WHITE FIELDS
CALVARY CHURCH

Nov 1 2026
Title: Spiritual Growth
Topic: discipleship, devotion, hope

1Tim4:1-11 - The image I had from day 1, pruning. He's pruning each of us, to bear much more fruit! Gen "live by faith", God's Blueprint For A Strong Church - the church isn't called to be as big as possible - to make disciples!

1) "says" Jesus (15x): "He who has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says" He speaks, I have ears - is my heart open to hear what God says?
"latter times" "depart" = to apostate, withdraw from the faith; God's not an alarmist, fear tactics - fear is cheap humor, fun - 1Tim1:19 - don't you have fallen friends?!
Acts20:29 "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock." v30 "from among yourselves"
Early in church history, Satan figured out, the most effective attack is not physical, political, atheism - it's from within!
"giving heed" = opening their mind to the wrong voices, not the Holy Spirit
"seducing spirits" = lying demonic spirits, dyk it's real?! Satan empowers lies. If fact demons teach "doctrine"! Gen3 twists truth, "you won't die…wise" godly? Think of all the darkness that resulted! Listen to good sources!
Dyk what Jesus emphasized most re: end times? Deception! Why? Tragedy, kid, in church, knows Truth - quit listening to God, drift, compromise, shame, lost
Mt24:11 "Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many"

2) "lies in hypocrisy" = decide to hide their sin behind a mask of religiosity.
Mt7:15-16 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits" *results? Huge following; 1Tim3 - look for character, love, honesty…building a house?*
"conscience seared" = cauterized; desensitized to sin; the more we say no, God's voice, conviction, it becomes harder to hear! I don't hear…fault?

3-5) "forbidding" careful making rules the Bible doesn't make; sound so godly?!
"marry" Cath priests; "abstain from meats" terrible combo! Hangry…new level!
Forget? God: it's not good that man should be alone, designed woman for him! In the name of God…they got rid of what God designed for them!

- False teachings included Jewish legalism (return to ceremonial law, Heb calls obsolete!) & rise of Gnositcism = spiritual good, physical evil; strict self-denial of all physical pleasure & comfort - asceticism leaked into the church, sexual

passion in marriage is evil - lie! What could go wrong? Hungry & lonely…
- Early c struggle - outlawed intimacy for certain days…1/2 the yr! One early ascetic claimed such complete neglect of his body even bugs dropped dead!

4-5) "good" (cats?) "nothing…refused" "thanksgiving" you may need a diet to be healthy…can't make you holy! Don't want meat? More for me!
2Cor11:3 "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."
Jesus plus nothing = everything! Never trade the good standing w/ God thru Christ's blood, for self-dependence, more laws - they prey on the guilty? If you...?
"sanctified" how? It is rendered holy. How? Sanctify this unclean bacon? "Word" & "prayer"? Bc God say it is! Receive it w/ thanksgiving.
Gen9:3 "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you"
Mk7:18-19 "Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?" *washing hands? Food doesn't make you more spiritual!*
Acts10:15 "What God has cleansed you must not call common" *(re: food!)*

6) *Bc of the risk of shipwreck...*"good minister" uses the Word to confront the false ideas! Chuch in KY - If you want more of the Spirit…slain in the Spirit? Bible?
"nourished" Eat good food - An unhealthy pastor usually makes for unhealthy sheep. You give whatever you have - flu…contagious. Jesus will be too!
My devotional life - ought to...need to...want to!
Jer15:16 "Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart" crazy how distracted…30min, where was I…
Dyk what happens if we fed babies candy? Severe malnutrition, 1-4wks failure to thrive, stunted growth, immune system collapse; in mos organ failure…
A nourished baby grows so fast…Jachin, 2mos old, what did I miss?!
If you've slipped? Not punishing, if you withdraw He feels distant; but draw near!

7) "fables" = myths, legends; speculation & stories women like…God said it! Reject! (1Tim1:4; 2Tim4:4) Danger: replacing Gods Word with other things…
YouTube, conspiracies, rumors/reels are shaping your worldview
- We have so much info…need God's Word to filter & process info.

"exercise" = *gymnaze,* get in the gym! Be a gym rat, spiritually
1Cor9:24 "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it." *Run to win…(compete!)*
- "godliness"! 15x in NT; 9x in 1Tim! Less of me, more of Jesus!

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8-9) “faithful saying” true…“bodily exercise profits a little” Greece was enamored w/ athletics & human physique! See their statues…image, not clothing! Selfies! Good…possible to look like a greek statue physically, but spiritually need a gym!
*For physique - up early, gym, diet, body products, shakes - what could happen if we had that diligence in our spiritual lives - strongholds fall? Transformation?*
“life now…to come” now and later! Life now is better: free, whole, better…dad, worker, friend; all success, fame, beauty, sin offer nothing later (gum)!

Now & later taffy…pulls filings; name? Stuck in teeth for later?
All in for Jesus is the best way to live & by far the best way to die.

10-11) we “labor and suffer” athletic lang = grow weary, agonize; an athlete who gives his last drop of energy, leaves it all on the field; Paul does that for Jesus!
1Cor9:27 “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”
ie. football team, working out in the hot summer - devotion, diligence, death - W!

- H Taylor, riding the train, put a blanket over him, light a candle
- Ruth Graham - father ran hospital in china, staff left for mos, ran it by himself, got up at 4:30am to be w/ Jesus, Ruth did too, BG said this is what drew him to

“trust” set your hope in the living God - like Moses (red sea), David (giant), Daniel (lions), Paul did too…the same power that raised Christ works for you!
the way you look, dress, working out for an hr…hr longer (life support? hope?)

“Savior of all” 1 Savior for all! Good news…all! Paul: seared conscience, himself? Destroying Ctians - anger, pride. Jesus knocked him off his high horse, to save him! He died for all but His gift must be received!
Have you made plans for the life to come? Are you living now for the life to come?

2Tim4:7-8 “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.  Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

Big Idea: watch out, Warning, godliness, Get Into The Gym, a church strong enough for the last days
Apostasy (1-3)
Instruction (4-6)
Exercise (7-10)