



## **“LEADERSHIP IN THE LAST DAYS!”**

### **1 Timothy Chapter 4**

**I) IN REGARD TO FALSE DOCTRINE! (v1-5)**

**II) IN REGARD TO GOOD DOCTRINE! (v6-11)**

**III) IN REGARD TO LIVING DOCTRINE! (v12-16)**

**I) IN REGARD TO FALSE DOCTRINE! (v1-5)**

Adolf Hitler said: “If you tell a lie loud enough and long enough the people will believe.” Hitler also said: “Let me control the textbooks, and I will control the state.”

- Paul warned the Ephesian elders with this prophetic word of exhortation, Acts 20:29-31 - For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

(v1) The use of the word "some," here (Gk.- *tines*) - does not imply that the number would be small. The meaning is, that "certain persons" would thus depart, or that "there would be" an apostasy of the kind here mentioned, in the last days. From the parallel passage in 2 Thess 2:3, it would seem that this was to be an extensive apostasy. “*depart from the faith*”- “apostasy”- a willful turning away from the truth of the Christian Faith. The Greek word for “depart” is the source of the English word “apostatize,” and refers to someone moving away from an original position. These are professing or nominal Christians who associate with those who truly believe the gospel, but defect after believing lies and deception, thus revealing their true nature as unconverted.

Warren Wiersbe writes, “An apostate is not just wrong doctrinally; he is wrong morally. His personal life became wrong before his doctrines were changed. In fact, it is likely that he changed his teachings so that he could continue his sinful living and pacify his conscience. Believing and behaving always go together.” -

- Apostasy in unbelief! - Hebrews 3:12,13 *Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*

- Apostasy regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming! - 2 Peter 3:1-9

- Apostasy in ungodly lusts! - Jude 17-21 - *But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

- “deceiving spirits”- terms used today regarding the work of the Holy Spirit - “drunk in the spirit” “barking or growling in the spirit” – “slaying in the spirit” – “spirit of nicotine, alcohol, lust.” John warns us in 1 John 4:1 - *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

- “doctrine of demons”- Non-Christian religions, Cults, Heresy. Deuteronomy 13:3- *“you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”*

(v2) - “speaking lies in hypocrisy” – Matthew Ch. 23

- “conscience seared with a hot iron”- A medical term referring to cauterization. What is CONSCIENCE? - A person's inner awareness of conforming to the will of God or departing from it, resulting in either a sense of approval or condemnation.

The conscience is not the ultimate standard of moral goodness (1 Cor 4:4). Under both the old covenant and the new covenant the conscience must be formed by the will of God. The law given to Israel was inscribed on the hearts of believers (Heb 8:10; 10:16); so the sensitized conscience is able to discern God's judgment against sin (Rom 2:14-15).

The conscience of the believer has been cleansed by the work of Jesus Christ; it no longer accuses and condemns (Heb 9:14; 10:22). Believers are to work to maintain pure conscience. They also must be careful not to encourage others to act against their consciences. To act contrary to the urging of one's conscience is wrong, for actions that go against the conscience cannot arise out of faith (1 Cor 8; 10:23-33).  
(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

The Bible declares a *good conscience, a pure conscience, a defiled conscience, and an evil conscience*. In this passage *“conscience seared with a hot iron”* means one's conscience is unresponsive, harden, dead, like scar tissue; through repetitive sins and the absolute rejection of God!

(v3) – “forbidding to marry” – Roman Catholic Priests are forbidden to marry, why? We were just told in 1 Timothy chapter 3 that bishops are to be the husband

of one wife, and God said in Genesis 2:18-19, 21-25 - *And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

- "abstaining from foods"- Jesus said, Matthew 15:11 - *Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man."*

Paul said in Colossians 2:20-23- *Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.*

(v4-5) All of God's creation is good and to be received with thanksgiving and prayer; say grace before you eat that steak and lobster.

## **II) IN REGARD TO GOOD DOCTRINE! (v6-11)**

(v6) Jude 1:3- *Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.*

- How to test for GOOD DOCTRINE:

(1) Did Jesus teach it & practice it.

(2) Was it taught & practiced in the Book of Acts.

(3) Are we given instructions through the Epistles, (Romans - Revelation). (i.e.- A current example of false doctrine is Hugh Ross's heresy of "progressive creationism.")

(v7) Listen to H. A. Ironside on "old wives fables."

(v8-11) "*These things command and teach*" – Our greatest exercise is in the Word of God. Listen to Jude once again, Jude 20-23 - *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And*

*on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.*

### **III) IN REGARD TO LIVING DOCTRINE! (v12-16)**

**(v12) Observe six attributes of a solid Christian:**

- (1) *In word;***
- (2) *In conduct;***
- (3) *In love;***
- (4) *In spirit;***
- (5) *In faith;***
- (6) *In purity.***

**(v13) Three practices of a solid Pastor:**

- (1) Read (public reading of the scriptures)**
- (2) Exhortation (encouragement)**
- (3) Doctrine (teaching - “rightly dividing the Word of truth”)**

**- Jesus said in John 8:31-32- *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."***

**(v14) What is your gift?**

**- ADMINISTRATIVE GIFTS are found in Ephesians 4:11-16:**

**- APOSTLES – A special messenger of Jesus Christ; a person to whom Jesus delegated authority for certain tasks. The word apostle is used of those twelve disciples whom Jesus sent out, two by two, during His ministry in Galilee to expand His own ministry of preaching and healing. It was on that occasion, evidently, that they were first called "apostles" (Mark 3:14; 6:30). These same disciples, with the exception of Judas Iscariot, were recommissioned by Jesus after His resurrection to be His witnesses throughout the world (Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:8). After Jesus' ASCENSION, the apostles brought their number to twelve by choosing Matthias (Acts 1:23-26). The authority committed to the apostles by Christ was unique. It could not be transmitted to others. The apostles could install elders or other leaders and teachers in the churches, and they could authorize them to assume special responsibilities; but apostolic authority could not be transferred. Their authority has not come to us through their successors; it has come through their writings, which are contained in the New Testament.**

**- PROPHETS – A New Testament prophet is one who proclaims the Word of God (Acts 11:28; Eph. 3:5). Believers in the New Testament churches did not possess Bibles, nor was the New Testament written and completed. His Spirit would share God's truth with those possessing the gift of prophecy. The purpose of prophecy is “edification, encouragement, and consolation.” (1 Cor. 14:3)**

- **EVANGELISTS** – A person authorized to proclaim the gospel of Christ. Literally, the word means, "one who proclaims good tidings" (Ephesians 4:11; 2 Timothy 4:5). The evangelist was a gift of God to the early church (Ephesians 4:11). These persons were not attached to any specific local church. They traveled over a wide geographical area, preaching to those to whom the Holy Spirit led them. The early disciples were also called evangelists (Acts 8:26-40; 21:28), because they proclaimed the gospel. All ministers should "*do the work of an evangelist*," but this does not mean that all ministers are evangelists (**2 Timothy 4:5**).

- **PASTORS & TEACHERS** – A Pastor is a shepherd, meaning he is the feeder, protector, and guide for God's people. Peter describes New Testament duties of the Pastor/Elder in 1 Peter 5:1-4. The term implied the nourishing of and caring for God's people. Instructions and duties of a Pastor is found in what is called the "*Pastoral Epistles*" known as 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus. Pastors are teachers.

- In Romans 12:4-8 we discover **GIFTS OF SERVICES**:

- **PROPHECY** - This is not predicting the future, but according to 1 Cor. 14:3 it says, *but he who prophesies speaks EDIFICATION and EXHORTATION and COMFORT to men*. Prophecy is confirmed through the Word of God.

- **MINISTRY** (service) – Translates *diakonia* – from which we get deacon or deaconess – those who **SERVE**. Mark 10:45 - *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many*.

- **TEACHING** – Having the ability to give systematic **INSTRUCTION** in God's Word. In the New Testament, the concept of teaching usually means instruction in the faith. Thus, teaching is to be distinguished from preaching or the proclamation of the gospel to the non-Christian world. **Teaching in the Christian faith was validated by Jesus, who was called "TEACHER" more than anything else.**

- **EXHORTATION** - This gift brings forth the ideas of **ADVISING**, pleading, encouraging, warning, strengthening, and comforting.

- **GIVING** – An individual who sacrificially gives of him or herself. This one does not give for thanks or recognition, but for the one he helps and for the **GLORY** of the Lord with liberality and sincerity. These folks have a heart filled with generosity.

- **LEADS** – To **guide** or to **ADMINISTRATE** with diligence or earnestness and zeal. Leadership through administration provides the ministry with organization, communication, delegation, motivation, and inspiration to fruition! It has been

said that a good leader must inspect what he or she expects, simply put, follow the process or project to completion. A good administrator has an eye or gift to recognize peoples' talents, skills, abilities, and gifts, whereas, to put the brothers and sisters, young and old alike in the right places doing the right things for the glory of God!

- MERCY – This gift displays sympathy for someone else. God shows mercy by actively helping those who are miserable due to circumstances beyond their control. We see this aspect of mercy especially in the life of our Lord Jesus. He healed blind men (Matthew 9:27-31; 20:29-34) and people with leprosy (Luke 17:11-19). These acts of healing grew out of his attitude of compassion and mercy. Remember to do it with CHEERFULNESS!

- In 1 Corinthians 12:7-10, there are nine gifts of the Spirit:

1. The Word of Knowledge
2. The Word of Wisdom
3. Faith
4. Gifts of Healings
5. Working of Miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of spirits
8. Tongues
9. Interpretation of Tongues

(v15-16) “Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine” - The priorities of a godly leader are summed up in his personal holiness and public teaching. All of Paul's exhortations in vv. 6–16 fit into one or the other of those two categories.

“you will save both yourself and those who hear you” - Perseverance in believing the truth always accompanies genuine conversion (see note on Mt 24:13; cf. Jn 8:31; Ro 2:7; Phil 2:12, 13; Col 1:23). By careful attention to his own godly life and faithful preaching of the Word, Timothy would continue to be the human instrument God used to bring the gospel and to save some who heard him.

- Warren Wiersbe writes- “As good ministers, we preach the Word; as godly ministers, we practice the Word; as growing ministers, we progress in the Word.”