**BCM Bible Study - 3/30-31, 2022**

**1 Timothy 4:1-6:2a**

**Read 1 Timothy 4:1-5**

How might demanding abstinence from certain foods and/or marriage help advance demonic principles?

* **Read Jeremiah 17:5-9 and Mark 9:42-43**
  + How can we balance the idea that God wants us to fully enjoy His creation with the idea that discipline is necessary due to the sinful nature of our flesh?
  + How is teaching to fully abstain from something God has made and declared good different from Jesus’ call in Mark 9:42-43?

**Read 1 Timothy 4:6-10**

* + What does this tell us about how we should approach worldly discipline and why it is something we should incorporate into our lives as Christians?
* Where else have you seen the language used in v. 9? (1 Timothy 1:15)
  + What key doctrine might be outlined in v. 10?

**Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16**

* How can we present ourselves as an example in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity?
  + Are some of these areas easier to show a good example in?
  + Discuss why this might be and share some of these areas where you most struggle.

**Read 1 Timothy 5:1-2**

* What is the charge Paul lays out in these verses?
  + How have your experiences with family shaped what feelings this imagery evokes?

**Read 1 Timothy 5:7-8**

* What does Paul say about those who fail to provide for those in need?
  + What groups of people are most in need today? What can we as a church, and as individual believers, do to help?

**Read 1 Timothy 5:17-22**

* Why should the criteria for bringing charges against a spiritual leader be stricter than for a normal member of the church?
  + Does this mean we should forgive leaders in the church of more serious offenses than others?
  + What personal experiences have you had with what happens when a spiritual leader is accused of serious sin problems?

**Read 1 Timothy 5:23-25**

Verses 24-25 summarize much of what we have talked about in this section so far.

* How do these verses relate to some, or all of the topics discussed in this study so far?
  + Making good use of God’s good creation
  + Proper application of discipline
  + Setting good examples as Christians
  + Treatment of widows (or those in need)
  + Honoring elders

**Read 1 Timothy 6:1-2a**

Paul transitions to talking about relationships between masters and slaves.

* Why should slaves regard their masters as “worthy of all honor”?
  + Does this call only apply to those serving believers as their masters?
* What are the effects of a believer in a servant relationship living out Paul’s instruction in vv. 1-2a?

**Challenge:** There are five instances in Paul’s Pastoral Epistles where he begins a phrase with “It is a trustworthy statement” (1 Timothy 1:15, 3:1, 4:9-10, 2 Timothy 2:11, Titus 3:8). In these cases, the following phrase represents a scriptural truth or piece of sound doctrine. Read these verses and write them down somewhere. Meditate on them over the next week and think about how following the truths they outline can help you avoid falling into some of the traps of false doctrine we have been reading about in 1 Timothy.