



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Faith in the Time of Falsehood

SPEAKER DSP Edric Sng

THEME Time of the End

DATE 6 and 7 Feb 2021

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The time of the end is imminent. Jesus revealed that prior to His Second Coming, false prophets and false teachings will rise, lawlessness will abound, and the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. (Matthew 24:11-13).

The spiritual condition of our society today is exactly what Jesus has described in the last days. The prevalence of falsehoods has certainly heightened lawlessness today!

Drawing insights from 1 Timothy 4:1-16, DSP Edric highlighted two questions for our own self-reflection, to help us watch our life and doctrine closely, so that we can guard ourselves against falsehoods. The two questions are:

1. Who counsels you - the world or the Word?
2. What consumes you?

1. WHO COUNSELS YOU? (1 TIMOTHY 4:1-6)

According to 1 Timothy 4:1-6, the early church at Ephesus were affected by false teachings. Believers were forbidden from marriage, and were ordered to abstain from certain foods out of superstition.

God revealed to Paul that hypocritical liars had imposed false teachings upon the church. Paul therefore emphasised the Truth to his readers that everything God created and consecrated is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving. The false teachers had capitalised on the believers' ignorance of the Truth. Their inability to discern false teachings became an open door for demonic influence to operate, and this resulted in some of the believers abandoning their faith.

Therefore, let us be wary of who we take counsel from. It is our responsibility to study and know the Word of God intimately so that we can discern and reject false teachings.

Before accepting counsel from any persons (including those who are professing Christians), we should also assess whether they exhibit the fruit of the Christian walk, because a good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. (Galatians 5:22, Matthew 7:18).

Finally, believers should remain connected to cell groups, where members and leaders can watch and hold each other accountable in the journey of faith.

2. WHAT CONSUMES YOU? (1 TIMOTHY 4:7-16)

Continuing on in his epistle, the apostle Paul gave the church guidelines for godly living. Believers are to reject godless myths and the ways of the world, and instead be devoted to godly conduct that pleases God. This encompasses being watchful of our speech and actions, and showing love, faith and purity in everything that we do. We must also be good steward of God's gifts, and use every gift wholly so that everyone can see our spiritual progress for the glory of God. (1 Timothy 4:6-12).

Whatever that consumes us becomes evident to others. If we watch our lives and doctrine closely, persevere and preach the gospel through exemplary godly living, we will save both our hearers and ourselves. (1 Timothy 4:15-16).

God is either the priority in our lives or He is not. We cannot be lukewarm about our relationship with Him.

CONCLUSION

The signs of the time of the end are clear. False teachings have become rampant in churches around the world because people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

Let us be steadfast in reading and obeying the Word of God, devote all our thoughts, actions and plans to God, and obey the leading of His Spirit. In this way, we can finish the race and keep the faith and help others along our paths to do the same.

QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 Timothy 6:3-5. What do you learn about false teachers and their motives? Why are some people susceptible to false teachings? What are the catalysts for false teachings?

2. What are some false teachings that you have encountered or are aware of? How has the Spirit and/or His Word enabled you to see the truth?

3. Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails. (Proverbs 19:21). How are you living your life presently? What plans and desires could be drawing you away from the Lord's purpose? Where is God on your list of priorities in life?