

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**Be a Good Minister of Jesus Christ**  
**1 Timothy 4**

Last times...thus far in this Holy Spirit-inspired letter from an Apostle to a pastor,  
which I take very seriously and very personally

- Ch 1:3-7, 12
- Ch 2:4-7
- Ch 3:15-16

On his 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey, accompanied by Timothy (Acts 16:1), Paul taught  
by example this truth of orderly behavior in the house of God  
(Timothy being a witness) and later reminded the Thessalonians of it

1 Thes 2:10-12

Now Paul is reminding Timothy of this same truth, to be applied by  
Pastor Timothy in the church at Ephesus

Ministry, serving the Lord and His people, is a great joy...something we get to do!  
Yet ministry is also a severe test of faithfulness to persevere in the Spirit rather than in  
one's emotions thru the trials of

- great sorrow
  - intense crushing
- that "come with the territory"

1 Thes 3:1-4

This time...personal exhortation and encouragement for the pastor

1. Be a good minister of Jesus Christ
2. Till I come...in doing this you shall both save yourself and them that hear you

v1a Now..."but", contrary to Ch 3:15-16  
As great is the mystery of godliness, so is great the mystery of lawlessness

The Spirit...The Author is the LORD (Deut 6:4)

John 16:13    when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all  
truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall  
hear, *that* shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come.

is speaking distinctly...clearly, unmistakably

- to and thru an Apostle chosen and anointed by Jesus Christ
- to and thru a pastor called by the Lord to tend/feed one of His flocks

that in the latter times

- the times of another mystery – the Church (Jew and Gentile who believe)
- from its Birth (Acts 2) to its Rapture/Removal (1 Thes 4, Rev 4:1)
- aka “last days”

Heb 1:1-2a      God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in **these last days** spoken unto us by *his* Son...

Act 2:17          And it shall come to pass in **the last days**, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams

some shall depart from the faith...

desert, withdraw, go AWOL, abandon ship,  
not abide/continue/remain in the Truth

2 Thes 2:1-3a

2 Peter 3:3-4    there shall come in **the last days** scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.

Scoffers both outside AND inside the Church

2 Tim 3:1-5      in the world AND in the Church

1 John 2:6        He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.

but

Ps 12:1            Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.

Prov 20:6          Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

How/Why do they depart from the faith?

v1b-5 They depart from the faith by

1. False doctrine (v1b)

Paying attention not to the Truth of God's Word but to

- seducing spirits...demons, imposters, deceivers (Matt 24:4-5)
- doctrines/instruction/teaching of devils (carnal, Self-centered)

2. False witness (v2)

Ex 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

Ex 23:1-2 Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness. Thou shalt not follow a multitude to *do* evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest *justice*

in hypocrisy...the leaven of the Pharisees, the self-righteous and religious having their conscience (sense of morality) seared/cauterized with a hot iron...and rendered insensitive to the small still voice of God

3. False righteousness (v3)

- forbidding to marry...forced celibacy by a false priesthood (RCC)
- commanding to abstain from meats/foods...RCC, why I cannot eat a tuna fish salad or sandwich to this day

Contrary to the Word of God

- forbidding to marry
  - Gen 2:18 not good that man is alone
  - Gen 1:28 Be fruitful and multiply
  - Prov 18:22 who finds a wife finds a good thing...
  - 1 Cor 7:9 better marry than burn
- abstain from foods
  - Gen 9:3 every moving thing is food for you
  - Acts 10:9-16

Contrary to the loving heart of the Creator, Who created all food to be received with thanksgiving, not judgmental legalism and not to be refused as "not good"

Contrary to the consecration unto God, by His Word and prayer

All food is received with thanksgiving by those who

- believe...Mark 16:15-16
- know the truth...John 8:31-32, John 14:6, John 17:17
- 1 Thes 2:13 reminding Timothy as did Church

It is one thing to be a vegetarian or a vegan out of personal preference or personal conviction by faith (Rom 14:23),  
but it is a different thing, a self-righteous thing, to say militantly or religiously that eating this way is how to be pleasing to God

That is a false gospel and contrary to Rom 10:4

By false doctrine, false witness, and false righteousness some shall depart from the faith  
How long has the devil been attacking Truth?

Since Gen 3

How long has the devil been trying to corrupt the Church?

Since it was birthed

So why is the Holy Spirit saying this to Paul, Timothy, the church at Ephesus, and us  
about those who have departed and will depart from the faith?

2 Peter 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know *these things* before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

There is soooooo much false doctrine, false witness, and false righteousness  
in the Church!

The error is soooooo subtle!

Read and study your Bible, not some book about (is it really?) the Bible!!!

Understand the times in which we live (1 Chron 12:32)...in “the beginning of sorrows”

- wars and rumors of wars
- nations against nations
- races against races
- famines, pestilences, earthquakes in many different places

Be on guard, be vigilant and discerning!

Abide in Christ, stay focused on Jesus Christ, the Bishop of your soul!

v6 From the Holy Spirit to the Apostle...so I’m paying very close attention!

If you put the brethren...

- the Family of God
- the house of God
- the church of the living God
- the pillar and ground of truth

in remembrance of these things

- the truths of God (the entire counsel of God)
- the mystery of godliness (the Lord Jesus Christ)
- the mystery of lawlessness (false doctrine, false witness, false righteousness)
- the spirit of antichrist (subtle deception of a counterfeit to destroy)
- the things God said was going to come to pass (the prophetic Word)

you shall be a good minister (same Gr word as “deacon”/attendant/waiter in Ch 3)  
of Jesus Christ

- nourished up/educated in the words of faith
  - by the Holy Spirit
  - John 14:26
  - 1 John 2:27
- of/based in good doctrine  
2 Tim 3:16

whereunto you have attained/followed

Rom 12:1-2 being not conformed to this world but transformed by the renewing  
of your mind, offering your bodies as living sacrifices, which is  
your reasonable service

It is the engrafted Word of God that is able to save our souls,

NOT the words of men which can oh so subtly lead one astray if they are not  
discerning

Eat the Bread of Life, which is true and alive and nourishes/washes our souls and  
shall stand forever,

NOT the stale bread of men

I take this personally and seriously!

It is my heart's desire to hear,

“Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your Lord!”

So I will not be searching the marketplace of ideas of some “fresh” new idea,  
the latest and hottest wind of doctrine to sweep thru the Church,  
with which to tickle ears and fill the seats

I will serve healthy portions of the Word of God (which few want, Amos 8:11),  
I will not serve “junk food” (which many want)

I will steadfastly remind you of “the old paths” (Jer 6:16), the unchanging ways of God

2 Peter 1:12-15

v7-9 But...to be a good minister of Jesus Christ

refuse...reject, shun, by Acts 17:11

profane...wicked, ala the fables, endless genealogies, and vain jangling in Ch 1  
and old wives' fables...fictions, fantasies, gibberish, irrational nonsense  
and exercise thyself...train, invest time and effort, put in some sweat equity  
unto godliness...spiritual exercise in dying to Self daily and being Christ-like

For bodily exercise profits little...physical exercise is good, helpful, “healthy”...

but not enduring because time wins, gravity wins

but godliness...spiritual exercise in Christ-likeness...is good, helpful, absolutely healthy  
having promise of the life...the life of Christ (John 1:4, John 14:6, John 11:25-26)  
that now is...in the present, in these bodies indwelt by the Spirit of Christ  
and that which is to come...in the future and for eternity, in glorified bodies

“You can take this to the bank!!!”

v10 We exercise spiritually, having the promise of The Life  
We deny Self and die daily

It is worth all the labor (even to the point of exhaustion) and reproach (taunted, reviled) because we trust God Who Ch 2:4 and so gave the promise of the Life to whosoever believes His testimony

Is 51:7-8 Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart *is* my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings. For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation.

Ps 40:4 Blessed *is* that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

Matt 10:28 *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

2 Thes 1:5 that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer

v11 These things command/declare and teach...  
says the Holy Spirit to the Apostle and the pastor...  
and I'm paying close attention!

1 John 5:10-12 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Steadfastly declare to the lost and to the saved the witness/testimony of God of His Son  
Do not wander from this glorious truth whereby grace thru faith we are saved from death!

v12 Let no man despise your youth...Oh, I don't!  
I'm only 33 years old (weathered as I may be!)

but be an example of the believers...a model to the believers who are watching you  
and to the unbelievers who are also watching you

1. in word...what I say, how I say it, what I don't say, my tongue controlled by the Holy Spirit
2. in conversation...behavior
3. in charity...*agape*-governed life (Matt 22:36-40)
4. in spirit...Spirit-filled, Spirit-led, the Spirit of Truth and Life guiding me
5. in faith...being a doer of the Word and not a hearer only
6. in purity...washed daily by the water of the Word

v13 Till I come...sure sounds like a "What I am to do" until John 14:1-3 and 1 Thes 4:13-18  
From here to the end of the chapter

1. give attendance to...pay very close attention to
  - reading
    - feeding my spirit daily with the Bread of Life to energize my walk
    - read and study the Word of God (2 Tim 2:15)
  - exhortation
    - sharing what the Holy Spirit gave me with someone else
    - 1 Cor 14:3
  - doctrine
    - teaching...sound doctrine, good doctrine, God's doctrine
    - "health" vs "junk" food

Some or perhaps many church-goers want a message that is

- shallow and superficial...not "too much" Bible
- smooth...easy to "swallow", easy on the ears
- light...not heavy, not convicting, not requiring close self-examination
- emotional...feel good about yourself

They have lots of choices, I think, for where to get that

But that is NOT my calling

The Lord has counted me faithful, putting me in the ministry (Ch 1:12)

I will be the servant of Christ and not a men-pleaser (Gal 1:10)

1 Thes 2:4-8

- v14 2. Neglect not the gift (and calling, Rom 11:29)  
given by prophesy...Ch 1:18  
with the laying on of hands of the presbytery...elders

You've been gifted to serve the Lord and His people  
Be a good steward (faithful) of that gift!

- v15 3. Meditate on these things  
To think deeply on, NOT empty your mind (Contemplative Prayer, a heresy)  
Ps 1:1-3 Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,  
nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the  
scornful. But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law  
doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted  
by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his  
leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

4. Give yourself wholly to them  
Think deeply then act; action is needed to be a good minister of Jesus Christ  
That your gain/growth from spiritual exercise may be seen by those around you  
(you are being watched!)

- v16a 5. Take heed, be mindful of, pay very close attention to
- yourself...your personal walk and relationship with Jesus
  - the doctrine...the Word of God, for yourself and for others
    - uncompromised
    - undiluted
    - unedited
    - un-perverted
    - the entire counsel of God

6. Continue/remain/abide in all these "Till I come" things  
John 15:4-5 *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself,  
except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.  
I am the vine, ye **are** the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in  
him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do  
nothing.*

1 John 2:24 Let that therefore **abide** in you, which ye have heard from the  
beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall  
**remain** in you, ye also shall **continue** in the Son, and in the Father.



v16b For in doing...James 1:22...you shall save/preserve/protect

- yourself
- them that hear you  
saying...the very words of God

I am a “lead” sheep pointing other sheep to the Good Shepherd  
Save/preserve/protect is not about me, it is about Jesus Christ  
All who hear me and I are saved/protected/preserved by the Word of God,  
by the God of The Word  
We are safe in Jesus Christ

Phil 3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed *is* not grievous, but for you *it is* safe.

1 Thes 3:8, 12-13

1 Thes 5:23-24

Observation: The Holy Spirit thru the Apostle Paul is reminding Pastor Timothy of things He told the church at Thessalonica, to whom Timothy had been sent (1 Thes 3:1-2) to establish and comfort them in these things

It is interesting...and instructive...that the Holy Spirit must remind the pastors of the things He has given them to teach in the church...for their personal walks

This truth is seen clearly by studying the Word chronologically

### **Application/Exhortation**

To be a good minister of Jesus Christ, to protect myself and those who hear me,  
I am to be diligently faithful to

- v6
- v7
- v11
- v12
- v13-16

shun the messages and the means of the world and embrace the message of the Gospel of Christ and the means whereby God draws men to Jesus Christ

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are stewards of the mysteries of God  
We alone in the world have Good News, the promise of the Life, hope, peace, and victory  
Let us be engaging the lost and dead-in-sin in our spheres of influence,

Every person has a story...and likes to talk about it  
Ask questions, listen...and look for the open door Jesus will open for you as His witness  
to

- speak the Truth in love
- share freely what we have received freely

while

- praying God will soften their hearts
- praying they will call upon the Lord to save them from sin and death  
and give them what He has given us

Let us not allow the Internet to rob us of personal contact, the human touch used by God  
to draw the lost unto Himself

Let us all be good ministers of Jesus Christ