

August 20, 2017

“Don’t Follow What’s False”

Focal Passage: 1 Timothy 4:1-5 (NASB)

Cross References: John 16:13; Romans 1:18-32; 14:6; 1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 10:30-33; Ephesians 4:17-19; Colossians 2:16-23; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-17; Hebrews 13:4; 2 Peter 3:3; Jude 18

Read Acts 10:9-16 and 1 Corinthians 10 and Colossians 2 as good background passages for this study.

Lesson Idea: We need to guard ourselves from being led astray by deceitful spirits and false doctrines.

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

Aug 13 Jeremiah 4-6	Aug 14 Jeremiah 7-9
Aug 15 Jeremiah 10-13	Aug 16 Jeremiah 14-17
Aug 17 Jeremiah 18-22	Aug 18 Jeremiah 23-25
Aug 19 Jeremiah 26-29	Aug 20 Jeremiah 30-31

Background:

From David Guzik, *1 Thessalonians 4:*

False doctrine in the end times.

A warning from the Holy Spirit.

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.

Now the Spirit expressly says: Paul especially marked this as a revelation from the Holy Spirit; either as a spontaneous word given as he wrote or quoting from a previous prophecy. Paul knew certain dangers would mark the latter times.

- The danger of apostasy (*some will depart*).
- The danger of deception (*deceiving spirits*).
- The danger of false teaching (*doctrines of demons*).

It has been more than 1900 years since Paul wrote to Timothy about *the latter times*, but he did not misunderstand his time or our own. History is not, and has not, been rushing towards a distant brink that would end this current order; even in apostolic times, history had reached that brink – and has run parallel to it since. As it turns out, the latter times describe a broad era, not a couple of years.

Some will depart from the faith: Because of the danger of the latter times, if Timothy were to remain a faithful minister to God’s people, he must keep a dead

reckoning on the truth – the faith. If this were lost, not much else really mattered.

1 Timothy 4:1-5

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, 2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, 3 men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in 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 gratitude; 5 for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.

DISCUSSION:

- v 1. Who is “the Spirit,” and why should we trust what He says? (see John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10-16) What did Paul consider the “later times,” and how should we view them? (see 2 Thessalonians 2:3-17; 2 Peter 3:3; Jude 18)
- What does it mean to “fall away from the faith?” How are “deceitful spirits” and “doctrines of demons” related? How does that affect your view of world religions today?

NOTE: from Guzik:

The faith: This describes the essential teachings of the Christian faith. When **some . . . depart from the faith**, they are abandoning the essential teachings of Christianity.

The Bible uses the phrase “the faith” in this way many places: Acts 6:7 and 14:22, Colossians 1:23, 1 Timothy 1:19, and Jude 1:3.

Deceiving spirits: This refers to demonic spirits (angelic beings who have rebelled against God), who seek to deceive men and women and to entice them away from the truth. Some lies are so powerful that they have an evident spiritual dynamic behind them. These are lies crafted and marketed by deceiving spirits.

Doctrines of demons: This speaks of the specific teachings of these deceiving spirits. Demons are theology majors, and have systems of doctrine.

We find the first demonic doctrine in Genesis 3. There Satan, speaking through a serpent, taught Eve: *You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God* (Genesis 3:4-5). Since then, every demonic doctrine has found its way back to this root: the idea that we can be gods, and operate independently from God.

- v 2. How does Satan establish false teachings in the world? How does Paul know that these liars have “seared” consciences? What does that mean? (see Romans 1:18-32; Ephesians 4:17-19)

NOTE: from Guzik:

Speaking lies in hypocrisy: This describes those who depart from the faith. This certainly means those who willingly embrace falsehood to justify their sin or pride; but it also refers to those who claim to be teaching the Bible, while just using it as a prop for their own ideas.

Having their own conscience seared: Their conscience, which at one time would have convicted them of their departure from the truth, now doesn't reply at all.

- v 3. What were some of the marks of the false teachings during Paul's day? How do those teachings have an appeal to “spiritual people?” Why are “spiritually motivated” false teachings the most dangerous types of deception? (see Colossians 2:16-23)
- How should we view things such as marriage and food? Why? (see Hebrews 13:4; Romans 14:6; 1 Corinthians 10:30-33)

NOTE: from Guzik:

Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods: This describes the legalistic teaching of those who have departed from the faith. They taught that it was by following this list of man-made rules that one was justified in God's sight – that you would be more holy to God if you didn't marry, and if you did not eat certain foods.

There have always been those in the church who regard themselves as more spiritual than God Himself, and have a stricter set of rules for living than God does...

For every creature of God is good: Regarding what we eat, we can eat all things. We receive things rightly when we receive them with thanksgiving, with an abiding sense of gratitude towards God. We receive the blessings of food, shelter, and comfort as gifts, and not as rights.

Nothing is to be refused: We are not limited by any kind of diet; what we eat does not make us more righteous before God (though what we eat may affect our health)... This issue was settled once for all when God spoke to Peter in Acts 10:9-16.

- v 4. What kind of freedom does this verse teach for believers? What kind of responsibility does it teach? How does it show that all of life should be viewed as worship? (see 1 Corinthians 10:31)
- v 5. What does it mean for something to be “sanctified?” How are things sanctified by “the word of God and prayer?”

APPLICATION:

- ✓ What evidence do you see of people “falling away from the faith” today?
- ✓ What deceitful doctrines are leading people away from the Lord?
- ✓ How can you worship in all the things you do this week?

Lesson by Bro Stan