

Lessons From I Timothy

Some Will Depart From The Faith

(I Ti 4:1-5)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From I Timothy.”
 - a. Last week we looked at “The Mystery Of Godliness.”
 - i. **I Ti 3:14-16** “I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, 15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. 16 Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.”¹
 - b. This week we are going to examine “Some Will Depart From The Faith.”
 - i. **I Ti 4:1-5** “Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, 2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, 3 who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.”
3. As we noticed last week, Paul was teaching on “The Mystery of Godliness” but here we see him switch to “The Mystery of Lawlessness.”
 - a. John described lawlessness as sin.
 - i. **I Jn 3:4** “Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.”
 - b. Sin separates us from God.
 - i. **Is 59:1-2** “Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; 2 but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.”
 - c. Faith keeps us close to God.
 - i. **He 11:6** “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”
 - d. Departing from the faith is partaking in lawlessness i.e. sin.
 - i. In the case of our text it is by devoting oneself to a false teachers.
4. Why does Paul switch from “the mystery of godliness” to “the mystery of lawlessness,” because the Holy Spirit told him to.
 - a. “Now the Spirit expressly says...”
 - i. **I Co 2:10** “these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit...”
5. Let us therefore now look at our text today.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

Lessons From I Timothy

I. Devotion To Deceitful Spirits

- A. Many today fall victim to false teachers who use deceit and trickery
 - 1. Most of the so called “TV Evangelist” have been, at one time or another, caught deceiving their viewers.
 - i. There have been “detective shows” after “detective shows” that have uncovered their lies.
 - a. Oral Roberts lied and said he could “heal” people miraculously for years and then wanted money to build a hospital.
 - b. A Pentecostal preacher in western Oklahoma taught he knew the end of the earth, yet that date came and went.
 - ii. Yet people continue to believe in these deceitful spirits even though they have been proven to be frauds.
 - 2. Every denominational preacher is deceiving those he preaches to.
 - i. I don’t think it is typically on purpose but never the less they are deceiving them by teaching them false doctrines.
- B. People are deceived because...
 - 1. They don’t actually follow the advice of God through John.
 - i. **I Jn 4:1** “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”
 - 2. They don’t follow the advice of God through Paul.
 - i. **I Th 5:21** “prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (ASV)
- C. Thus...
 - 1. People are always easily deceived if they are not willing to “test” and “prove” all things true or not.

II. Devotion To Demon Doctrines

- A. Though most would argue otherwise the truth is most of humanity devote themselves to the doctrine of Satan
 - 1. If you were to take a pole both inside and outside the church you would find most people would say they do not follow Satan’s teachings or his doctrine.
 - i. However we know this simply is not true, most do follow demon doctrines.
 - a. **Mt 7:13-14** “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

Lessons From I Timothy

- B. In our text today Paul mentions two “demon doctrines”
1. The false doctrine of forbidding marriage to those eligible for marriage.
 - i. This is most commonly seen in the Catholic denomination today though they would deny this.
 - a. Jimmy Akin a converted Catholic from Protestantism had this to say, “Does the Catholic Church forbid marriage? Not at all. It forbids marriage to no one. The charge could hardly be more absurd since the Catholic Church regards marriage as a sacrament. In the Catholic view, marriage is a great blessing; it is simply not for everyone. Some may renounce marriage for purposes of religion.”²
 - b. However according to the Catholic Catechism if one wanted to be a priest and be married he could not i.e. he is forbidden to do so.
 1. “All the ordained ministers of the Latin Church, with the exception of permanent deacons, are normally chosen from among men of faith who live a celibate life and who intend to remain celibate "for the sake of the kingdom of heaven." 70 Called to consecrate themselves with undivided heart to the Lord and to "the affairs of the Lord," 71 they give themselves entirely to God and to men. Celibacy is a sign of this new life to the service of which the Church's minister is consecrated; accepted with a joyous heart celibacy radiantly proclaims the Reign of God.”³
 - ii. Of course God has never forbidden marriage for any eligible priest i.e. eligible Christian.
 - a. **I Pt 2:5** “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”
 1. The only people that are not eligible to marry are those that have divorced for a reason other than fornication.
 - i. **Mt 19:9** “And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and he that marrieth her when she is put away committeth adultery.” (ASV)

² Doctrines of Demons by Akin, James <http://goo.gl/MqZ47g>.

³ Catechism of the Catholic Church Paragraph 1579: <http://goo.gl/5xTtxt0>

Lessons From I Timothy

2. The false doctrine of forbidding certain foods.
 - i. Once again this is most commonly seen in the Catholic denomination but there are others that hold to this idea as well.
 - a. Again Mr. Akin had this to say, “Catholics “enjoin abstinence from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving”? Again, no. A Catholic is free to eat any food he wishes, for Christ “declared all foods clean” (Mark 7:19)... Why then do Catholics refrain from eating meat on certain Fridays? The reason is simple: It is a devotion that the Catholic family has established to commemorate the crucifixion of Christ.”
 - b. Notice what Mr. Akin continues to say however, “It would be wrong for a Catholic to violate this devotion without sufficient cause, just as it would be wrong for a child to disobey the family rules established by his parents (Col. 3:20, Eph. 6:1).”
 - ii. God clearly shows doctrine as false here in our text.
 - a. **I Ti 4:4-5** “For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.”
- C. Thus...
 1. Christians must beware of the doctrines they follow and make sure they are not the doctrine of demons.

III. Devotion To Liars With Seared Consciences

- A. The church can fall into a denominational mindset if not careful concerning the local preacher
 1. How many congregations have preacheritis.
 - i. That believe their preacher and “teach no wrong.”
 - ii. That he wouldn’t lead them astray.
- B. Many a preacher has abused this “follow at any cause” mentality
 1. They take advantage and in the process sear their conscience to righteousness.
 - i. They usually think they are actually right even though they are contrary to the scriptures.
 - ii. Why, because they no longer can feel the disappointment of sin.
 - a. **II Co 7:10** “For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.”
- C. Thus...
 1. We all must beware of those that could through a silver tongue lead us astray.

CONCLUSION

1. Brethren let us all with one accord make it our goal to never “depart from the faith.”
 - a. Let us hold each other accountable to the truth testing what is said and done.
2. Question: Are you doing what it takes to make sure you cannot be lead astray into believing in false doctrines?