

## I Timothy 4, Sermon #1

I Timothy 4

Since the beginning of the Church, there has been a war of ideas, philosophies, and thoughts.

- Our God is a God of truth but Satan is the father of lies.
- God calls us to respond to His Word, whereas Satan tries to lure us to follow lies. Deviations from the true faith are nothing new to church people.

In Chapter 4, Paul returns to his discussion of false teachers.

- There is a Biblical mandate to deal directly and firmly with false teaching.
- That is not popular in our day of toleration and “love.”

Any tolerance of error regarding the Bible is a direct form of dishonor to God.

I've entitled today's sermon: BEWARE – False teacher are on the loose!

I Timothy 4:1

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word.

I Timothy 4:1-6

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

**BEWARE – False teachers are on the loose!**

Now, the key to unlock this passage is the phrase in verse 1, **some shall depart from the faith.**

There will be those who abandon the faith.

Defection should sadden us, but it should not be a shock to us (surprise) because **the Holy Spirit explicitly says** that it will occur (vs. 1a).

People will leave the faith

the church

the ministry

the Bible

their family

God knew that no one would be spared from false teaching. The goal of the enemy of God is to have God's people abandon the truth.

*Acts 20:29-30, Paul said, "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."*

So, defection is predictable. It is going to happen.

*1 John 2:19, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."*

Vs. 4:1b – This will happen in the latter time. True, the Bible refers to the latter times as future events in the book of Revelation. In Matthew 24:11, the Bible talks about a major departure from the faith during the tribulation time. The antichrist will lead it. But it also teaches us the church age is part of the latter times.

I Peter 1:20 states that Christ “was manifest in these last times for you.”

Hebrews 1:2; 9:26 We are talking about our times.

Vs. 4:1b - “*To depart from,*” or “*to fall away from*” is to remove oneself from the position originally occupied to another place.

“Depart” – means “to stand away from.” -- Teenage Marriage

It is a stronger term than either the word translated “swerved” in 1:6, or the one translated “made shipwreck” in 1:19.

This word here in vs. 1 refers to a purposeful, deliberate departure from a former position.

- The goal of the Devil is to seduce people and get them to depart from the faith.

This is the word *apostasy*, and it is defined as “a willful turning away from the truth of the Christian faith.” A departure from the truth.

Two levels – level 1 is disobedience, level 2 is defection – O.T. idolatry, N.T. heresy, false teaching

An apostate is someone who willfully abandons the Biblical stands he had once professed.

What is the person departing from? Vs. 1

As already noted **the faith** refers to the content of divine revelation – New Testament teaching – that constitutes what we believe (Jude 3). We are not free to believe what we want. This Bible is the truth and it is unchangeable.

Those who apostatize are ones who have professed at one time to hold to the faith, but now they have departed from it.

Note that this apostasy comes within the organized church among those who profess to the faith and then depart from it.

Now when they depart from the faith, what is responsible for it?

What has caused them to depart? Lies

- God says in vs. 1, “Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed (they paid attention) to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons.”

This is the only place where demons are mentioned in the Pastoral Epistles.

Satan and his workers are imitators, counterfeiters, misleaders. They are seducers, deceivers – Our world is filled with deception and deceivers.

There is a mastermind behind false teaching.

*II Corinthians 11:13-15, “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”*

It comes as a shock to some people that Satan uses people in the church to accomplish his work (vs. 1d).

Paul already had warned that false teachers would arise from within the church (Acts 20:30).

The Devil has his own workers and his own bible. Here are some on his common falsehoods:

- Jesus is real, but He is not God
- The world was created but not in 6 days.
- Humanism – man can fix himself. We can make the world a better place.
- Deism – New Age – higher level – get in touch

Remember our first account of the Devil is in deceiving Eve with a ½ truth and ½ lie.

He seeks to deceive God's people and lead them astray.

Now, the first test of any religious doctrine is what it says about Jesus Christ.

- Turn over to I John 4:1-6.

Not all apostates are in cults; some of them are in churches *and pulpits*, teaching false doctrine and leading people astray – a great cancer in the church. Our detection devices are the Holy Scripture and Holy Spirit.

These false teachers preach one thing but practice another.

They tell their disciples what to do, but they do not do it themselves. We had one of these types arrested this past week.

“Speaking lies in hypocrisy” – vs. 2.

The apostate will pretend to be something it is not. So Satan uses people to be a vehicle of disbursing false teaching.

One of the marks of a true servant of God is his honesty and integrity: He practices what he preaches.

This does not mean he is sinlessly perfect, but that he sincerely seeks to obey the Word of God.

He tries to maintain a good conscience – (vs. 2b) Whereas the false teacher can carry out their hypocrisy because their consciences have been destroyed.

Look at vs. 2.

A person's conscience can be “*seared*” so that it becomes hard and without feeling, so a person's conscience can be deadened.

The conscience becomes like scar tissue - With scarred consciences, they feel no guilt or remorse as

they deliver their false doctrines.

Whenever we affirm with our lips something that we deny with our lives, we deaden our

consciences just a little more.

An apostate is not just wrong doctrinally; he is wrong morally.

His personal life became wrong before his doctrines were changed.

In fact, it is likely that he changed his teachings so that he could continue his sinful living and pacify his conscience.

*Believing and behaving* always go together.

Vs. 3 & 4 tell us about some of the false teaching – marriage and food.

Anything contrary to Scripture can be the entry point of demonic teaching.

We might have expected examples like denying the Trinity or the deity of the Savior, or rejecting salvation by grace thru faith.

But Satan is so subtle that he seeks to gain a foothold on territory more easily yielded.

Two seemingly minor teachings: that spirituality demanded avoiding marriage and abstaining from foods.

As is typical of satanic deception, both of those teachings contain an element of truth.

- There is nothing wrong with singleness or celibacy. 1 Cor. 7, that person is without distraction – may focus on the Lord entirely.
- Nor is fasting wrong; it is an important accompaniment to prayer.

They were teaching that one can reach a higher spiritual level by self denial.

That self-denial on the physical level, physical intimacy and food, was essential for true spirituality. 1 Tim. 3:16, that godliness come thru Jesus Christ.

One thing they taught was that an unmarried life was more spiritual than a married life.

God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone.” God invented marriage (Gen. 2:18).

Jesus put his seal of approval on marriage (Matt. 19:1-9), though He pointed out that not everybody is supposed to marry (19:10-12).

Paul also affirmed the Biblical basis for marriage (1Cor. 7:1-24), teaching that each person should follow the will of God in the matter.

False teaching is a denial of God’s Word.

- God created both marriage and food and pronounced them good.
- God made marriage and food for the same reason He made everything else – to give man joy and to bring Himself glory (1 Cor. 10:31), “Therefore whether, ye eat or drink or what ever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

Believers can avoid false teaching only by giving heed to God’s Word.

- Heb. 13:9a, “Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines.”
- Eph. 4:14, “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.”

The false teachers who were infecting the Ephesian church taught that certain foods were taboo; if you ate them, you were not spiritual.

Jesus stated that all foods are clean (Mark 7:14-23).

He taught this lesson again to Peter (Acts 10), and reaffirmed it through Paul (1 Cor. 10:23-33).

Vs. 4

If you can return thanks for the food – there are some foods I cannot be thankful for.

If you can receive it with thanksgiving, my friend, then go ahead and eat it, whatever it might be – it’s perfectly all right.

Vs. 5 – God has said so and we have asked God's blessing on the food.

**In light of this false teaching, Timothy was to teach the church the Truth**

(1 Tim. 4:6a).

God's people need to be warned about false doctrine and religious apostasy.

As we travel our Nations roads, we see two kinds of signs: those that tell us where we are going and those that warn us of possible dangers.

And a good pastor must teach positive doctrine / the truth / all the council of God, but he must also teach of false doctrines and call them what they are.

In order for the pastor to do this, **He must himself, be nourished up in the Word** (1 Tim. 4:6b). This is consistent and constant nourishment.

Every Christian ought to feed daily on the Word; but it is especially important that a pastor grow in the Word.

It is by daily studying the "good doctrine" and meditating on the Word that he grows in the Lord and is able to lead the church.

Then the "good minister" preaches the Word– vs. 6e, to help God's people to beware of false teachers and teachings.

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Every eye closed.

Jesus is the Savior of the World.

God became flesh – lived amongst us as Jesus Christ.



Died on the cross for the sins of man.

Was buried and rose again.

Man needs to be saved from their sins and Jesus is the only deliverer.

Will you believe upon Him for your salvation today?

Christian – tomorrow is Labor Day. Have you been working in the Word, nourishing ourselves, feasting on the Manna?

## Rear of Document

The New Testament has its share of apostates, men like Demas (2 Tim. 4:10).

The church at Ephesus had seen Hymenaeus and Alexander depart from the faith (1:18-20).

Church history from New Testament times until our own day is replete with examples of apostates.

They have turned aside to follow **deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons**.

It is fallen angels, those demonic beings, who energize all false religion.

Like their evil master, Satan, their deception is effective because they disguise themselves as angels of light (2 Cor. 11:14).

When men worship idols, they are in reality worshiping the demons behind those idols. Psalm 106:36-37, 1 Cor. 10:20.

The presence of apostate false teachers at Ephesus is indicated from 1:3-7, 18-20.

In chapters 2 and 3, Paul dealt with some of the ramifications of their false teaching and corruption of the church.

He countered their deceptions with divine design for men and women in the church, and the spiritual qualifications for true church leaders.

Chapter 3 closed with a creedal statement affirming what apostates most directly deny and what is the central truth of the Christian faith: the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

1. A good minister, preaching the Word (1 Tim. 4:1-6)

Apostasy is generated by demonic beings.

Demonic teaching – they are lured away by *deceitful spirits*.

Planos (**deceitful**) comes from the root word from which our English word “planet” derives.

Demons are called **deceitful** because they cause men to wander from the orbit of the truth.

False teaching is thus something far more than a human aberration, it is nothing less than the **doctrines of demons**.

This is not teaching about demons, but teaching done by them.

Satan and his agents have concocted all manner of lying to confuse and deceive. To sit under false teaching that contradicts the truth of Scripture is to be taught by demons, and to put one's mind and soul in jeopardy.

*2 John 7-11, "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."*

(4:2)

Demonic false teaching is supplied through human agents.

While the source is supernatural, the agents are natural. "hypocritical or deceitful lie-speakers"

To supply their hellish teachings, demons use human deceivers who speak their lies. They do not serve God but Satan. (2 Tim. 2:17-18)

The emphasis in a minister's life should be on "the Word of God and prayer" (1 Tim. 4:5).

It is tragic when a church keeps its pastors so busy with menial tasks that they have hardly any time for God's Word and prayer (Acts 6:1-7).

Paul reminded young Timothy of his great responsibility to study, teach, and preach the Scriptures, and to spend time in prayer.