

## WHAT WINGER PRESENTLY GETS WRONG:

### 1 TIMOTHY 2

June 2024, by Andrew Bartlett and Terran Williams

Our full article takes up Mike Winger's kind invitation to give feedback. We hope you will enjoy reading it. Here's our quick summary.

#### **Thorough?**

Mike claims to have carried out a thorough review of all the debates over the interpretation of 1 Timothy 2:11-15. His video is certainly long (11½ hours). Nonetheless, his claim of thoroughness is thoroughly mistaken. His video displays false perspectives and faulty methods. He strawmans the arguments of writers with whom he disagrees. He often avoids addressing their real case. He omits to pay close attention to the context, and to Paul's train of thought. He makes a false separation between combating false teaching and promoting right teaching and living. He leaves important questions entirely unaddressed.

#### **Verse 12**

Mike's reading of verse 12 depends on *authentēō* being a suitable word for the exercise of authority by an elder. In his view, this is "**The center of this whole debate**". But the historical evidence shows that in and around Paul's time it was not a suitable word for an elder's exercise of authority in the church. Paul had other words for that, and he doesn't use any of them. Instead, he uses this unusual and forceful word that meant something like "**overpower**", "**overmaster**", "**dominate**". That meaning supports a non-complementarian reading of verse 12.

Paul must view the teaching in verse 12 negatively, because he is not permitting it. So, what is he negative about? Is his restriction aimed at a faithful woman who holds to the truth, but who teaches men (Scenario T), or is it aimed at a misbehaving woman (as described in v9) who is mixed up in false teaching (Scenario F)? Mike needs to demonstrate from the context that Paul's concern is Scenario T. But Mike does not identify any solid contextual evidence of this.

In the context, *Paul himself signals* that in this passage he is giving instructions for dealing with false teaching (Scenario F). Chapter 1 is about dealing with false teaching. Then in 2:1, 2:8 and 2:9 Paul links his remarks to the same topic with the signposts "**therefore ...**", "**therefore ...**", "**Likewise ...**". He is still on this topic through verse 15. So, Mike's interpretation is not faithful to Scripture because it is in conflict with Paul's express words. This is a fatal defect. Mike never addresses this point. He just ignores it.

#### **Verses 13-14**

In these verses, is Paul giving an Old Testament *illustration* to support what he has just said in verse 12, or is he appealing to a *creation principle* about the authority of men over women?

Mike's interpretation of verse 13 is erected on a weak and circular argument, and his explanation collapses in self-contradiction. If Paul is truly appealing to a creation principle of men's authority over women, then that principle should be applied in all walks of life, but Mike vehemently rejects that conclusion.

His novel proposal for verse 14 is opaque. It lacks any discernible connection to Paul's actual words.

Conversely, as we show, verses 13-14 are readily explainable as a supporting Old Testament illustration. It is a warning of the seriousness of false teaching, which deceived Eve and led to dire consequences.

#### **Conclusion**

Our conclusion is that Paul is not stating a general rule that faithful women must not teach or exercise authority in the church. He's insisting that a woman caught up in false teaching must learn, and he is not permitting her to lead a man astray. Instead, she should learn with quiet humility, and walk with Christ our Savior, in faith, love, holiness and self-control.