in in Exodus, but it doesn't because the stick held up didn't break under the strain of being smacked against the rock and When we are faithful as Paul is encouraging Timothy. I urge you I went into Macedonia I couldn't be there. You've got to remain Jesus urges his disciples.

I can't be here I'm gonna send you the Spirit while I'm away and you operate in his power Remain in Ephesus that you may charge some and what is the most important thing that Timothy can do? Don't let false teaching Intrude it is like a spreading cancer Don't let falsehood get a foothold It's a lot easier to pluck a tiny weed out of your garden than it is to let it be overgrown with weeds This is why the the parable of the wheat and the tares There are so many tares and they are so mature you got to just leave them there until the harvest but the harvest is not going to be as plentiful because for every place there is a tear there is not wheat and And so he says that they teach no other doctrine they teach no other teaching and It is so important that we understand who we are and why we're here and not be deflected or led astray or fooled into Wasting that precious gift of time and opportunity that we have each and every day to invest common life Our daily responsibilities with supernatural significance and eternal value Isn't it something that you can run the sweeper on the carpet? You can run your car down for an oil change and as you are doing it and you are aware That this is good stewardship. God has placed this car in my care It's costly I wish I could avoid repairing it, but I need to repair it. This is something God has given me I will trust him for the wherewithal.

I'll trust him that It is good stewardship to not let something he has put in my charge go to seed and fall apart and to be diligent and to view every task as I'm either doing it for the Lord Jesus or I am doing it as a steward of something that has been entrusted to my care Paul does this what was entrusted to Paul's care the gospel the truth and he is careful and diligent He doesn't just get any old body He talks to the Ephesian elders at the close of Acts remember and charges them He says I'm not going to be here shepherd the flock of God and so on I'm guilty of the blood of no

men and that that Speech that is recorded in the latter chapters of Acts but he chooses Timothy and he charges Timothy to find other faithful men and We have to be discerning. Who are we going to spend time with? Who are we going to? Enjoy fellowship and influence Paul says in these pastoral epistles bad company corrupts good morals. So our associations matter Charge them that they teach no other doctrine charge some it's a fun thing I may give you a list here in coming weeks When Paul uses the word some He uses it a lot There's close to a dozen times where he says there are some who have departed from the faith there are some who are teaching another doctrine there are some and And you get the idea that there is the some club that these Nefarious types are a part of and he says well, you know that they are part of the some To teach no other doctrine nor give heed notice he is to charge some to stop teaching falsehood Stop teaching other doctrine That is not apostolic in its origin is not Christological in its origin, where did this come from? Did Jesus ever say? Did Paul ever say did Peter ever say to John ever say do you find it in the gospel of Matthew? Where is this coming from teach? No other? doctrine and this phrase teach no other doctrine is One word but two words actually in Greek It is may hetero did ask aleo You got to kind of break that down may is the is the negative don't do this and the word is hetero did ask aleo You can recognize that did ask aleo or did ask alas, you know, that's the word for a teacher Did ask aleo is to teach what is hetero mean? You know this If you're heterosexual What do you do you partake of relationships with people that are different gender from you, right? This is not homo did ask aleo teaching the same thing.

This is not Homo lo get oh to confess to say the same thing First John 1 9 if we homo look get oh our sins. God says it's a sin. I say it's a sin I am saying the same thing something that is homogenous is is consistent throughout Heterogeneous heteros means different So this is not The doctrine that came from the Lord Jesus.

It is not the doctrine from heaven It is not what was ordered and commissioned and decreed by God through the Lord Jesus through the Apostles It comes from somewhere else Now it doesn't say that it's you know Pona road to das kalia, which would be evil teaching. It's different It isn't necessarily identifiable as evil It just doesn't match. It doesn't align.

It doesn't come from it is not a part of the Proper doctrine of scripture of God So no Teaching something different when you teach Teach what's here. Don't make stuff up. Don't add to it.

Don't extrapolate it don't Mythological eyes it as you see in the next verse So the first charge is don't let anyone and how far can Timothy go with this? Can he start traveling around towns and find false teachers and you know tackle them and beat them with a stick and say stop teaching that Where is Timothy to exercise this? charge Where is he He's in Ephesus How many churches are in Ephesus? One Timothy is the pastor in his church To Charge some that they teach. No other doctrine if you're going to teach in our group great There can be many teachers in the group But don't teach anything other than what we know is the truth That's the first charge the second one is in verse 4 nor give heed don't Output it and don't input it Charge that they do not give heed to fables and endless genealogies There's been a lot of speculation and scholarly Opinion on

what is a fable and what is an endless genealogy the Notion here is mainly pretty easy to figure out from context What do these things do? If it is healthy doctrine if it is proper teaching it won't do what this stuff does The fables and endless genealogies whatever they are cause disputes rather than godly edification building up godliness People come away More motivated more encouraged more faithful with more of all of the fruit of the Spirit Right These teachings divide people they Shake people up and cause them to start arguing with each other Can you think of teaching that falls into this category? That would divide people how about Mixing politics in with Scripture Well, you should vote for so-and-so because he's in favor of this which the Bible is in favor of her He's against that which the Bible is against so you should vote There is a hard and fast rule at least there used to be in the dark days when I was Associated with the Navy and the Marine Corps that at the meal table in the wardroom There are subjects Gentlemen do not bring up because the wardroom is a place of fellowship of communion Especially important among officers who are sharing leadership responsibilities in a tightly wound environment and so one of those is politics and Another is religion if people have different views on religion don't bring that stuff up Politics don't bring that stuff up now. I'm not saying it doesn't happen, but the rule and it used to be much more respected in the past is don't Bring up topics that will inevitably Divide people that should not be divided It's not worth the division making your point even if it's right is not worth the division It's not worth Dividing somebody against someone else in their periphery maybe you and they agree But you get polarized and other people are suddenly persona non grata because you've affirmed this political point of view or this you know narrow point of doctrine and you want to look Askance at those who don't agree It isn't worth it Again using pianos as an example I am in every different stripe of church except Church of Christ who don't have pianos that you can imagine and We have such wonderful fellowship.

It doesn't matter what their denominational Emphasis or the emphases may be we all enjoy the fellowship Probably is a little easier because it's generally brief and Over time you know it might be more difficult to sustain if you if there are things that are near and dear to your heart And they have things near and dear to their heart that that you know become a priority but The unity of faith and the bond of peace is such a precious gift Why bring things up that would divide? Why would you walk into a Pentecostal church and say well you know all those temporary gifts have all ceased right? Why would you do that? And if they want to say something about whether or not they spoke in tongues or their family does or whatever and Well you can just nod your head, and you don't have to say everything you know We there's no reason why do that and that is the product that is the result and Paul's first charge we're not four verses into the Into the letter yet And Paul says you've got to stop people from talking and you've got to stop people from listening to material that divides Division in your church in your group Timothy I left you there as pastor It may be a separate question whether you should speak up in a social context or speak up in a cultural context But in a church context to speak that which divides To raise issues because you've got your eye on someone and you think they're not doing what they should some of these discipleship programs They encourage those who are doing the discipling to keep an eye on their

disciples And that's what they call them when you're dealing with your disciple And you see that they're starting to do this and that the other that might water down the message of discipleship You know you need to go have a word with them You need to to speak up and try to stage manage their conversations and their behavior because that might affect the the witness from outside There is no authority there. There is no call there There is no mandate in Scripture there that says you need to manage somebody else's Conversation and go up there and wag your finger in their face if you think they're doing something that is against what you perceive to Be the fulfillment of the Great Commission that is Satan's own lie, and that'll divide a church faster than a tornado It is horrific and There are churches splitting dividing dissolving all around us because this point is not understood Do not teach Heteros Teaching don't bring up stuff. That's not in the book.

I'll give you an example. What was the extent of the worldwide flood? That's kind of a loaded question isn't it what was the extent of the localized flood? Was the flood localized or worldwide did it cover the entire planet or was it only where there was? life and people and and animals and plants that could be Let's say manipulated by people Did God need to flood? New Zealand if there was nobody there and None of the animals had been genetically manipulated Well, you can people divide over this you get around some of the some of the 6,000 year young earth creationists and They will Disfellowship you if you say you know I just I think the earth is older than that Oh my gosh, that's heresy. You're unbiblical.

You've you've departed from the faith And there's people there's old earth people that that will so despise and look down on the young earth people They won't have anything to do with them. Well, you're just a hopeless. What are you a KJV only? 6,000 year, you know get your head out of the bag there, you know science and so on Does the Bible Say young earth old earth Isn't it interesting that the biblical account is crafted by divine inspiration To leave that question largely unanswered It's not an issue if the Bible doesn't make an issue out of it.

Why would we? Why make an issue what is the issue in the Word of God? All creation is the product of God's divine power his design his command his authority he established a pattern of work followed by rest and dedication He originated everything he is the author of creation. He is the author of our faith and so on Why not focus on and emphasize what Scripture focuses on and emphasizes? What does the Lord require of you oh man, but to figure out exactly how old the earth is and how far the flood extended What does the Lord require of you? Oh man, but to figure out whether man and dinosaurs co-existed or not Look at the book of Job behemoth and Leviathan were or were not dinosaurs. The King James says there are dragons Revelation there's the dragon.

So dragons must have existed Is that the point or the purpose of anything in Scripture? Is Scripture a Mallet that we are to pick up and beat other people over the head with You need to be a better person you need to have better ethics you need to have better morals you need to have This and that in your life and you need to cut this and that out Whose job is that? Whose job is it

to lead and to guide Whose is the still small voice Who is the one who leads us into all truth and at the right time and in the right way? Will convict us of things that we need to change Well, you're not looking at him. It isn't me and if you turn the self-facing camera on it isn't that person either it is the Holy Spirit and Those who want to elbow the Holy Spirit out of the way in his leading guiding and convicting ministry Will be accountable at the judgment Those who want to elbow Scripture out of the way and replace it with their own notions and their own Interpretations their own fables their own endless genealogies their own old wives tales, which he's going to mention here shortly Other stories this boils down to a different story than the one in Scripture That's what these are in Paul's day there were some specifics these endless genealogies were a product of the Jewish sages and he's going to go on to talk about misusing the law and so on but It stands in for any story that isn't the biblical story any emphasis That's not the biblical emphasis any witness that is not the apostolic witness and the Lord Jesus witness What happens inevitably? without fail You have disputes rather than godly edification in faith Now verse 5 the purpose of the commandment purpose of what commandment the purpose of Paul's exhortation Timothy to ensure that there's not bad teaching and people hearing bad teaching people listening to and believing Unbiblical stories The purpose is what love? Love sourced in a pure heart You have to know how to get we're not born with a pure heart And we don't maintain a pure heart the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked who can understand it Quoted this last week Jeremiah 17 9 our heart is not pure Paul prays that Timothy will teach truth that will enable people to have a purified heart He talks about this in Romans 12 1 and 2 be transformed by the renewing of your mind How can you not be conformed to the world? the mind Understanding the truth placing faith in it David prays in Psalm 51 Create in me a clean heart. Oh God and renew my heart renew a right spirit in me because I am constantly polluting and corrupting and Foul my heart and my spirit Only God's power can make it clean to deflect and deviate and say well if you can perpetrate some social justice if you can Help a poor person if you had a 20 out the window to a cardboard sign guy You're well on the road to spiritual maturity It's the devil's own lie Pure heart a good conscience and a sincere faith verse 6 from which some having strayed Have turned aside to idle talk Do you see the emphasis? This is all about communication Teach no other doctrine heed fables and endless genealogies got to put a stop to that Love is what counts not conversation Okay, there was a I don't recommend it, but Elvis Presley sang a song said Little less talking a little more action.

You know a little less conversation Talking is not nearly as important as expressing love Manifesting love sometimes the best way you can love is by doing absolutely nothing don't intrude don't advise Don't meddle don't interfere Don't wag your finger. Don't wag your tongue Be present be available be a good listener be a great prayer warrior So many in our group are all of those things and God bless you for it, and we are blessed in and through it but to know how to love is A product of the Holy Spirit because it's God's love It has the properties and qualities of God's love You know the father in the parable of the prodigal son Who doesn't intervene in his wayward son's life? He doesn't send servants every week to say you ready to come back yet

ready to come back yet Here's his bag lunch your father sent you a bag lunch. He's gonna.

Love you back into the fold You know here's he sent you a leg of lamb here. He knows you've been trying to eat this Hogs will and Look here's a little you know. Here's just a little Little token of his love what did the father in that story do? to encourage the son back Absolutely nothing He loved that son intensely and the expression of his love was to let the son learn for himself and Find out by experience what he could not find out by counsel By Intervention by pleading by conversing By trying to tell him stories There is a time when you have to let someone go their own way learn their own lessons Commit them to the hands of a faithful creator Let God deal with them because What they need is the ministry of the Holy Spirit and do not elbow the Holy Spirit out of the way Give the Holy Spirit the respect that he is due blaspheming the Holy Spirit is the one unforgivable sin Disrespecting him in any way Disregarding him thinking he's not adequate to the task.

He doesn't know what he's doing I'd better get in there and help is a grievous sin The Holy Spirit is fully one-third of the Trinity fully God just as deserving of honor and Understanding and appreciation as the father and the son and He's got a well-described ministry in the hearts and minds of people He knows everything God the Father and God the Son knows He knows when and how to speak when and how to convict when to pull back when to move forward. We don't What informs us sound Doctrine don't listen to anything else. Don't follow anything else don't spend your time listening to fables endless genealogies and you'll know that they are fables and By the way, that word endless is really fascinating.

It's only used here and later in this same letter but the word endless here is Is used in Greek for something that you enter and you can't get out of The endless in in the sense that you've gone into the into the desert and you can't find the edge of it You can't leave the desert It's it's a it's like a quagmire once you're in it you can't escape and these these genealogies there's there's once you get in them, it's Remember the old tar baby once you touch it. You can't the more you push the deeper you get stuck It's it's inescapable They're endless in the sense that that you can't leave There is no exit rather than godly edification, this is our goal, that's why you're here today this is why we're thinking about and spending time in the Word of God and Appealing to God that his Holy Spirit will enable us Illuminate us and Empower us in and through this truth to live the life to which we have been called Which has such bright hope for the present and such great hope for the future Who wouldn't want to do this? It's great now and it's unimaginably great in the future We are equipped now for every good work. We are cleansed.

We are transformed. We are given meaning and purpose and It all counts Every day is an investment. You're banking the hours.

You're banking the efforts You're banking them because it isn't the physical result in this life It is the approval of God and it goes into the book God is not unrighteous to forget your work of faith labor of love and patience of hope God is not unrighteous to forget well We'll continue here. We'll

pick up in Verse 7 where these who desire to be teachers Don't understand what they say Don't understand what they believe they don't really understand it and yet they're trying to teach other people you can't teach what you don't know Wouldn't you say? This is why people getting together for a everybody gets to talk Bible study If you come to a passage and you don't know anything about it. What's the point of talking about it? You can't teach what you don't know.

Well, what do you think Bob? Well, what do you think Fred? What do you think Sally? I have been in those and some of you have as well What a gift what a what a wonderful expression of God's grace that we have his word and his spirit Why would you accept any substitute? This is the real thing and it makes every hour of every day count. What a blessing close here in the word of prayer father Thank you for the truth of your word. Thank you for the gift of your spirit Thank you for the example of the Lord Jesus Christ who was such a perfect combination of both He lived by every word that originates with you he was enabled empowered guided and sustained by your spirit and he is the The ideal toward which we strive we forget those things which are Behind and strive toward the mark of that high calling in Christ Jesus and you have given us every means Necessary to accomplish it.

We pray that as we Ask and make our requests as we seek truth and righteousness as we knock on the door of Opportunity to be useful to grow in grace and knowledge that you will Respond in the affirmative to our plea that you will grant us the grace that is in Christ Jesus as you have promised and that as a result we can reflect your glory both now and in the ages to come others will see Christ in us be drawn to you through him and Your glory will be revealed in our lives in our fellowship and in our efforts and in our Conversations we ask all these things in Jesus name. Amen