



## leadership manual

**1 Timothy**



# Sermon Series Notes

## “Life & Doctrine” Part 1 (1 Timothy 4)

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### I. THE TEXT

v.1 The phrase “The Spirit clearly says” is a way of referring to past prophetic messages, both those found in the OT, as well as those taught in the NT, including some from Jesus himself (see Matthew 24:10; Mark 13:22). The last days (NIV “later days”) began with Christ’s first coming and will continue until he comes again.

v.2 They have allowed themselves to be deceived regarding the true path toward godliness, so what they teach is false, nevertheless they look down on all who do not follow their teaching. (They are hypocrites.)

\* “It is the nature of all hypocrites and false prophets to create a guilty conscience in matters where there is no offense.” Example: The Pharisees.

\* Their consciences have been seared. In other words, they have become numb to the truth.

vv.3-5 The particular false teaching mentioned here is called asceticism. It means one who practices self-denial and self-mortification for religious purposes. This particular asceticism involved two tremendous gifts from God – marriage and food. Some who argue for this teaching cite Jesus’ reference that in heaven they will neither marry nor be given in marriage (Matt.22:30). They also refer to the Garden of Eden, citing that in the beginning man was a vegetarian.

vv.6-8 Pay no attention to the old wives tales of false teaching. Instead, train yourself to be godly.

Note: Sometimes we misrepresent what is in this verse. It does not say that physical training has no value. As a matter fact, it says clearly that physical training does have value. If I train physically, I will look better, feel better, and probably live a more healthy life. But in comparison, training for godliness is far more important, because godliness has value not only for this life, but for eternity. See vv.9-10. A godly life is evidence of my faith/salvation. By the way, a little side

note for you Calvinists, this verse teaches that Jesus is the Savior of ALL MEN, not just the elect!

v.11 Command what? See I Tim.1:3-7. Timothy was to command certain men in the church of Ephesus to stop teaching false doctrines. The leadership of this church is called to do the same. We have what I consider to be false teaching that has begun to spread in our church. I brought it up at our last elders meeting, and we had one of the liveliest elders meetings I've ever been in. I have commissioned eleven other elders to investigate the teaching, and we meet to discuss our findings January 29<sup>th</sup>. After we have completed our discussion, we will present our conclusion to all of the elders on February 12, then I will present the elders decision regarding the teaching to you. Since we are right now in the midst of our investigation, I am not going to talk about this particular teaching today.

Teach what? Teach people to beware of false teaching, to understand biblical godliness, and how to train for it.

v.12 Don't let anyone look down on you is synonymous with what Paul says in Col.2:16, "Don't let anyone judge you." The idea is to not let them pressure you into a false spirituality. Timothy, despite your age, show them by your life what godliness and true spirituality really look like.

vv.13-14 Continue to live truth before them, and preach and teach truth to them.

- \* Timothy's gift was obviously a speaking gift, and Paul encourages him to continue speaking truth.

- \* Note: Timothy's task was not an easy one, and II Tim.1 tells us that Timothy actually pulled back in ministry for a time, because as he exposed and confronted these false teachers, he faced fierce opposition.

v.15 Progress in godliness, Christian maturity.

v.16 You and others will be saved by believing and proclaiming the truth.

- \* Some people have the right doctrine, but do not live according to what they believe.

- \* What do you believe? Why do you believe it? Are you living according to what you say you believe?

## II. LESSONS

### A. It's Possible To Walk Away From Truth & Follow A Lie

- \* II Tim.2:16-18; 4:2-4

\* Satan has more than one way to deceive people. He certainly deceives by leading people down a path of outright rebellion, but he also is great at putting on a clerical collar and posing as a religious zealot (See II Cor.11:13-15).

## B. We Must Recognize, Expose, & Resist False Teaching

\* Satan and his demons know the Bible backwards and forwards. And they love to not only deceive people into rejecting the Bible completely, but to take the Bible and twist and distort it in order to lead people away from the truth. Satan loves it when he can create controversy in the church over anything, and he knows that some of the most controversial issues in the church are over doctrine.

\* Note: None of us have all truth (I Cor.13:12), and there are some doctrines that we can simply agree to disagree on (pre, mid, or post trib, etc.). But even doctrine that we can agree to disagree on must not be allowed to create controversy between us. Some people just want to argue their viewpoint, and they spend much more time arguing their point of view than expressing and spreading Christ's love.

\* False teaching regarding marriage: The dominant attitude of the Catholic church throughout the Middle Ages was that sexual love itself was evil and did not cease to be so even if its objects were one's spouse. Augustine taught that the sexual relationship was innocent in marriage, but the passion that accompanies it is always sinful. He frequently counseled married couples to abstain. I certainly would not go to him for counsel! The church fathers are virtually unanimous in praising virginity as superior to marriage. The Council of Trent (16<sup>th</sup> century) denounced those who denied virginity was superior to the married state. The 10<sup>th</sup> article of this council says this: "Whosoever shall say that the married state is to be preferred to a state of virginity, or celibacy, and that it is not better to remain in virginity, or celibacy, than to be joined in marriage, let him be accursed!" The Roman church kept adding days in which marital intimacy was prohibited until more than half the days in the year were excluded. As one commentator said, "No wonder there was a Reformation!" The Reformation brought a return to the Bible and focus on what it taught. And who were the great biblical heroes during this time? The Puritans. They took on the Roman church in straight on debate. The Puritans devalued celibacy, glorified marriage, affirmed sex in marriage as both necessary and pure (Hallelujah!), established the ideal of wedded romantic love, and exalted the role of the wife.

\* False teaching regarding food/diet: In reference to food, Jesus declared all foods clean (Mark 7:19-20); I Cor.8:8.

\* See also Acts 10:9-16ff; Peter had a hard time learning the truth about diet, righteousness, and sanctification. Truth – You can be forgiven, cleansed, filled with the Holy Spirit without conformity to a particular religious diet, rule, or ritual. In your “uncircumcised” state you can be made clean, BY FAITH!

\* See also Col.2:16-23.

\* Despite the clear truth revealed in these Scriptures, we have a false teaching that has spread in the church saying that God never intended man to eat meat (Hallelujah Acres, George Malkmus). There’s one right over in Plant City. “It is our blessed mission to share God’s original nutritional plan in Genesis 1:29 and the information and vast knowledge we’ve gained over years of living the lifestyle. Through God’s grace, we can help you restore, rebuild, and transform your self-healing body!” The Hallelujah Diet is a menu of 85% raw, uncooked, and unprocessed plant-based food, and 15% cooked, plant-based food.

\* Another false teaching that has reared its head locally is called The “Hebrew Roots” movement. This heresy goes all the way back to the first century, but it keeps turning up every few centuries. They usually hide their beliefs and present themselves as simply seeking to educate Christians concerning their Jewish heritage. As they become acclimated to the Jewish orientation, the more aberrant doctrines are slowly introduced. All Christians should adhere to a kosher diet, the Sabbath can only be observed on Saturdays, and the Jewish festivals and holidays should still be observed today The root of their symptomatic heresies is hermeneutic (having to do with the methodology used to interpret scripture) in nature. The Protestant Reformers used a grammatical-literal hermeneutic when interpreting scripture. In other words, it means what it says unless there is a significant reason to believe otherwise. This movement uses a grammatical-historical hermeneutic with a twist. Their underlying assumptions when approaching any scripture are:

- Whatever God has ever commanded of those who seek Him (i.e., the Jews, their ancestors, their descendents, and Christians) is still in effect today (including the Levitical law).

- Gentile followers of Christ were “grafted into” the Jews which they interpret to mean that Gentiles must assume Jewish customs if they really want to mature and please God.

Based on those unquestionable assumptions, they then decide how they can best interpret a given scripture to support those beliefs.

The farther down this rabbit hole they go, the more bizarre their doctrines become. Many see the New Testament as inferior to the Old (or a conspiracy by the Catholic church). More still say that Paul’s teachings are contrary to Christ (since they have trouble with his obvious statements against their beliefs) and, therefore, reject his epistles as scripture. Some say that the only reason we aren’t still sacrificing animals and stoning people for their sins is because there is no Temple

and no Sanhedrin. But when they are restored then these will resume. Others go so far as to eventually reject Jesus as the Messiah and simply say that He was just a Rabbi. The inevitable outcome of following this train of thought is to put people back into bondage to the Law.

### The Truth

We (as Gentile believers) were not grafted into the Law and Judaism but into the faith of Abraham which preceded the Law and Jewish customs (Romans 4, Romans 11:17-24, Galatians 3:15-18). The law was given because of transgressions and to be our tutor to lead us to Christ (Galatians 3:19,24,25). Jesus fulfilled all of the requirements of the law (Matthew 5:17-20) for all time (John 19:30, Romans 5:12-21). We were “made to die to the Law through the body of Christ” so that we might be joined to Him (Romans 7:1-6, Galatians 2:19,21) because Christ is “the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes” (Romans 10:4). ***You mature in Christ and please Him by the same means by which you were saved...by faith...not by following the Law.***

See Galatians 3:1-4.

Nowhere in the Bible do we find Gentile believers being instructed to follow Levitical laws or Jewish customs. In fact, we find just the opposite. However, we do find several examples where Jewish Christians are reprimanded for trying to convince Gentile Christians to follow the Law (Acts 15, Galatians, Romans 14, Titus 1).

False teaching usually presents itself as something the mainstream church has lost sight of over time, or has never had proper revelation about. It often spiritualizes a text, or takes it out of context. And it (always) includes elements of Law instead of grace... Early churches doctrinal battles were over elements of the Law...Acts 15, etc.

### C. We Must Watch Our Life and Our Doctrine Closely

\* Emphasize our freedom from Law, and our striving from righteousness rather than for righteousness... Gen.15:4-6; Gal.3:1-14, 16-19a, 21-29; Rom.3:21-24, 28-29; Abraham and Issac; Habakkuk 2:4; Isaiah 53:5-6; Psalms; Jer.31:31-34; Heb.7:24-28; 10:8-10, 11-18; Eph.2:1-9; II Cor.5:21.