

House Rules
Functioning as the Church
Week 09: Those Who Abandon the Faith

Scripture

I Timothy 4:1-5

Motivation (Why They Need to Know It)

Information (What They Need to Know)

I Timothy 3:16 (ESV) 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.

Manifested - to make visible (Phil.2:6-7) - though he was God he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. But he emptied

himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Vindicated - to justify or declare righteous - (Hebrew 4:15) he was tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Man's court falsely accused and had him killed. God's court declared him perfectly sinless the perfect payment for all of humanity. His righteousness was seen in his life but more so in the resurrection. He paid our penalty, walked out of that grave, in so many days he went to heaven (in front of a crowd)

Seen by angels - At his birth they announced him. They followed closely the master (God in flesh). They were there and opened the grave and stood with the disciples when he went to heaven (Acts 1:10-11)

Proclaimed among the nations - Go he said into all the world and make disciples in all the nations (Matt 28:19-20). Act 1:8 we are called to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, even to the remotest part of the earth. This is happening today.

Believed on in the world - This is happening right now. God is working on those in your life. Wanting them to come and know real life, real Joy, Real Peace. Around the world.

Taken up to Glory - For so long there were those who were there and saw that amazing experience. He did not leave us alone...Matt. 28 he says he is with us always.

Paul lived in awe of Christ's work. He never got over it. It fueled him. It drove him. In the darkest jails, after being beaten and stoned, shipwrecked, threatened he went deeper into Christ's Love.

This is Paul's lead-in to talk about Apostasy. He wants Timothy, the church and us to know the clear difference between someone who loves Jesus lavishly and those who look at it and toss it aside.

Apostasy is when an individual willfully and purposely departs from a former position (in our case today) - Faith in Jesus Christ

The Reality

I Timothy 4:1-2 (ESV) Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,

Matthew 24:4-12 - Jesus talking to the disciple and they want to know when the end stuff was going to happen. Jesus gave them a sober warning, "See that no one leads you astray... Many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will rise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.

We get further warnings in 2 Thess 2, Hebrews 3, 2 Peter 2, and Jude.

Paul is talking to a young pastor who has had leadership issues and struggles in his church. And to top it off there are those who are actively trying to lead others astray.

What are these Later Times? From the time of Jesus ascension to his return.

The reality is that just like a Christ should be listening to and be led by the Holy Spirit there are those who are listening to and following the enemy (demons).

Ephesians 5:18 tells us to not be drunk with wine but be filled with the Holy Spirit and as the Amplified Bible says “And be constantly guided by him.”

Our enemy, Satan, loves lies. It is his language and we see this all the way back at the beginning of Genesis. He knew what to say in order to deceive Eve and lead Adam to Sin.

Our enemy knows us. He knows our vulnerabilities. When we are not feeling well, tired and exhausted. When we feel alone and even abandoned. When we have been betrayed. When we face loss. When we are broken. When we are filled with pride or greed. When we look out for only ourselves. When we are disconnected from Christ. When we are not feasting on his word.

When we are not listening to God and following closely to him the enemy has a word for us.

There are so called preachers out there who are leading thousands away embracing secular spirituality, progressive faith, liberalism, aligning with our culture on critical race theory, abortion, LGBTQIA+

People do not know God's Word so they follow the insincerity of liars who consciences are seared.

Our conscience, God gives us to tell us that which is right or wrong good or bad In 1:19 Paul warns Timothy to hold to the faith and a good conscience. Some have Shipwrecked their faith. Here Paul is talking about it directly.

It says that their consciences are SEARED - or to Cauterize leading them to be unable to distinguish between right and wrong. God or the Enemy.

The Lie

I Timothy 4:3 (ESV) who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

At that time there were a lot of lies leaking into the church. Acts 15 is the Jerusalem Council where a lie had already started affecting the church. A group of Judiazers were trying to tell the Gentiles that they must circumcised according to the custom of Moses in order to be saved. Paul, Peter and James the brother of Jesus helped through that decision.

Paul in Galatians 5:12 bluntly tells the believers in Galatia that those who want to mutilate them with their circumcision rules should go mutilate themselves.

Even after Jesus arose the Pharisees and religious leaders were trying to get people to believe that Jesus hiding followers had somehow stole the body.

Here they attack two things that God gave us. Whoever they were they forbid marriage and the eating of certain foods. And as Paul points out these were things that those who followed Christ should receive with thanksgiving. Of course Satan continues to attack marriage. God gave us the beautiful picture of his great love through it.

Don't give up, Look for greener pastures, live according to the worlds standards. They are wrong.

The Truth

I Timothy 4:4-5 (ESV) For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, **5** for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

God gave us these things of beauty. Marriage and food

Satan divides couples And gluttonizes food. God gives love and moderation. Satan introduces anger, bitterness, selfishness, lust, gluttony over indulgence.