

“THE DOCTRINES OF DEMONS”

I Timothy 4:1-4

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INTRODUCTION

The Holy Spirit has inspired OT Scriptures, enlightened and empowered the teaching and preaching of the apostles like Paul who gave us the NT Scriptures, and He is very concerned to defend Scripture against those who would defile and distort its teachings.

In light of that, we should not be surprised that he is insistent upon promoting and defending the truth (cf. 3:9, 15-16) and upon warning the church about false teachers and teachings (e.g. 1:3-4, 20). What does Paul refer to here when he says the “Spirit explicitly” warns about the **apostasy from the faith** of some and the attention given to “deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons”? OT teachings in general, teachings of Jesus about the coming of false prophets and false christs, or Paul’s own statements such as the one he made in Ephesus in Acts 20:29-30 or even his words in II Thes. 2 about the coming of the “son of lawlessness”?

The teachings here referenced in Paul’s day and a concern to Timothy must have been indeed terrible to be given such a description in v. 1!

- Did someone deny the deity of Christ?
- Did someone reject the inspiration and authority of Scripture?
- Did someone deny the resurrection or future judgment?

Maybe we are somewhat surprised that Paul speaks of those who:

- Forbid marriage
- Command people to abstain from eating certain foods

This is not what we might have expected! Evidently Paul had begun taking a harder stand against some of the “weaker brethren” mentioned in I Cor. 8-10 & Rom. 14 who pushed to abstain from certain meats sacrificed to idols but had now gone to further extremes and were beginning to cause more serious problems.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PROTECTOR OF SOUND DOCTRINE!

What would the Spirit say of some of the things happening today even within mainstream evangelical churches and colleges?

We must be aware of attacks such as these, and many others on significant doctrines of our faith—many taking place **within the “church”** and **within numerous Christian colleges**.

Let us look at some of the characteristics of the false teachers Paul notes here in I Tim. 4:1-5

CHARACTERISTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS

- 1) They lead people astray into _____ (v. 1).
- 2) They are deceivers following “deceitful _____.”
- 3) They promote doctrines taught by _____.
- 4) They do not seek to build up the church rather build their own groups and programs.
- 5) We must remember that many of them are in churches and behind _____.

- 6) They are _____ (v. 2).
- 7) They are liars – speaking “ _____.”
- 8) They have a cauterized _____. Their error is moral as well as doctrinal; “*believing and behaving* always go together” (Wiersbe, 53).
- 9) They deny God’s Word (3-5).
 - a. Forbidding _____ – God endorses it. As do Jesus and Paul.
 - b. Prohibiting certain _____ – God has created it and endorses it as good. God’s people share it and receive it with thanksgiving—people who are *believers, people who *know **the truth**. To reject it is to usurp God’s authority! It is hallowed by
 - 1) The word of God and by
 - 2) Prayer
- 10) They minimize the importance of the _____ of God and _____. A true minister emphasizes the importance of the word of God and prayer (Acts 6:1-7).

CONCLUSION

Notice in the very next verse Paul reverts back to the importance of “sound doctrine” (4:6).

Don’t be discouraged by the “apostasy” taking place all around us.

Let us focus on “the Word of God and prayer” mentioned in v. 5.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PROTECTOR OF SOUND DOCTRINE!

And so should we be!

But, we must not attempt to do this in the flesh—as the pastor in Tempe in the past couple weeks who seeks to be sensational and to attract attention with hateful speech in the name of Scripture but surely not in the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ!

WE MUST STAND AGAINST ERROR AND PROMOTE TRUTH!