

I TIMOTHY 4:1-6

In the latter part of Chapter three Paul talked about how the members of the household of faith are to uphold the truth just like pillars uphold the structure of a building.

Now here in Chapter 4:1-16 Paul warns Timothy about an apostasy which would come and gives him certain instructions on how to respond to such apostasy.

V. 1- The Spirit speaketh expressly - indicates that the Holy Spirit has spoken in specific places in the N.T. about those who would depart from the faith. He spoke about it through Paul's writings, Peter's writings, and John's writings how some would depart.

The fact that these depart indicates that while they may have professed to be saved - they were not.

They would be like the seeds in the parable of the sower that fell on stony ground and among the thorns.

The Holy Spirit spoke through John saying "they went out from us... ().

Paul mentions the means by which these false professors would depart. They would give heed to or assent to seducing spirits and doctrines.

Seducing spirits describes the evil spirits that will indwell false teachers who will teach doctrines which are inspired by demons. The word "seducing" is used in a figurative sense as one who would seduce another to do wrong.

This very fittingly describes the false teachers of the cults who proselyte and steal others from churches and make them their servants.

V. 2 - Indicates that these false teachers who depart... will speak lies in hypocrisy or by means of hypocrisy.

They will preach one thing and practice another. Having their conscience seared or "cauterized" means having no convictions to accuse their actions.

Someone has said "when we affirm with our lips what we deny with our lives we deaden our conscience a little more each time."

In other words believing and behaving to together.

Notice that apostates are not just wrong doctrinally they are wrong morally as well.

Consider the followers of David Koresh and also the Mormon doctrines concerning polygamy...

Notice that one's personal life becomes wrong before one changes his doctrines. Usually a personal changes his teachings so he can continue some sinful lifestyle and pacify his conscience.

V. 3 - Paul states two of the doctrines of demons.

False teachers would teach that an unmarried life is more spiritual than a married life.

The Bible says God ordained marriage and Jesus put His seal of approval on marriage. To teach otherwise is a doctrine.... An illustration of this teaching is evident in the

Roman Catholic Church concerning celibacy for priests and nuns.

Another doctrine... is teaching that abstinence from certain foods makes one more spiritual than others.

An illustration of such teaching is found in the Hindu religions. - They teach that the soul of a man may come back and live in an animal or other creature such as a cow etc... The practice of straining their drink.

V. 4,5 - Paul argues that every "creation" of God is good and not to be refused. This includes marriage and foods.

Before eating or marriage we ask the Lord to sanctify or set apart this food to strengthen and the marriage union for His glory. And this is done by the Word of God and prayer.

Someone has said - "anything you can pray over you can eat."

Dr. Bowman used to say in dispensational theology- "it used to be no hog in the O.T. but now it is whole hog like Jessie Jones Sausage."

V. 6 - Here Paul points out a certain truth - a pastor must not only teach positive things for people to believe he must also expose false doctrine and teachers. For Timothy to do this would make him a good minister or servant of Jesus Christ.

You will hear people say things like "I'm not going to knock anyone's religion."

V. 7-16 Paul gives some positive and personal instructions to Timothy in view of apostates and their practices.

Conclusion

Now let me apply some of these truths we have looked at and challenge you concerning them.

As stated believing and behaving go together...

Also we need to back up what we say with our lives or "practice what we preach".

What kind of shape is your conscience in?

Our conscience needs to be void of offense toward God and toward man to have a good conscience.

Notice a person's conscience can be..

I. DEFILED (Titus 1:15)

If he is unsaved his conscience can't be clean or clear.

Unsaved people have a corrupt conscience and can do all sorts of sinful things without regret or remorse.

II. SEARED (I Tim. 4:2)

By repeatedly sinning when he knows something is wrong for him to do.

III. VOID OF OFFENSE

Because he is not inwardly accused of doing anything against God or against others.