



*“The Church That Guards the Gospel”*  
**“STANDING STRONG IN SEDUCING TIMES”**  
1 Timothy 4:1–5

## INTRODUCTION

*Believers must stand firmly on God’s truth in an age of spiritual deception.*

**I. THE PREDICTION OF APOSTASY** - 1 Timothy 4:1- “*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.*”

**A. The Certainty of the Warning** - “*The Spirit expressly says...*”  
The word “*expressly*” means plainly, distinctly, unmistakably.

**B. The Character of the Apostasy** - “*Some will depart from the faith...*”  
“*The faith*” means the body of Christian doctrine revealed in Scripture.

Truth Rejected  Faith Departed

**C. The Cause of the Apostasy** - “*devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons.*”

*A church weak in doctrine becomes easy prey for deception.*

**II. THE PROMOTION OF ERROR** - 1 Timothy 4:2–3 - “*through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created...*”

**A. Their Deceptive Speech** - “*through the insincerity of liars...*”

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**B. Their Damaged Conscience** - *“whose consciences are seared...”*

**C. Their Distorted Religion** - *“who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods...”*

Legalism says: *“Jesus is not enough—you must also keep our rules.”*  
The gospel says: *“Christ is sufficient.”*

**III. THE PROTECTION OF TRUTH** - 1 Timothy 4:3–5 - *“which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.”*

**A. Receive God’s Gifts Thankfully** - *“to be received with thanksgiving.”*

**B. Recognize God’s Goodness** - *“For everything created by God is good...”*

**C. Rest in God’s Word** - *“for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.”*

### **Practical Applications**

- 1. Be Discerning** - Test everything by Scripture. Acts 17:11
- 2. Be Grounded** - Spend time in God’s Word consistently.
- 3. Be Thankful** - Thank God daily for His grace and provision.
- 4. Be Watchful** - Stay close to Christ.

We are surrounded by:

- distorted truth,
- deceptive voices,
- and seductive doctrines.

*Yet believers are not called to fear. We are called to stand firm.*

The antidote to deception is truth.

The safeguard against apostasy is Scripture.

The anchor for the soul is Jesus Christ.

In a drifting world, God calls His church to remain faithful.

May we be a church and a people who:

- know the truth
  - love the truth
  - live the truth
  - and defend the truth
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