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ITCHING EARS

In II Timothy 4:1-4 (KJV) Paul charges Timothy to do several things. He was told to preach the word. Be instant in season. To reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering (patience) and doctrine. Then he was given the reason. He was told that the time would come that there would be those that: ***“<sup>3</sup>will not endure sound doctrine (teaching); but after their own lusts (a longing for what is forbidden) shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; <sup>4</sup>and they shall turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables.”*** Another version says ***“they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.”*** (NASB1995)

What this is actually saying is that there will be those that do not want to adhere to what the Bible says and will not listen to preaching that will bring discipline or change to their lives. They want “feel good messages” that only make them “happy.” Making a person happy should never be the message from a preacher. It is the job of the “message” to equip a person to become everything that God created them to be. We should never feel good about our sin. We should be convicted (not condemned) by solid doctrine from the Bible to bring us to repentance.

God hates sin, my friends, and wants us to hate it too. We should be glad to hear messages that convict us and bring us to repentance. Anything that elevates sin is not of God. We are to judge ourselves by the Word of God. It is the mirror that we look into to see our own reflection. Itching ear sermons never change anyone. If we don't have sound doctrine through preaching it says we will turn from the truth. That is not a state any of us should desire. It means turning away from Jesus, who is the truth.

I would rather hear a preacher that causes me to look within and get rid of things that displease God, than hear a preacher tell me that I am fine just like I am and that God loves me in that condition. When we accept Jesus as Savior it is a death sentence. Death to the old sinful nature, and life to the new nature. Each of us must judge ourselves to see if we are truly in the faith. It is a daily process, but the only one that brings life and not death.