

1-12-20
THE SIN OF MEDITATING ON THE WRONG THINGS

SCRIPTURE READING:

I Timothy 4:11 These things command and teach.

I Timothy 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

I Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

I Timothy 4:14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

I Timothy 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

Intro: I have some projects I need to get done for my business, and many times the only free time I have to do those projects are late at night. Truth be told I worked to 5:30 AM on the project and then dozed off for a few hours and then a little before 9 AM Ray Taylor calls reminding me we had a meeting with our contractor down at the church. So I got a good 3 hours of sleep. People often ask when do I get time to write music? Well, late at night just like that. That is usually the only time when my phone does not ring and I can get some peace and quiet.

So last night I was sitting in my chair working on my sermon for this morning, I had a sermon all planned out and then I just drifted off to sleep and had a dream. In that dream we were having a schism in the church because everyone was upset at some individual for what they said on facebook about a certain matter. Someone was saying, there were factions over the whole issue. So I had to address the church about the matter on Sunday in my dream. So in my dream I was preaching to everyone about the sin of meditating on facebook gossip instead of the Bible. And I preached a whole message on the issue. Then I woke up and realized I never finished writing my first sermon. However, the idea of what I was preaching in my dream was so fresh in my mind, I decided to scrap the sermon I was planning to preach and I decided to preach the message I had in my dream!

So here it is:

THE SIN OF MEDITATING ON THE WRONG THINGS

Text:

I Timothy 4:11 These things command and teach.

I Timothy 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

Consider for the new year a parallel verse.

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

I. Consider, WHAT IT MEANS TO MEDITATE IN A GOOD WAY OR BAD WAY.

As we enter this New Year I don't believe there is one of you that would not want to have a prosperous and profitable year. Well, the Bible clearly gives us the formula for success in this matter. It is simple, there is no hidden secret. If you want to be blessed, meditate on the right things. THE WORD OF GOD. If you want to be cursed do just the opposite. I submit to you that in my dream everyone was doing just the opposite and I was upset about it.

Consider first of all the definition of what it is to meditate: Now I am not talking about this nonsense of transcendental meditation. Biblical meditation involved filling your mind, this new age meditation involves emptying your mind.

A biblical picture of meditation is found in how sheep eat their food. The Bible talks about chewing the cud. When sheep chew the cud, this is akin that how we meditate and feed on the Word of God as God's sheep. The Bible says that a Christian should live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. This is our spiritual food I Peter 2:2, etc.

The job of the shepherd is to lead them to green pastures and continual provide for their feeding of God's sheep. Jesus told Peter, "Feed my sheep.."

God made sheep with stomachs that can digest food differently than many other animals.

Sheep just don't chew and then swallow they actually chew and re chew having multiple stomachs. This is a picture of what it is to meditate on the Word of God.

The Hebrew word for Meditate is also akin to the word "murmur". Now to meditate on the Word of God is healthy, and good. To "murmur" is to meditate on gossip and evil things that people do. Now this world is filled with sinners and sinners do sinful things. Now you can fill your mind with what sinful men are doing and think on their wickedness and faults, and thinking on these things will in turn destroy your spiritual heart and life. This is the negative meaning of the word meditate.

Or, if you want to prosper in your life, and be blessed than you need to meditate on the Word of God.

Here is the etymology of the word to Meditate:

H1897hagah, haw-gaw'; a prim. root comp. 1901; to murmur (in pleasure or anger); by impl. to ponder:-imagine, meditate, mourn, mutter, roar, soar, speak, study, talk, utter.

01901. gygh hagiyg, haw-gheeg'

The word comes from an unused root akin to 1897; properly, a murmur, i.e. complaint:-- meditation, musing.

You can see how the concept of murmuring is akin to meditating. A person who murmurs, will not let thing go. They repeat it and repeat a matter, and won't let up. They are consumed with their gossip!

So we can either muse on good things, which is biblical meditation.
Or we can muse on evil things, which become gossip and murmuring.

So this morning I ask you this question, what are you meditating on?

I submit to you, that I believe that in the age of technology, there are many Christians that are spending more time on their phones, meditating on the latest gossip on facebook more so than on the word of God.

JOS 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

PSA 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Healthy sheep keep chewing and chewing and digesting their food and break it up into small pieces. We need to meditate on the Word of God not the word of men.

The Bible says the Lord will separate His sheep and His goats.

A goat is not as careful about what it eats.

I went to a zoo once and heard stories about goats eating anything, so I handed a goat a plastic wrapper from candy bar and sure enough it ate it!

Goats will feed on anything and murmur and complain.
Sheep will only meditate on the word of God. Solves a lot of murmuring.

Choose what you meditate on wisely, because it will be the difference between spiritual life or death.

Truth be told, the Bible starts with a choice over what man would decide to eat. They could eat from the tree of life or they could choose to eat from a tree that would bring forth death. Interesting enough that tree was call the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It was a tree of information.

It was the quest for information, and knowledge that produced death. Let me suggest to you that nothing has changed. It is my job to be a Pastor, the word Pastor is akin to the word Shepherd. The greatest job of a shepherd is to lead his sheep to green pastures places where they can eat good food. **This book is called the tree of life:**

PRO 3:1 **My son, forget not my law;** but let thine heart keep my commandments:
PRO 3:18 **She is a tree of life** to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.

Do you want to be blessed this year, feed on the right things and avoid spiritually eating the wrong things. You do not want to fill your minds with poison!

Now here are the choices, the word meditate, is akin to the word murmur because in negative way, when people hear negative reports about others, and that negative report bothers them and they meditate on that and muse on it they are filling their lives with wrong thinking, hateful thoughts, evil thoughts. Soon their life is filled with anger, hate, resentment, bitterness, murmuring, complaining, and on and on I can go.

Consider:

II. IT IS A SIN TO MEDITATE ON THE WRONG THINGS. Murmurings are sin.

Consider the Dangers of Social Media:

1. IT GIVES YOU ACCESS TO THINGS YOU DO NOT NEED TO KNOW. IT LETS YOU SEE THING YOU DO NOT NEED TO SEE.

Each of us only have a certain capacity in dealing with the sins of others.

Consider, right now someone in this world is sick and dying, are you weeping about it? Why not? You don't know about it.

Right now someone in this world is needs money, and is in desperate need, are you going to go home and write out a blank check to fulfill their need? No, because you do not know about it. Are you supposed to know? No, because it is beyond your scope and ability to help, and God did not bring that person into your life for you to help.

Here is the problem with things like facebook and other avenues of gossip. It is an overload of knowledge about the affairs of others, and information about peoples lives that is none of your business. It is but a temptation for an avenue of murmuring, and meditating on the sinful affairs of people that has nothing to do with you and can do you no good to know about. It can be information overload.

Jesus said this:

Matthew 6:34 Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

There are enough problems that come your way without you having to go find more.

Remember, Satan promised Adam and Eve a blessing from eating from that tree called "THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL.." The good is not the problem, it is the evil that comes with the package that is the problem. I hear people say, there are a lot of good things I get from this and that. Yeah, but what about the temptations of evil?

Solomon wisely said,

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

Ecclesiastes 7:21 Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee:

Ecclesiastes 7:22 For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others.

In other words it is not wise to try and find out all the things that are said out there that will get you upset and angry.

I had a preacher once say to me about someone that left his church many years in the past, He said to me "I just don't know why this person left my church? ' Well that person confided in me and told me why. So I said to the preacher I know why, do you want me to tell you. He looked at me wisely, and said, "No don't tell me.. " You see that was wise of him. Sometimes it better not to know especially when there is nothing you can do about it. What good will come of it?

Now the sin of meditating on the wrong things is this. We are only commanded to meditate on the Word of God and not on the sins and faults of others. Is there any person in this world that is without fault? Is there anyone where you cannot find fault with? What good is it to know about all their faults and meditate on all their faults and talk about all their faults. All it is going to do is create a big stink!

This is why I believe facebook many times should be called Feces Book!

You say but look at all the good that comes of it. Yes did not the Devil say eat from the tree of the KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL. Some knowledge may be good but what about the evil?

2. *SECONDLY, THE REASON IT IS A SIN TO MEDITATE ON THE WRONG THINGS IS BECAUSE WHEN YOU MEDITATE ON THE AFFAIRS OF OTHERS IT CAN TEMPT YOU TO BECOME A TALEBEARER.*

Leviticus 19:16 Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

Leviticus 19:18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

Look when you see others or hear others doing wrong, and it really bothers you, you have two options:

First you can rebuke them and try to help them.

Secondly if it really bothers you, you will tell others about their problems and this becomes a sin. The sin of talebearing.

Now in my experience, if people are fools and you rebuke them, they will get upset at you and separate from you. Which could be a blessing, or they will get right and you would have helped them. Now in either case to do the right thing takes time, and that is why most people choose to just become a talebearer. Then when you become a gossip and talebearer you sin! How can you be blessed for that?

This is why I am not on facebook. I got enough on my plate without trying to straighten out the world. I just don't have the capacity for it.

Now the opposite of meditating on things that will produce murmuring and negativity, is that you can choose to meditate on what God told you to meditate on. We need to meditate on the word of God.

III. *IN CONTRAST TO MEDITATING ON THE SINS AND FAULTS OF OTHERS THE BIBLE COMMANDS US TO MEDITATE ON THE WORD OF GOD.*

1. *Meditating on the Word of God will bring a blessing in your life.*

Now herein lies the crux of the matter, there is not time to do both. Either you are going to fill your mind with the word of God or you are going to fill your mind with the affairs of men and negative matters of men.

Your spiritual Life is a gift from God and all you need to do to let it blossom and prosper is to feed it the proper spiritual food.

I Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

I Timothy 4:14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

I Timothy 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

I Timothy 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

The Bible opens with a tree call the tree of life.
And a tree called the tree of knowledge of good and evil.
Which I would like to call the tree of death.

The Bible closes with men being given access once again to that tree of life.

The lesson to learn from this is that the most profitable thing that you can do in this life is to spend time feeding that life that is given to you from God.

YOU ARE TRANSFORMED BY YOUR THINKING:

Spurgeon said:

Great thoughts are blessed guests, and should be heartily welcomed, well fed and much sought after. Like rose leaves, they give out a sweet smell if laid up in the jar of memory. -Spurgeon

Keep your mind on the great and splendid things you would like to do and then, as the days go gliding by you will find yourself unconsciously seizing the opportunities that are required for the fulfillment of your desire. Picture in your mind the able, earnest useful person you desire to be, and the thought you hold is hourly transforming you into that particular individual you so admire. -Hubbard

Garner up pleasant thoughts in your lives; for pleasant thoughts make pleasant lives. -Wilkins

2. *Meditating on the Word of God will prevent a life of bitterness.* *HOW DO WE AVOID A ROOT OF BITTERNESS IN OUR LIVES?*

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

We need to purposely choose what we meditate on:

Dickens once advised:

“Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has many; not on your past misfortune, of which all men have some. -Dickens

People will do things we don't understand and can't figure out and it will bother us.

YOU BECOME WHAT YOU THINK:

“It is the hardest thing in the world to be a good thinker without being a good self.
-Cooper

3. MAJOR ON MEDITATING ON THE POSITIVE AND THERE WILL BE NO ROOM FOR THE NEGATIVE:

When we are idle we are in grave danger.

We will have a full time job and a lifetime of work ahead of us if we set out to memorize and meditate on Scripture.

4. Meditating On The Word Of God Will Destroy any patterns of negative thinking before we enter the murmuring stage.

II Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

II Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Remember, a thought can become a stronghold in your mind and heart.

You probably already have some strongholds in your thinking.

“The way we are going to think tomorrow depends largely on what we are thinking today.” -Brown

5. Establish the discipline of Bible meditation and memorization:

Take a portion of Scripture that speaks to your heart and need and set out to make that Scripture part of your life:

“It is not the number of books you read, nor the variety of sermons you hear, nor the amount of religious conversations in which you mix, but it is the frequency

and earnestness with which you meditate on these things till the truth of them become your own and part of your being, that ensures your growth...” -Robertson

Better take a little and consume it than a lot and choke on it.

Most of us are spiritually anemic.

The root meaning of the Hebrew word for meditate can mean a good thing, or a negative thing. The word can be used for murmuring, or for filling your life with the Word of God.

So it is I say, that IT IS A SIN TO MEDITATE ON THE WRONG THINGS.. IT IS A BLESSING TO MEDITATE ON THE RIGHT THINGS. YOU NEED TO CHOOSE!

SOME QUOTES ON MEDITATION:

By meditation I can converse with God, solace myself on the bosom of my Savior, bathe in the rivers of divine pleasure, tread the paths of my rest, and view the mansions of eternity. -Anonymous

What we are afraid to do before men, we should be afraid to think before God. -Anonymous

Great truths are portions of the soul of man; great souls are portions of eternity. -Lowell

To believe a thing is to see the cool crystal water sparkling in the cup. But to meditate on it is to drink of it. Reading gathers the clusters; contemplation squeezes forth their generous juice. -Spurgeon

Associate reverently, and as much as you can, with your loftiest thoughts. -Thoreau

The most important thought I ever had was that of my individual responsibility toward God. -Webster

Press on! For it is godlike to unloose the spirit and forget yourself in thought. -Willis

Conclusion:

As we enter this New Year ask yourself this question, how much time do you spend meditating on the affairs of men, and how much time do you spend meditating on the Word of God. The Bible only promises you a blessing for meditating on the Word of God not the affairs of men. Do you want this New Year to be a profitable year? Do you want to prosper this new year? Meditate day and night in the Word of God and not on facebook!

PART TWO OF MESSAGE PM Service
And Exposition of I Tim Chapter 4
PART II
EXPOSITION OF CHAPTER 4 I Tim.

Expository sermon: Usually when I preach a message, I try to read the book and context of the passage I am taking my sermon from. Many times a message can be preached and at times after I studied a verse I have found that the text did not mean what I thought it meant. So it is important to study the context of a passage along with the topical message that is preached.

Intro: The book of Timothy is written to help Timothy be a good minister, a good assistant to Paul.

This morning we preached from:

I Timothy 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

I Timothy 4:11 These things command and teach.

As a good minister and servant of the Lord.

I. Paul Warned Timothy that in the end times it will become harder to be a good minister:

I Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

I Timothy 4:2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

I Timothy 4:3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

I always thought this was talking about the Catholic Church but as years progress we are actually seeing radical environmentalist suggesting we need to do away with eating meat. It's pretty bad when you have a hamburger place actually making a burger that does not have meat in it. Yet the Catholic church for years used to forbid eating meat on Fridays.

Today there are great controversies about priests molesting children. All because of their celibacy laws for their clergy.

My mother tells the story of a cousin in Italy that was molested by a traveling Catholic Priest. This has been going for for years. The difference is that in our secular society there is no fear for religious leaders and there is zero tolerance for this kind of thing. In Italy the church was too powerful and these matters would be covered up.

I Tim. 4:1 Seducing spirits.. demons.. Demons love to hang around people who claim to be religious. False Holy Spirit.

planos, plan'-os; of uncert. affin.; roving (as a tramp), i.e. (by impl.) an impostor or misleader:-deceiver, seducing.

ROVING IMPOSTER. SPIRIT. Priest was a traveling priest.

Catholic church gave him a transient job. The reason was he was a predator, and they could not keep him in one place for long. He would be found out.

Devil can imitate the spirit of God.

The Pharisees prided themselves in being keepers of the Law but they were children of the devil.

Forbidding to marry commanding to abstain from meats.

This could be talking about Catholic church but also it could be referring to the New Age movement.

Vegetarianism.

II. The Refuting of this false teaching.

I Timothy 4:4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

I Timothy 4:5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

I Timothy 4:6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

Those who refuse to eat meat think that being a vegetarian would make them more spiritual.

A good minister of God is constantly preaching to correct wrong ideas and philosophies that are floating around.

How many scandals have been covered up through the years by the Church of Rome?

There was a Priest who was drunk and fell down the steps in the rectory and died when I first came to our church.

Imagine if Jesus visited these churches today.

What would He say? In many cases He would probably be arrested and unwanted. This is how far away from the truth many of our churches have come.

Imagine, Paul went into the synagogue and preached. How often he was escorted out and persecuted?

Years ago a friend of mine and I went to find a fellow in the church that had a drinking problem. I led a man to the Lord by the name of Bill Finely who thought he would help the friend by taking him to an AA meeting. I didn't know anything about AA and I went in with them. We all signed in. In the meeting they asked people to get up and tell about their experience as an alcoholic. Guys were called by name to speak. Suddenly they called my name. I thought they wanted me to give a testimony. I shared my testimony. All was well until in the middle of my testimony I began to tell how Jesus delivered me from my sin and everything else. Suddenly two guys came. They looked like bouncers. They escorted me out. I found out quick Jesus wasn't welcome there. They had a club and they didn't want anyone their who wasn't part of their club talking about Jesus. They escorted me out.

II. We need to be careful of falling into error.

I Timothy 4:7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

I Timothy 4:8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

I Timothy 4:9 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

I Timothy 4:10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

1. 4:7 Refuse profane and old wives tales.

There are many fictitious and sensational stories that float around.. we should avoid them. I recently heard of someone who claimed to be a Christian who no longer attends church and is involved in a UFO cult. Profane wive's fables. I said, what exactly is this talking about? So I looked up the greek words and found the true translation of this text the greek was this.. PROFANE, OLD WIVES FABLES. really deep!

Apparently back then in the Jewish community a lot of old women passed along a lot of superstitious mumbo jumbo. Almost is if these things were in the Bible and they are not. Avoid these things. Today a lot a people pass things off as Bible when they are just superstition.

2. 4:8 Godliness, Godly meditation will profit us in all things.

There are many books written on many subjects they are all profitable to someone, but not to everyone.

The Bible is profitable to everyone for everything.

Imagine this claim that the word of God makes:

The word of God and principles of godliness are profitable for all. Everyone.

Quite a claim.

I have a book about music engraving, books on music theory, these could be profitable to me and a few others. But they are not profitable everyone in this room.

But this message is profitable for all.

Miracle of the Bible.

Genesis could have contained a thousand chapters to us about creation alone, but God limited what is in the Bible to what would be profitable to mankind in future generations.

III. ADMONITION TO TIMOTHY TO TEACH THE WORD OF GOD.

1. I Timothy 4:11 These things command and teach.

The Bible needs to be preached without compromise and with authority.

It is my experience that converted Catholics make better Baptists than Methodists, or unsaved Baptists, or a host of other people.

Liberal protestants have no authority.

The Pope is supposed to be infallible, which is NONSENSE, but because of this many Catholics are oppressed of their clergy:

No man is infallible.

But there needs to some respect for the office of the Pastor. I have found when a person who was an ex Catholic gets saved, one of the things he does is shows respect for the office of the Pastor.

When I First came to church an irate mother called up because I told the parents to tell their kids not to go to Dunninger's country store after church. This lady was irate that I did that. My Catholic grandmother was visiting with us at the time to help my wife with her twins. She overheard the conversation on the phone and she said, no one would ever call our priest and yell at him like that lady yelled at you.

I Timothy 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

2. WHAT A MINISTER OF GOD MUST ATTEND TO:

I Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Reading: Public and private reading of Scripture. You will notice that churches who go with contemporary Bibles do away with public reading altogether. What use is it everyone has a different version of the Bible, how can they follow along?

Exhortation: People need to be exhorted through and by the word of God.

Doctrine: Give attendance to teaching of Doctrine.

Today any doctrine and anything is ok. I could say a lot of negative things about where I went to school, my old Bible college. It has gone far left today of where it was. But one thing I must admit when I went there years ago they taught us how to work to get to the true meaning of the Scripture. I have not changed from what the old timers taught me but they have! Either they were right then and wrong now, or they were wrong then and right now. In either case they have changed. True doctrine and Scripture never changes.

3. Paul reminds Timothy of his ordination and call to the ministry.

I Timothy 4:14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

I Timothy 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

I Timothy 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

The gift many times is a spiritual sign gift was passed on through the laying on the hands of the elders and was needed in that day where there were no Bibles present in the churches.

Today there is no need for new revelation. Therefore we have no need for new sign gifts. We just need to teach and preach what has been given. We have the same God, but He is working in a different way today.

So this is the context of our message this morning.

I Timothy 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

We need to be students of the Word, we need to cleave to the Word, we need to be faithful to the Word.

2TI 2:14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

2TI 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2TI 2:16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.