

## **1 Timothy 4**

Vs 1 I never noticed how Paul here is quoting the Spirit not Scripture. "Here is something I have clearly heard the Spirit say:" We have been in the last days since Pentecost. Acts 2:16,17 Paul is continuing the topic he began the first chapter with - false teachers. The natural man thinks these guys came up with a cunning and clever story - no way - demons taught it and help in recruiting comes from deceiving spirits. This is where the real war goes on in the unseen realms. Many New Agers were nominal Christians and some were pastors of "Christian churches". - abandon the faith - The context is those who believe.

Vs 2 What a description of false teachers! Hypocritical liars - obviously they do not believe or practice their own teaching, and lying is a way of life to them. Are the teachers and the ones who abandon the faith speaking of the same people? I think we are talking about a leader and disciples. The teachers are the hypocritical liars and it is they who have cauterized their consciences. They have made themselves beyond feeling as they lure away sheep after themselves.

Vs 3 Here are examples of their teaching. The celibate principle had already infiltrated the church. They kept the Jewish dietary laws after the revelation to Peter, as if eating the right foods has anything to do with the condition of your heart. Those who know the truth eat whatever is set before them thanking God for his provision.

Vs 4,5 Did God create evil? No - evil is an absence of, or rebellion against God's order. Since everything God does is good, whatever we are given to eat we should know is good and be thankful for that goodness. These teachers are again bringing back the law instead of being led by the Spirit. It is if they were never set free but still in a relationship of does and don'ts. As we pray over our food it is consecrated as we apply the word to it in prayer. It's to be consumed that our physical being may go on serving God. Even fast food?!

Vs 6 Sometimes we need to point out errors in ideology, especially when it points back to the goodness of God. We have been poured into not only to set us free but that we may be of service to those who need direction and godly instruction. Paul is still thinking of the Judiazers and their deception bringing people into bondage of dietary laws.

Vs 7 Watch that your doctrine does not include tradition. Doctrine is from the Word not experience. Personal experience can help you understand the word but it should never stand alone in teaching truth. Train yourself= gunmazo Strong's Greek Number 1128 2) to exercise vigorously, in any way, either the body or the mind. present active imperative. We must constantly be vigorously exercising our mind to godliness. Now see this comes after the myths and tales. Carefully examine what is shared to see if it lines up with the word or is a doctrine of man. I just listened to a pastor preach, don't say no to sin, say yes to Jesus. Sounds good, but the Bible tells us to resist sin, to exercise our mind, to rid ourselves, to quit like men, to put away from us. A godly life is by the power of the Spirit and active obedience and participation of the will. He had some truth in that you can't do it alone but went to the other extreme of just have God do it. We are co-laborers, yoked together, not sitting on the plow. The life of Christ is the power within us to act, but we must will to cooperate and act. You can't do it unless you yield to the life of Christ. Christ wont do it in you without your cooperation.

Vs 8 The good condition of the physical body is helpful as it houses the spirit, but more so is the training of the mind/soul as it is valuable both now and in eternity in every aspect of being. This is what we are talking about in the Sunday messages. Of course it is just another of those strange coincidences that both go together.

Vs 9,10 Commentaries say this 'all' means giving life to all but then the distinct salvation of those that believe is separate. Life to all and full life available to all but only accepted by those who believe. It seems a bit simplified. I'm not sure I understand 'Savior of all men'. The point that is clear is that our hope is in the living God. This is why we train ourselves yield to the life of Christ in cooperation with the Spirit. Is the trustworthy saying verses 7,8 or what follows? It seems what follows is just descriptive of who made and fulfills the promise. So the trustworthy saying is that godly training is valuable in this life and the next.

Vs 11 Teachers: Paul is saying this is a topic we should not skip. What things? Not to be entangled by rules and myth or stories. Too many preach stories. Preach the Word! Preach becoming godly, exercising your mind and soul to cooperate with the Lord by the power of the Spirit.

Vs 12 Whatever age we are, we as elders and undershepherds of God's flock need to set an example for the believers in speech - our words and how they are said should be Christ like. In life - our life style should be above reproach and example for others to follow. In love - we should show a sincere love for the brothers. In faith- believing in an unshakable way so that others are encouraged to do the same. In purity - our motives and actions and words all consecrated to the holy way that honors the Holy One.

Vs 13 Paul was telling young Timothy to really give himself to publicly reading Scripture, preaching and teaching it. I get the feeling Timothy was shy and needed this encouragement to really get out of himself.

Vs 14 Some powerful time of prayer when Timothy got the gift is called to remembrance and stirred by it. Some one must have been inspired to name the gift God was anointing him with at that moment.

Vs 15 Like the training, there needs to be a diligent pursuit with all our being. If it is a constant learning and training, our progress will be evident. These matters: correcting false teaching that relies on rules or fables, godly exercise, be an example, read preach and teach the Scriptures.

Vs 16 What you believe and preach should line up with how you live. We must be careful to keep our eye on any discrepancy so that we will not end up the hypocritical liars the chapter started out with. Persevere - a thought that keeps coming up in the NT - Life in the Spirit is up hill and we can't stop and rest or we slide backward. The end is not so far away, just keep persevering and soon you will have completed the course. A life that doesn't quit is a life that yields to the life of Jesus within them. Here again salvation is related to perseverance. Is this salvation from the present evil world or eternal life? If you don't watch your life and doctrine and persevere in them, what does that imply for yourself and your hearers?