

Calvary Chapel of El Paso Morning Ladies' Bible Study – Timothy
October 25, 2022 – Lesson 7 – 1 Timothy 4:1-5 – Faith and Thanksgiving

And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.
Acts 16:5

READ 1 Timothy 4:1-5

Paul started his first letter to Timothy with a warning about *some* who were teaching false doctrine. Then he went on to discuss prayer, the behavior of certain women who were new believers, and the qualifications of leaders in the church. Near the end of chapter 3 Paul wrote of the *mystery of godliness*. Now in chapter 4 he wrote of the contrasting *mystery of iniquity*, although he did not name it that in this passage. The *mystery of godliness* is great and good, but the *mystery of iniquity* needs to be understood and avoided. Those *in the faith* walk in the *mystery of godliness*; the *hypocrites* who reject it and leave the faith follow the *mystery of iniquity*.

Mystery in the Bible = something that we do not understand, but is explained in the Bible.

The *mystery of godliness* is the gospel – 1 Timothy 3:16.

The *mystery of iniquity* is of the devil himself. It is working in the world now, but the Holy Spirit in us restrains it. 2 Thessalonians 2:7 *For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth [restrains] will let, until he be taken out of the way.*

Note that those who do not know the Lord really do not understand these things.

1 Timothy 4:1

Now = “but”; Paul here contrasted the *mystery of godliness* with those who *depart from the faith* (the *mystery of iniquity*).

Speaketh expressly – this is very serious – hear this!

Latter times – began with the beginning of the Church Age.

Verses 1-5 expound on a group of people will do the following:

1. *Some shall depart from the faith* – they were in the body of believers but did not really believe the gospel (many actually fool themselves, too – deceived and deceivers); at one point in time they will leave the fellowship to go where they can say and do what they really want to do. Our study book says, “They do not appear to be evil. Yet, they lead many in the body of Christ astray.”

The faith – the body of believers, the Church. It also refers to those who truly believe (as in, “those of the faith”). 2 Corinthians 13:5 *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*

Reprobate – another word for apostates, those who depart.

How do we know we are not *reprobates*? Jesus in us, by His Holy Spirit, dwells in us; He speaks to our hearts what is true and we believe it if we belong to Him. Our study book had us study 1 John 4:1-6. There we see that it is what we believe about Jesus that determines whether we are of the faith.

Paul warned the leaders of the Ephesian church that this departure from the faith would happen.

God allows it so believers can know that those people are not really believers. 1 John 2:19 *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would not doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.*

Not all who are weak in the faith are unbelievers. Here is an example of those *in the faith* who are weak (but not unbelievers):

Romans 14:1 *Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.*

2. These people who end up departing from the faith *give heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.*

This is what they listen to and follow.

There are only 2 spiritual sources: (1) God; or (2) Satan. It is not just a preference, or a matter of “taste” in what kind of teachers and doctrines to follow. If it is against God’s Word, it is of Satan.

There are various ways this is done: add to or take away from the Bible; twist meanings of words; take things out of context; etc.

1 Timothy 4:2 explains how and why these apostates do this:

1. *Speaking lies in hypocrisy – hypocrisy is deceit, saying one thing and meaning another (acting); hypocrites by nature are liars.* They cannot tell the truth about doctrine because they do not know it. Why?

2. Their *conscience is seared.* It is damaged. They cannot even know right and wrong because their conscience is seared, burned over, insensitive.

So whatever they hear of the truth makes not sense to them.

They also *deceived themselves.*

So here is the warning:

Beware of those who teach doctrine that is not of God’s Word. The source will be Satan.

Be in the Word daily as a protection.

2 Timothy 3:1 *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves ... 7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Everything is about them; they love themselves more than they love God. So they never really learn they truth.

2 Peter 3:3 says they are *scoffers.*

1 Timothy 4:3-5

Those who teach false doctrine and heresy tend to develop sets of rules to follow.

The *some* of 1 Timothy 1:3 went back to the law of Moses mixed with pagan elements of demonic spirituality. These people in chapter 4 were adding rules about forbidding marrying and also about what foods were eaten. In both cases, they did it for “spiritual” reasons. Sensuality (over concern or attention about physical, bodily things) leads to false spirituality. Their rules made them think that they were more spiritual. All the while, they were teaching false doctrine.

Paul made it clear that marriage is good, and that all food is given by God to be received from Him with thanksgiving. It is for our pleasure and so that we can do the work of the Lord here on earth:

2 Corinthians 9:8 *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: 9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. 10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) 11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.*

The following passage sums up the thoughts of 1 Timothy 4:1-5:

*7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith,
as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.
8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit,
after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.
9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.
10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.
Colossians 2:7-10*