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**BIBLE STUDY**

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**“LATTER TIMES DEPARTURES, SEDUCTIONS, AND DOCTRINES”**

**1 Timothy 4:1-16**

***﻿I Timothy 4:1 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"***

***I Timothy 4:2 "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"***

The "Spirit" is the Holy Spirit of God. “Speaketh” refers to the written and spoken word. "Expressly" speaks of something that is beyond question, or definite. The “latter times” began at the resurrection of Jesus. The Spirit revealed to Paul that during this time there would be those who would depart from the faith. When we look at "giving heed to seducing spirits" we see that the people are willingly listening to these spirits that draw people away from God's teachings. Scriptures declare that before the coming of the Lord, there will be a great falling away from the church. We are, also, told that in the latter days, it will be like it was in the days of Noah and Lot.

***Luke 17:22-30***

***22 And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it.***

***23 And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them.***

***24 For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.***

***25 But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation.***

***26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.***

***27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.***

***28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;***

***29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.***

***30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.***

The people who departed were previously believers and have knowingly turned away from that teaching, because they are hypocrites. They are actually lying about God's teachings. The worst thing of all, they feel no guilt for what they are teaching. Since their conscience is not working properly, it appears they got into this false doctrine gradually. Each falsehood made them a little less conscience of their sin and became reprobates.

***Romans 1:18-32***

***18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;***

***19Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.***

***20For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:***

***21Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.***

***22Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,***

***23And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.***

***24Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:***

***25Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.***

***26For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:***

***27And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.***

***28And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;***

***29Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,***

***30Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,***

***31Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:***

***32Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.***

They have become false teachers who would listen to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons. The conscience, rightly trained, helps us to know right from wrong. But these false teachers had burned theirs to the point that they were numb; they could no longer discern goodness from wickedness.

***I Timothy 4:3 "Forbidding to marry, [and commanding] to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."***

As a result of their hardened hearts, the heretics were getting their doctrine of devils. God made male and female to marry, and with Him, create Him a family. You can see why it would be wrong to teach people not to marry. They would not fulfill their reason for being males and females in the flesh. There are many people in our society today who have elevated animals up to a position where they do not belong. It is almost animal worship. God created animals for man. He intended men to eat the flesh of animals. That was their purpose for being. We will see, as we go along, that meats here is referring to the flesh of an animal. The only restriction for eating even the animals that were classified as unclean in the Old Testament, is that you pray over the food before you eat it. We don’t typically associate a lack of gratitude with demonic influence, but that’s what this wicked teaching produced.

***1 Timothy 3:1-7***

***1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.***

***2For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,***

***3Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,***

***4Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;***

***5Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.***

***6For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,***

***7Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.***

***I Timothy 4:4 "For every creature of God [is] good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:"***

***I Timothy 4:5 "For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer."***

The word "creature", in the verse above, lets you know that this is animal flesh they are speaking of. Everything God created, was followed by saying, and it is good. Remember, though, whatever you eat, must be prayed over, thanking God before you eat it. We are to confess that everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving. There is nothing from which you receive godly enjoyment and benefit that cannot be traced back to God. Therefore, we are to give thanks to God “always” and “in everything”.

***1 Thessalonians 5:18 “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”***

This should be one of the chief characteristics of a Christian. "Sanctified", in this particular sense, means made holy. Anything that we receive from God is sanctified, rendered holy, by the word of God (which establishes the boundaries for our lives) and prayer (through which we express our gratitude). It is very important for us to remember that God made the earth, and everything on it, and all the animals, fishes, and fowl, before He made man. He made all of this for the use of man. He made it not to use as we see fit, but as He planned for us to use it. It was the Word of God that made all of it. It was made good from the beginning.

***I Timothy 4:6 "If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained."***

Timothy needs to remind these people of the falsehood of teaching doctrines of devils. Any use of anything on this earth for other purposes than what God made them for in the beginning, would be as if we were saying God made a mistake. You can see the error in this. The "brethren" speaks of all believers in Christ. Notice, he is a minister of Jesus Christ. He is under direct orders of Jesus. Paul just reminds Timothy that he had been taught correctly from the beginning, now stay with that teaching. If pastors and teachers do not sustain their own spiritual development by feeding on Scripture, it will be impossible for them to provide spiritual sustenance to others.

***I Timothy 4:7 "But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself [rather] unto godliness."***

Timothy was to have nothing to do with pointless and silly myths, that is, popular, speculative fables and unbiblical stories that have no basis in reality and no positive affect on one’s life. Instead, he was to train himself in godliness. Some of the writers spoke of the Talmud as fables. The Talmud is the primary source of Jewish religious law and Theology. In other words, it is the teachings of Jewish scholars on who the bible says. Paul is saying, don't listen to people, learn from the Word of God. The best exercise a person can get is in the Word of God. Perhaps, there was a great deal of small talk in the church. It is best to stick to the study of God's Word in the church, and not have profane parties there.

***I Timothy 4:8 "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."***

The most a person can do with bodily exercise is to improve the flesh of man a little. The study of God's Word builds up the spirit of man. The flesh will pass away, but the spirit is eternal. The best preparation that we can make, is for the everlasting life. Godliness, becoming more like God in actions, attitudes, character, and conduct should be the Christian’s goal. Listening to silly myths produces nothing of value in a person’s life, but the Word of God produces godliness when obeyed. This, however, requires training and hard work. People are willing to pour extensive money and effort into physical training of the body, even though it has limited benefit. How much more, then, should we devote ourselves to training ourselves for godliness, which provides benefit for the present life and for the life to come? Godliness provides a deeper experience of God’s reality at work in our lives. Our passion for and pursuit of spiritual growth should be greater than our drive to be physically fit. Our souls need a regular workout program. You don’t become godly by chance.

***I Timothy 4:9 "This [is] a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation."***

***I Timothy 4:10 "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."***

This is just saying to Timothy, I am saying this in all good faith. It will be beneficial to you. This Scripture is the one many use to say that all mankind will be saved. That is really not what it is saying. Jesus is the Saviour of all mankind, if they accept the salvation, He provided for them. Jesus suffered for every individual who ever lived. In that sense, He is the Saviour of us all. How can we receive something we do not believe in? The key that turns the lock to save each of us, is our acceptance of that free gift of salvation.

***John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."***

***Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."***

Paul believed so strongly, he would spend the rest of his life labouring for the gospel. Paul was so thoroughly convinced when he saw the Light of Jesus, that no scorn of man could turn him away. He was willing to suffer anything to be able to bring the gospel message to the lost. Paul admits that he believes Jesus rose from the grave, when he calls Him "Living God". Given the value of the reward, Paul urges Timothy to labor and strive in the pursuit of godliness, both for himself and for those he serves. In fact, hard work with a heavenly focus is required because of our hope in the living God. He is the Savior of all people in that Christ’s death removed the guilt of original sin so that everyone can come to him in repentance and faith. The cross made all mankind savable. But he is the Savior especially of those who believe, those who have received the gift of eternal life through placing faith alone in Christ alone.

***I Timothy 4:11 "These things command and teach."***

Command is a strong word that shows it is absolutely necessary to believe, to be saved. You could say, require this of all who accept Jesus as Saviour. Timothy will be acting as the pastor of the church here. One of the duties of the pastor of the church is to teach the people how to apply the Word of God to their daily lives. Christianity is a walk, not a one-time experience. Pastors are to instruct the people of God in the truths of God, admonishing them to believe and obey so that they may properly respond.

***I Timothy 4:12 "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."***

Paul counsels Timothy not to let anyone despise his youth. Though Timothy was young, he had demonstrated profound faithfulness, and that’s the key. It’s hard to disregard someone for their youth, when their character and conduct are impeccable. Therefore, he needed to serve as an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity. Teaching the truth is not enough; church leaders must model the truth they teach. Paul is saying to Timothy, do not wander from the teachings, because of your youth and give the Christians any reason to question your teachings. He is saying to Timothy, live above reproach. Do everything as a seasoned man of God. The pastor of any church must live an example before his people. Sin should not be even in his thoughts whether he is young or old. Notice, that Paul cautions him first about the Word of God. The Word must not be compromised. He is, also, telling Timothy to be a doer of the Word of God, not just a speaker of the Word. Let Christ in you be so great that they will not be able to find any flaw in your way of life. Be strong in the faith and in the power of the Spirit.

***I Timothy 4:13 "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."***

***I Timothy 4:14 "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."***

Notice, that even Timothy needs to study the Word of God. Paul is saying, spend much time in reading your Bible. Preach {exhort} every time you have the opportunity and stay with the doctrine we have established. This is speaking of the special gift of the Holy Spirit that was given Timothy, when he was baptized in the Spirit of God. Paul is reminding Timothy that this gift was given him to use in the ministry.

***I Corinthians 12:28 "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."***

This does not specifically say which Timothy received, but we know the purpose of these gifts of the Spirit are to help in the church. The laying on of the hands of the presbytery was to anoint Timothy for the ministry. We do not all have the same gift, but we must use the gift that God has given us to minister with. The main reason Timothy is not to neglect the gift the Lord gave him, is because that is his individual power to minister. Each ministry is different. He is to minister in the area where the Lord called him.

***I Timothy 4:15 "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all."***

Paul is expressing to Timothy the necessity to give all of his attention to the ministry. Timothy will be a blessing to the people he ministers to, if he ministers in the area the Lord has anointed him to minister in. Those called of God are called to serve others, not themselves. Paul wants all to realize that Timothy is called of God and will do a good job in spite of his youth.

***I Timothy 4:16 "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."***

Timothy, or for that fact, any minister, must know the Truth himself, before he can lead others to the Truth. If the blind lead the blind, they both fall into the ditch. Timothy must not only teach the correct doctrine, but live it, as well. The shepherd, who leads the flock, must teach Truth. If he, or she, does not, the entire flock will be lost. The salvation of his own soul has to do with what he believes as an individual, but the salvation of the congregation depends upon what each individual has been taught and accepted as Truth.

***Romans 10:14 "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"***

**QUESTIONS**

1. What does the word "expressly" mean?
2. The Spirit is what?
3. When did the latter times begin?
4. What is meant by "giving heed to seducing spirits"?
5. What will it be like in the latter days?
6. The doctrine Paul was warning of, was a doctrine of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. In verse 3, what specific false things were they teaching?
8. Why did God make males and females in the flesh?
9. What has our society done regarding animals, that God would not approve of?
10. What is the only restriction for eating meat?
11. Every creature of God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
12. The meat is sanctified by what?
13. What does "sanctified", in verse 5, mean?
14. If Timothy does what, he will be a good minister of Jesus Christ.
15. Who are the "brethren" spoken of here?
16. Refuse profane and old wives' \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
17. What is the best exercise we can get?
18. What is the most a person can do with bodily exercise?
19. Who is the Living God?
20. Christianity is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, not a \_\_\_\_ time experience.
21. What did Paul caution Timothy against in verse 12?
22. What 3 things did Paul tell Timothy to give attendance to?
23. What was Timothy cautioned not to neglect?
24. What is the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit?
25. Timothy must give all of his attention to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.