

## Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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2 Timothy 4:1-8

June 24, 2018

### The time of itching ears is here. How shall we respond?

- Watch people shop. *Oooh. Aah. Wow. Yes, no, maybe.*
- Even those who don't like shopping - go where they consume (TV...)
- We're a culture of consumers - take it for granted: I decide - my right
  - ♦ Our criteria: *I like it. I want it. It's useful. It's just what I need.*
  - ♦ Any surprise we've turned into a nation consuming spirituality?

*...the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.*

### The time of itching ears is here. How shall we respond?

- ❖ Recognize the disease - its nature and source
  - Itching ears - Based on desires - feelings. What satisfies me - now.
  - Individual - I benefit at this time. Suits me.
  - If I find others and hire preachers to dispense it - it must be real/help
  - ***When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.*** Genesis 3:6
    - ♦ Eve overrode God's sound teaching. *I am my own lord/master.*
    - ♦ appointed self as able to decide what is good/beneficial
    - ♦ based on feelings, desires, reason - flawed and limited
  - Source: sin's rebellion. I, my feeling, and my reason are my god.
    - ♦ Those who hire their teachers to tell them what they want to hear find spirituality in fake teaching - lies, self-deception. Satan's *teachings*.
    - ♦ From churchy buildings with religious talk to the cult missionaries that walk the streets to the vast array of books on spirituality - people pick and choose *pretty gems* they choose to believe - often contradictory. *I like it. It suits my desires.*
- ❖ Watch out. It infects our thinking.
  - Bombarded: *You deserve it. It's your right to choose what you like.*
  - Abundant choices and markets - we live choosing what we want
  - Living daily as a consumer - a mindset that easily and unwittingly leaches into our spiritual thinking and church life.

- ***when people will not put up with sound doctrine***
  - ♦ *My church teaches, but I don't agree.*
  - ♦ Why not? *I don't feel... It's old fashioned... I find it offensive...*
    - Desires don't determine doctrine and truth. Human desires deceive.
    - Faith in falsehood - deadly, destructive, dangerous (not innocent)
- ❖ A diet of sound doctrine is the only cure.
  - Sound doctrine - healthy, solid, accurate, correct - never deceives
  - The role of sound doctrine - release from sin's deadly deceptions
  - *Corrects* - bring sin/falsehoods to light - shows truth.
  - *Rebukes* - slay/kill deceptions - to set us free.
  - *Encourage* - Gospel - all that gives life and God's power
    - ♦ Frees us from unrighteousness - liberated from death
    - ♦ robes us in Christ's righteousness - status: saint
    - ♦ Fills our heart, mind, speech with righteousness. It's good and right!
    - ♦ Promises: there's a victor's crown of righteousness for those who keep the faith holding to Christ's word - restored into God's image
      - Frees from sin and death - all God intended us to be
- ***Preach the word***
  - ♦ No substitute. Understand where people are hurting - speak to that
  - ♦ Sound Doctrine is not dry when its role and connection to life are made clear.

### The time of itching ears is here. How shall we respond?

- ♦ Expect your pastor to proclaim God's sound teaching
  - Learn to love sound doctrine and righteousness
  - Seek pastor's dispensing of the word of God
  - Insist on seeing the connection between sound doctrine and life.
  - Desire God's word because you want God to be your decider.