

Title: How to Depart in Devotion to Demons

Passage: 1 Timothy 4:1-5

Draft Summary:

Passage:

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by the hypocrisy of liars, who have been seared in their own conscience, who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God created to be shared in with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Key Truths

- Some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful demonic doctrines (v.1)
- Demonic doctrines are taught by human liars who slight marriage and stress diet. (v.2)
- The highway down to demonic doctrine is ingratitude in my heart toward God who made everything good. (v.3-5)

Application:

- Savor the Gospel: In Christ Jesus, we have a perfect relationship with God.
- Ingratitude/Ungratefulness is demonic
- Be grateful to God
- The secret of godliness is not "I" but He (Jesus)!

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What you are reading/listening/watching lately - is it enlightening or dulling your conscience to things of God?
- What makes you grouchy or unthankful to God?
- What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?

Introduction

What drives people?

- insatiable hunger

In Christ, He is the greatest treasure that fully satisfies our hearts.

EXPOSITION

Context of Passage

1 Timothy 3:14-16

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, 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. 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.

- Mystery of godliness = how one is god-like/godly
 - Answer: He
 - Christ alone is the mystery and source of godliness/righteousness.
- If tired and weary, come to Him and rest in Him.

Overview

1. Some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful demonic doctrines (v.1)
2. Demonic doctrines are taught by human liars who slight marriage and stress diet. (v.2)
3. The highway down to demonic doctrine is ingratitude in my heart toward God who made everything good. (v.3-5)

Passage:

1 Timothy 4:1-5

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by the hypocrisy of liars, who have been seared in their own conscience, who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God created to be shared in with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

I. Some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful demonic doctrines (v.1)

1 Timothy 4:1

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times

- Messianic times = time after Jesus has come and the Gospel of Jesus has become known.
- Present time

Some will fall away from the faith

- same word = apostasy

1 John 2:19

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,

- anyone who abandons faith in Christ is showing their devotion to a lie
- One believes the lie and thereby rejects the truth, which is only in Jesus.
- All falsehoods/heresy are demonic in nature, in source, and in influence.
 - "I can't believe in a God like that [in the Bible]"
 - "I can't really believe that God is in control."
- Neutrality does not exist = either it is of God or demonic

Jonah 2:8

Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love.

II. Demonic doctrines are taught by human liars who slight marriage and stress diet. (v.2)

1 Timothy 4:2-3a

by the hypocrisy of liars, who have been seared in their own conscience, who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods

by the hypocrisy of liars

- false teachers are grounded in clear lies.
- They teach false doctrines that underline God's design both in structure and in way of life.

who have been seared in their own conscience,

- seared = branded like a criminal
 - Satan has branded people as secret agents that belong to him.
- their moral compass has been distorted as to right/wrong, truth/lie, and proper/improper.
- Question: What are you consuming?
 - Is what you are reading/listening/watching enlightening or dulling your conscience to things of God?

who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods

- False doctrines/influences:
 - Gnostics: dualism of spiritual and physical (physical all bad)
 - Essenes (more strict than Pharisees, avoided marriage and eating animals,)
- Compare: Today's culture that twists what is good.
 - Marriage: question who may marry and what gender means.
 - Diet: pressuring people to change their patterns alleging anything apart from certain preferences is improper.

Acts 10:11-15 (Peter's vision)

and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common."

- God has made all food clean.

III. The highway down to demonic doctrine is ingratitude in my heart toward God who made everything good. (v.3-5)

1 Timothy 4:3b-5

...which God created to be shared in with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, God created all things, which show His ingenuity and wonder.

1 Corinthians 10:31

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

- In light of all that God has done and has given, we may give God glory!

for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

- Sanctified = affirmed by
- the word of God = the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Prayer = we agree with God.

Application Points:

Savor the Gospel: In Christ Jesus, we have a perfect relationship with God.

- this is the key truth. Your standing before God is secure regardless of your circumstances (single or married, etc)

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ingratitude/Ungratefulness is demonic

- anything in life that tempts us to be anxious or worry are demonic in nature.
 - What makes you grouchy?
 - What makes you unthankful?

Romans 1:21

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

- We must repent and be wise to turn to thankfulness to God.
- We have more things to be thankful to God than needs to ask of Him.

Thank God

- Thank God for everything, including trials or situations
 - Ex: Corrie Ten Boom (fleas that kept the prison guards away)

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

The secret of godliness is not "I" but He (Jesus)!

- remember the start and end of our salvation is Jesus.

Jude 1:24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you before the presence of His glory without blame and with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.