

Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Some Will Depart from the Faith

¹ The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

Q1. How do you interpret “in later times”?

Q2. What does it mean to “abandon the faith”?

Q3. To what are those who ‘abandon the faith’ dedicating themselves?

2 Timothy 4:3-4 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)]

³⁻⁴ For the time is coming when men will not tolerate wholesome teaching. They will want something to tickle their own fancies, and they will collect teachers who will pander to their own desires. They will no longer listen to the truth, but will wander off after man-made fictions.

Matthew 24:4-5

⁴ Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ, ' and will deceive many.

Matthew 24:23-24 [Jesus continued to teach]

²³ At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. ²⁴ For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect – if that were possible.

² Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

Q4. Since Scripture calls them “liars,” what is the subject of their lies and hypocrisy?

Q5. How would you explain “consciences have been seared”?

 Note: The Phillips paraphrase of 1st Timothy 4:1-2 is especially blunt.

1 Timothy 4:1-2 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)]

¹⁻² God’s Spirit specifically tells us that in later days there will be men who abandon the true faith and allow themselves to be spiritually seduced by teachings of the devil, teachings given by men who are lying hypocrites, whose consciences are as dead as seared flesh.

Day 2

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³ They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth.

Q6. Do you think that ‘marriage’ and “foods” are listed as examples?

Yes Why?
No

Q7. How are we to look at food?

Mark 7:19 [Jesus taught,]

For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean.")

Q8. Are “They” (evil teachers) contradicting Jesus’ teaching? (Please see Commentator Charles Ellicott’s note following verse-7 ↓ as he discusses the Jewish teachers’ depreciation of the – Old Testament – Scriptures over the centuries.)

2 Timothy 4:3-4

³ For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

James 3:1 [The apostle James wrote]

Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

-  We must always be on-guard to ‘stay the course’ and not deviate from Scripture. We must refresh our minds through daily Bible reading and study, and to compare and evaluate our lives against the ‘mirror’ of Scripture. We must learn from our mistakes. We must pray for discernment and wisdom. We must allow our minds and actions to be led by the Holy Spirit. Remember, for the typical Believer, growth in our faith is evolutionary, not revolutionary.
-  Throughout history, teachers had to be held accountable and corrected. As Paul related in his Epistle to the Galatians, even the Apostle Peter (Cephas) had to be corrected because his actions were divisive and leading others away from the genuine Gospel of salvation.

Galatians 2:11-21 [Paul wrote in admonishment:]

¹¹ When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. ¹² Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³ The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. ¹⁴ When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?" ¹⁵ "We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' ¹⁶ know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified. ¹⁷ "If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! ¹⁸ If I rebuild what I destroyed, I prove that I am a lawbreaker. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

-  In the Apostle Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians 7:1-7 (↓), he addressed the ‘marriage’ question:

1 Corinthians 7:1-7 [The Message (MSG)]

¹ Now, getting down to the questions you asked in your letter to me. First, is it a good thing to have sexual relations?

²⁻⁶ Certainly — but only within a certain context. It's good for a man to have a wife, and for a woman to have a husband. Sexual drives are strong, but marriage is strong enough to contain them and provide for a balanced and fulfilling sexual life in a world of sexual disorder. The marriage bed must be a place of mutuality — the husband seeking to satisfy his wife, the wife seeking to satisfy her husband. Marriage is not a place to “stand up for your rights.” Marriage is a decision to serve the other, whether in bed or out. Abstaining from sex is permissible for a period of time if you both agree to it, and if it's for the purposes of prayer and fasting — but only for such times. Then come back together again. Satan has an ingenious way of tempting us when we least expect it. I'm not, understand, commanding these periods of abstinence — only providing my best counsel if you should choose them.

⁷ Sometimes I wish everyone were single like me — a simpler life in many ways! But celibacy is not for everyone any more than marriage is. God gives the gift of the single life to some, the gift of the married life to others.

⁴ For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

Q9. [Personal] Do you thank God for every morsel that passes your lips?

Ephesians 5:20

always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Romans 14:6-9 [The Message]

What's important in all this is that if you keep a holy day, keep it for God's sake; if you eat meat, eat it to the glory of God and thank God for prime rib; if you're a vegetarian, eat vegetables to the glory of God and thank God for broccoli. None of us are permitted to insist on our own way in these matters. It's God we are answerable to — all the way from life to death and everything in between — not each other. That's why Jesus lived and died and then lived again: so that he could be our Master across the entire range of life and death, and free us from the petty tyrannies of each other.

Day 3

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A Good Servant of Christ Jesus

⁶ If you point these things out to the *brothers*, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed.

 *Brothers*: Or brothers and sisters. In New Testament usage, depending on the context, the plural Greek word adelphoi (translated “brothers”) may refer either to brothers or to brothers and sisters. [Source: English Standard Version (ESV): footnote to 1st Timothy 4:6; the New International Version (NIV) has a similarly worded footnote.]

Q10. The second word in verse-6 is “you”; to whom does “you” refer?

Q11. If the “you” in the phrase “you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus” refers to Timothy, does it also carry-over to include us? And if it does, then to what should we specifically do?

Yes Why?

No

Q12. Paul wrote, “If you put these things”; what are the “these things” to which he is referring?

⁷ Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

Q13. Can you think of anything today that might be considered “godless myths and old wives' tales”?

Yes What?

No

 Commentator Charles Ellicott wrote regarding “godless myths and old wives' tales”: “Here Timothy — who has been previously warned (see 1 Timothy 4:1-6) against a false asceticism, against putting an unnatural interpretation on the words of Christ, against sympathising with a teaching which would unfit men and women for practical every-day life — is now urged to guard himself against the temptation to give himself up to the favourite and apparently enticing study of the sayings of the famous Jewish Rabbis, in which every book, almost every word — in many cases the letters of the Hebrew Scriptures — were subjected to a keen but profitless investigation. In such study the spirit of the holy writers was too often lost, and only a dry and barren formalism — commands respecting the tithing of mint, and anise, and cumin — remained, while the weightier matters of the law — judgment, justice, and truth — were carefully sifted out. Round the grand old Jewish history all kind of mythical legends grew up, till for a Jewish student of the Rabbinical

schools the separation of the true from the false became in many cases impossible — through all this elaborate and careful but almost profitless study. The minister of Christ was to avoid these strange and unusual interpretations, this vast fantastic collection of legends, partly true and partly false. He was to regard them as merely profane and old wives' fables, as being perfectly useless and even harmful in their bearing on practical every-day life." [©about 1880, Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers, edited by Charles J Ellicott. https://biblehub.com/commentaries/1_timothy/4-7.htm]

Q14. In verses 6&7, Paul emphasized training by repeating the word. (Verse 6: "Brought up" implies training; see the ESV version.) How was Timothy – how are we – to "train yourself to be godly"?

Genesis 18:19 [God spoke of His servant Abraham]

"For I have chosen him, so that he will direct [train] his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."

Psalms 86:11

Teach [train] me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

Proverbs 22:6

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Ephesians 6:4

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Day 4

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⁸ For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

Q15. What are examples of "physical training"?

Q16. Some people, today, seem to place great emphasis on "physical training". Why does Paul downplay it by saying it is of "some value"?

Q17. Why does Paul consider “godliness has value for all things”?

⁹ This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance ¹⁰ (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe.

Q18. In the phrase “This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance”, what is the “saying”?

Q19. In what activities are we engaged when performing “we labor and strive”?

Q20. Paul writes, “the living God, who is the Savior of all men [and women], and especially of those who believe”. Who is the “living God”?

Q21. Paul writes, “the living God, who is the Savior of all men [and women], especially of those who believe”. If Jesus is the “savior of all men [and women]”, why does Paul add-on the extra phrase “especially of those who believe”?

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ [Jesus taught,] "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

Q22. Referring to Matthew 7:13 (↑): what is “destruction”?

Q23. Referring to Matthew 7:14 (↑): What is ‘the small gate and the narrow road’? And why do “few find it”?

Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

¹¹ Command and teach these things.

Q24. Paul is instructing Timothy to “Command and teach”. Does this instruction apply to us, today? And, if yes, what are we to “command”? (What is your spiritual gift – see [1st Corinthians 12](#)? Are you a preacher? Or, for example, can your demeanor, your love, your kindness, draw unbelievers to you?)

Apply to us? Yes

No

Command?

Q25. Paul is instructing Timothy to “Command and teach”. Does this instruction apply to us, today? And, if yes, what are to “teach”? (What is your spiritual gift – see [1st Corinthians 12](#)? Are you a preacher? Or, for example, can your demeanor, your love, your kindness, draw unbelievers to you?)

Apply to us? Yes

No

Teach?

¹² Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

Q26. Why did the Holy Spirit through Paul address Timothy's young age? Why would “anyone look down on” Timothy?

Q27. These passages are addressed to the young Timothy. Overall, do these passages apply to us, today? Why or why not?

¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.

Q28. Why did Paul encourage Timothy to publicly read Scripture, presumably out-loud?

Luke 8:15

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Romans 10:17 [The Message (MSG)]

The point is: Before you trust, you have to listen. But unless Christ's Word is preached, there's nothing to listen to.

James 1:19-25 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)]

¹⁹⁻²⁰ In view of what he has made us then, dear brothers, let every man be quick to listen but slow to use his tongue, and slow to lose his temper. For man's temper is never the means of achieving God's true goodness.

²¹⁻²⁵ Have done, then, with impurity and every other evil which touches the lives of others, and humbly accept the message that God has sown in your hearts, and which can save your souls. Don't I beg you, only hear the message, but put it into practice; otherwise, you are merely deluding yourselves. The man who simply hears and does nothing about it is like a man catching the reflection of his own face in a mirror. He sees himself, it is true, but he goes on with whatever he was doing without the slightest recollection of what sort of person he saw in the mirror. But the man who looks into the perfect mirror of God's law, the law of liberty (or freedom), and makes a habit of so doing, is not the man who sees and forgets. He puts that law into practice and he wins true happiness.

Q29. If Timothy reads Scripture aloud and teaches, is he following Paul's (and James') instructions?

Yes Why?

No

Day 6

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¹⁴ Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

Q30. What may have been Timothy's "gift"?

¹⁵ Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.

Q31. Is Paul urging and encouraging Timothy to practice and immerse himself, because 'practice makes perfect'? Or is there something additional occurring through Timothy's obedience?

¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Q32. Why would Paul teach Timothy to "Watch your life and doctrine closely"?

Q33. How will this "save both yourself and your hearers"?

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