

July 15, 1998

Seducing Spirits, Doctrines of Devils 1 Timothy 4

Timothy had been left to set up some churches to see that the right men were placed in authority, and the wrong ones kept out of authority. As always, the false teachers abounded, as they did everywhere after Paul left a community. Paul has instructed Timothy on what kind of men to use, and the only offices to use in the church, with clear instructions not to use women in these offices.

Vv. 1-6, Paul tells Timothy, This is the Spirit of God speaking to you. Timothy is to keep the church constantly reminded of these things from vv. 1-6. The Spirit is not speaking with signs nor symbols, but with plain talk that everyone can easily understand. Paul presents his warnings about false teachers: ***the Spirit speaketh expressly***. This is a strong statement. The man who desires to be a good minister of the gospel needs to remind his people often of these things:

1) ***latter times*** the last dispensation from Christ's first coming to his second (last) coming. (See Ac. 2:17 & Heb. 1:1, *God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high...*)

2) ***Some shall depart*** apostatize. (RWP, Online Bible.) Some shall leave what they know to be truth of God's word.

Some will apostatize from the Christian faith because they ***give heed to***: a) *seducing spirits*, and b) *doctrines of devils*.

Give heed give attention, then give effort and devotion to. (*Heed, to apply one's self to, attach one's self to, hold or cleave to a person or thing; addicted to; to devote thought and effort to; give attendance. See Thayer, p. 546. Though speaking of accountability, the Lord warned about what we listen to, Mk. 4:24. Paul's warning is against listening to teachings that undermine God's word.*)

Matthew Henry comments on Paul's warning to Timothy,

We have here a prophecy of the apostasy of the latter times, which he had spoken of as a thing expected and taken for granted among Christians, 2 Thes. 2.

I. In the close of the foregoing chapter, we had the mystery of godliness summed up; and therefore very fitly, in the beginning of this chapter, we have the mystery of iniquity summed up: The Spirit speaks expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith; whether he means the Spirit in the Old Testament, or the Spirit in the prophets of the New Testament, or both. The prophecies concerning antichrist, as well as the prophecies concerning Christ, came from the Spirit. The Spirit in both spoke expressly of a general apostasy from the faith of Christ and the pure worship of God. This should come in the latter times, during the Christian dispensation, for these are called the latter days; in the following ages of the church, for the mystery of iniquity now began to work. Some shall depart from the faith, or there shall be an apostasy from the faith. Some, not all; for in the worst of times God will have a remnant, according to the election of grace. They shall depart from the faith, the faith delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3), which was delivered at once, the sound doctrine of the gospel. Giving heed to seducing spirits, men who pretended to the Spirit, but were not really guided by the Spirit, 1Jo 4:1. Beloved, believe not every spirit, every one who pretends to the Spirit. (*Matthew Henry, Online Bible*)

False, ungodly and foolish doctrines that undermine God's word should not take us by surprise: they are to be expected.

Now here observe,

1. One of the great instances of the apostasy, namely, giving heed to doctrines of demons, or concerning demons; that is, those doctrines which teach the worship of saints and angels, as a middle sort of deities,

between the immortal God and mortal men, such as the heathen called demons, and worshipped under that notion. Now this plainly agrees to the church of Rome, and it was one of the first steps towards that great apostasy, the enshrining of the relics of martyrs, paying divine honours to them, erecting altars, burning incense, consecrating images and temples, and making prayers and praises to the honour of saints departed. This demon worship is paganism revived, the image of the first beast.

2. The instruments of promoting and propagating this apostasy and delusion.

(1.) It will be done by hypocrisy of those that speak lies, the agents and emissaries of Satan, who promote these delusions by lies and forgeries and pretended miracles, 1Ti 4:2. It is done by their hypocrisy, professing honour to Christ, and yet at the same time fighting against all his anointed offices, and corrupting or profaning all his ordinances. This respects also the hypocrisy of those who have their consciences seared with a red-hot iron, who are perfectly lost to the very first principles of virtue and moral honesty. If men had not their consciences seared as with a hot iron, they could never maintain a power to dispense with oaths for the good of the catholic cause, could never maintain that no faith is to be kept with heretics, could never divest themselves of all remains of humanity and compassion, and clothe themselves with the most barbarous cruelty, under pretence of promoting the interest of the church... (*Ibid.*)

The apostasy and delusion by Satan is accomplished under false profession of honoring Christ. The warning had to be from the Spirit is God, for only he could foresee the tempers, humours, and lusts of men that would cause them to apostatize. Moreover, The difference between the predictions of the Spirit and the oracles of the heathen is remarkable; the Spirit speaks expressly, but the oracles of the heathen were always doubtful and uncertain. In other words, the Spirit through God's word speaks clearly, while Satan must use doubtful and uncertain implications and opinions that appeal to the lusts of men. Men must be hardened, and their consciences seared, before they can depart from the faith, and draw in others to side with them as they follow the *doctrines of devils*. Not everyone will be carried away with the winds of Satan's false doctrines, but some will be.

Seductions and Doctrines

The *seductions* and *teachings* Paul warns Timothy of were the teachings of the judaizers they taught that though one might be saved through faith in Christ, converts has to continue in the Mosaic Temple rights and ceremonies. (Col. 2:14.) From the time of Adam, Salvation never required keeping the Ten Commandments, for it has always been through the faith of Abraham.

Though the threat to the church from the judaizers ceased when the Temple was destroyed, the efforts of the *seducing spirits* and *devils* did not. There have been many *seducing spirits* rise to prominence over the years. One of the more popular modern *teachings of devils* is found operating in the name of Christian Identity that is, its Seed Line doctrine. This doctrine is no doubt one of the more vile, *wicked spirits of seduction and teaching of devils* to surface since Christ. It says that Eve was literally *sexually* seduced by Satan, and the resulting child was Cain. It supposes a line of Cain to the time of Christ, saying that Cain's physical descendants put Christ to death. It continues to trace Cain's supposed line to today's persecution of Christians. (It identifies this line with the Jews. Seed Line doctrine is promoted by such popular racial Identity speakers as James Wickstrom, Paul Burnham and Nord Davis. Not all who follow the Identity faith believe its Seed Line doctrine, and some followers will distance themselves from it. We must question, however, the motives of Identity speakers who deny Seed Line doctrine do they deny it simply because they know the average listener will reject everything Identity teaches because of this vile teaching?)

A key verse used to support this vile *teachings of devils* is found in Genesis 15:

18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: 19 The Kenites, (#7017) and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, 20 And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, 21 And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Gergashites, and the Jebusites.

This *doctrine of devils*, Seed Line Doctrine, makes an assumption that the ***Kenites*** after the flood were the descendants of Cain. Based upon this assumption, the *seducing spirits* must say that, contrary to God's word, Noah's flood was not universal, or that the antediluvian Cainites somehow got on the Ark without being mentioned in Scripture maybe they were among the *animals* mentioned on the Ark.

Confusion of Words

In order to make Identity's absurd, anti-Christian *doctrines* sound Biblical, the *seducing spirits* take advantage of confusion they can create by misusing words. **Kenites** is no exception. Normally Identity's *spirits* use selected Strong's definitions for words (out of context), but here they totally avoid Strong's definition. Strong tells us that, contrary to Identity's absurdity, the Genesis 15:19 **Kenites** were members of the tribe of Kain. (#7017, 2 Chron. 2:55. The next Strong's number, 7018, is antediluvian, but that word is Cainan, Kenan.) Admittedly, the word for the postdiluvian **Kenites** (#7017) is derived from the word for the antediluvian Cain (#7014). Also, #7014 (Cain) is used for **Kenite** in Numbers 24:22, and is found for *Cain* in Joshua 15:57, where it is defined as "A town of the Kenites, a branch of the Midianites. (*Online Bible dictionary.*) Moreover, an antediluvian Cain is listed as Moses' father in law in Judges 4:11, *Now Heber the Kenite* (#7014), *which was of the children of Hobab the father in law of Moses, had severed himself from the Kenites* (#7017), *and pitched his tent unto the plain of Zaanaïm, which is by Kedesh.* Thus if one follows Identity's fantastic assumptions, Moses was married to a descendant of Cain.

Examining the word **Kenites** a little, we find that it in no way supports the *seducing spirits* Seed Line doctrine:

First, it means,

Smiths, the name of a tribe inhabiting the desert lying between southern Palestine and the mountains of Sinai. Jethro was of this tribe Jud 1:16 He is called a "Midianite" Nu 10:29 and hence it is concluded that the Midianites and the Kenites were the same tribe. They were wandering smiths, "the gipsies and travelling tinkers of the old Oriental world. They formed an important guild in an age when the art of metallurgy was confined to a few" (Sayce's Races, etc.). They showed kindness to Israel in their journey through the wilderness. They accompanied them in their march as far as Jericho #Jud 1:16 and then returned to their old haunts among the Amalekites, in the desert to the south of Judah. They sustained afterwards friendly relations with the Israelites when settled in Canaan Jud 4:11,17-21 1Sa 27:10 30:29 The Rechabites belonged to this tribe 1Ch 2:55 and in the days of Jeremiah Jer 35:7-10 are referred to as following their nomad habits. Saul bade them depart from the Amalekites 1Sa 15:6 when, in obedience to the divine commission, he was about to "smite Amalek." And his reason is, "for ye showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt." Thus "God is not unrighteous to forget the kindnesses shown to his people; but they shall be remembered another day, at the farthest in the great day, and recompensed in the resurrection of the just" (M. Henry's Commentary). They are mentioned for the last time in Scripture in 1Sa 27:10 comp. 1Sa 30:20 (*Online Bible dictionary.*)

Second,

The origin of the *Kenites* cannot be determined. According to Judg. i. 16, iv. 11, Hobab, the brother-in-law of Moses, was a Kenite. His being called a Midianite (Num. x. 29) does not prove that he was descended from Midian (Gen. xxv. 2), but is to be accounted for from the fact that he dwelt in the land of Midian, or among the Midianites (Ex. ii. 15). This branch of the Kenites went with the Israelites to Canaan, into the wilderness of Judah (Judg. i. 16), and dwelt even in Saul's time among the Amalekites on the southern border of Judah (1 Sam. xv. 6), and in the same towns with members of the tribe of Judah (1 Sam. xxx. 29). There is nothing either in this passage, or in Num. xxiv. 21, 22, to compel us to distinguish these Midianitish Kenites from those of Canaan. The *Philistines* also were not Canaanites, and yet their territory was assigned to the Israelites. And just as the Philistines had forced their way into the land, so the Kenites may have taken possession of certain tracts of the country. All that can be inferred from the two passages is, that there were Kenites outside Midian, who were to be exterminated by the Israelites. (*Keil*, I.218.)

Third,

This tribe did not descend from Adam's son Cain (whose descendants were destroyed by the flood), but were perhaps so named because of their occupation... Much has been fabricated regarding the so-called Kenite origins of the Mosaic religion and documents (cf. R. K. Harrison, IOT; R. G. North, *The Cain Music*, *JBL* 83:373-89). The Kenites figure prominently in the recorded history of Israel especially through Rachab and his descendants. He was so well-known for his zeal for God that Jehu accepted him as an ally and identified with him as an example of Godly zeal (cf. *qn* ,

II Kgs 10:15-24). Rechab's son Jehonadab established a nomadic and religious order which so perpetuated the godly zeal of Rachab even until Jeremiah's day that the prophet could use them as a living illustration of what God required (Jer 35). Of course, the concern was with their zeal for God and not their zeal for nomadism. (TWOT, 2017.)

Identity's *spirits* claim that the Genesis 15:19 **Kenites** (#7017) were descendants of Cain. Using **Kenites** as they do, we find that the **Kenite** woman who killed *Sisera*, receiving the blessings of God (Jud. 5:24, #7017); and that Saul spared the **Kenites** because they *shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt* (1 Sa. 15:6, #7017). Using Genesis 15:19, *seducing spirits* undermine the word of God with a claim that a seed of Satan and Eve, Cain, came through the food. If the **Kenites** of Genesis 15:19 were indeed descendants of Cain, that means that Moses married one, God blessed one and they sowed kindness to Israel. Fallen man's vivid imagination can indeed be vile and corrupt.

In order to make the antediluvian line of Cain come through the flood in the **Kenites**, the fact of the universal flood is denied. And the Spirit clearly tells us the source of any anti-universal flood theory:

*3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. 5 For this **they** willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (2 Peter 3.)*

Note that **they** refers back to the *scoffers* of v. 3.

Scoffers:

- a) *last days* could have been time period either the end, *last days*, of the Jewish nation (70 AD) or the time between Christ's first and second advent.
- b) they mock at sin and the gospel.
- c) they deny the world-wide flood, *whereby the world that then was* perished completely.
- d) they are *sensual, not having the Spirit of God* (Jude 19).
- e) they *walk after their own lusts* (2 Pet. 3:3, Jude 19).

walking after their own lusts; either after the carnal reasonings of their minds, admitting of nothing but what they can comprehend by reason, making that the rule, test, and standard of all their principles, and so cast away the law of the Lord, and despise the word of the Holy One of Israel; or rather, after their sinful and fleshly lusts, making them their guides and governors, and giving up themselves entirely to them, to obey and fulfil them; the phrase denotes a continued series of sinning, a progress in it, a desire after it, and pleasure in it, and an obstinate persisting in it; scoffers at religion and revelation are generally libertines; and such as sit in the seat of the scornful, are in the counsel of the ungodly, and way of sinners, Ps 1:1. (Gill, Online Bible.)

Those who *walk after their own lusts* are monstrous men, who will seem wise by their contempt of God, and their wicked boldness. (Geneva) They are men who follow after the fallen, carnal reasonings of their own minds, unconvinced by the word of God because it does not correspond to their reason. This certainly describes the teachers of the demonic Seed Line doctrine. The followers of that system certainly do not have the Spirit of God, Jude 19.

A cross reference for 2 Peter 3:3 is,

1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; 2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. (2 Cor. 4:1, 2.)

- (b) Subtlety and every type of deceit which men hunt after, as it were dens and lurking holes, to cover their

shameless dealings with. (c) This is that which he called in the former chapter, making merchandise of the word of God. (*Geneva*)

not walking in craftiness; they used no sly and artful methods to please men, to gain applause from them, or make merchandise of them; they did not lie in wait to deceive, watching an opportunity to work upon credulous and incautious minds; they did not, by good words and fair speeches, deceive the hearts of the simple; nor put on different forms, or make different appearances, in order to suit themselves to the different tempers and tastes of men, as did the false apostles:

not handling the word of God deceitfully. They did not corrupt it with human doctrines, or mix and blend it with philosophy, and vain deceit; they did not wrest the Scriptures to serve any carnal or worldly purpose; nor did they accommodate them to the lusts and passions of men; or conceal any part of truth, or keep back any thing which might be profitable to the churches: (*Gill*)

They adulterated the word of God to bait followers.

handling...deceitfully --so "corrupt" or adulterate "the word of God" (2Co 2:17; compare 1Th 2:3,4). (*JFB*, Online Bible.)

In craftiness that is, clever, cunning, deceitful (see Lk. 20:23). *Deceit* that is, to catch with bait, to ensnare, to corrupt with error. Used only here in the New Testament. Used of adulterating gold or wine. (*RWP*, Online Bible.)

Seducing spirits cleverly mix the word of God with human doctrines, philosophy and deceit to serve their worldly purpose. By accommodating fallen lusts and passions, they ensnare the hearts of the credulous those disposed to believe on little Biblical evidence, showing a lack of Scriptural judgment or experience. At the very least, the Seed Line *doctrine* denies the word of the Lord, 2 Peter 3:6. However, we must say that according to God's word, the vile Seed Line *doctrine* is just one of the many *doctrines of devils* that appeal to those who are hardened to the truth of God's word.

Paul's answer to the problem:

1 Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; 2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. (2 Cor. 4:1, 2.)

Those who actually want to know the truth and want to be conformed to it must **renounce the hidden things of dishonesty** that is, take a firm stand against any false teaching spirits (e.g., the Christian Identity spirit) through the finished work of Christ.

Observations

First, it is a sad fact that the Christian Identity spirit is as strong in these last days as is the Mormon spirit. Those committed to those faiths will willingly talk of their faiths, but only with the intent of converting those they speak with. Though faithful adherents to Mormonism and Christian Identity profess a desire to know the truth, they are so confident in their truth that they believe if they can only gain a hearing, the hearers will be converted to their false systems. Far too many times they are right, for many are continually seeking after non-Biblical religions.

Second, the goal of the faithful adherents is to win the hearts of the simple, and they are doing it both the Mormons and the Christian Identity religions are growing, attracting the unconverted and those who do not know God's word. (I have been quite surprised at the growth of Identity in our small area of the world.)

Third, listening to both Mormon and Christian Identity converts and reading Identity material, I have found that the primary basis for those faiths is non-Biblical writings Mormonism relies heavily on the Book of Mormon, and Identity relies heavily on supposed secular history, outlandish speculations and other Identity writers.

Notice what Paul told Timothy to do in order to recognize and counter the *seducing spirits* and *doctrines of devils*.

If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. (Vv. 6, 7.)

Timothy was not to study and instruct people in tradition and secular history. Rather, he was to study the word of God, and instruct them in it. (Cf. 2 Tim. 2:14-16, Ps. 56:5, 2 Pet. 3:16.) Notice Paul's warning:

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. (2 Tim. 4:3, 4.)

Sound doctrine; such as is revealed in the word of God, and adapted to promote the spiritual good of men. *Teachers*; who will not condemn their favorite sins. *Itching ears*; wishing for new teachers and new doctrines, and multiplying those who will amuse and flatter them. *Turn away*--from the truth; because it condemns them. *Fables*; mystical speculations and frivolous stories. (Family NT Bible Notes, Online Bible.)

Mystical speculations and frivolous stories! If any statement, other than it is demonic, ever described Identity's Seed Line doctrine, this sure does.

Example: I asked a young man who was becoming heavily involved in the Identity religion about the word of God. He replied that as he read Identity material, he checked Scripture references. He found the Scriptures to say what Identity authors were claiming. I then ask him how many times he had read the Scriptures completely through. His answer was that he had not. I tried to convince him that it was impossible to judge if the Identity authors were properly using the passages without reading the entire book. He agreed, though he did not change.

How many spend the vast portion of their time reading and studying books and seeking out and hearing speakers about the Bible rather than spending their time in the word of God? Admittedly, the *seducing spirits* and *doctrines of devils* appeal to the fallen nature, but they are clearly anti-Christian. We must also keep in mind that reading Scripture seeking support for particular *profane and old wives' fables*, will find plenty of supposed support.

Paul warned Timothy that vile teachings would appear in the church. And he clearly told Timothy that part of the pastor's duty is to seriously study Scripture and keep his people constantly reminded of the dangers of the *seducing spirits* and *doctrines of devils*.

Notice what the false teachers teach as a result of listening to the seducing spirits and demons.

4:2, the spirits and demons convinced them to speak lies, even though these teachers knew better. Now as we look at this list of lies, we can see which church this is that has taken on this teaching Paul warns Timothy about—the Church of Rome.

We see here they have spoken these lies to people so much that they no longer are worried about it. We use this verse quite often to speak of a seared conscience, but in its context, it is talking of the false teachers and their teaching which would abound during this time between the first and second Coming of Christ.

These teachers would know the truth, but speak lies anyway. We know the Roman Church does this. There is no way a Priest can go through their training and not know the truth about their lies. After they speak them long enough, they themselves begin to believe them because their conscience is seared.

This principle is evident today. People who even know the truth, if they live long enough will start believing a lie.

V. 3, Paul now lists the lies these false teachers have learned from the spirits and demons of v. 1:

1) *Forbidding to marry*. It is more holy to remain single than to marry. There is no verse nowhere to bear this out, except where Paul says he spoke by permission, not by commandment. (1 Cor. 7:7.) He wished all men were as he, able to devote full time to spreading the Gospel. But remember, he spoke by permission. What if all were like him? We would not be here. This is not God's will except for a very few people.

As we saw, this was one of the major problems the false teachers in Corinth were causing—false teachings on marriage, saying it was more holy to remain single. Notice the Old Testament priesthood had nothing in it concerning having to remain single to be someone special. This teaching today is from the seducing spirits and from demons. (Seducing spirits = sounds good, looks good, and well reasoned.)

2) *Abstain from meats*. Here again we have the Roman doctrine—more holy to keep from eating certain meats (3-5). Paul says one will not make you more holy than the other, or keeping from one will not make you more holy than keeping from another. Again, a teaching of seducing spirits and demons. (However, Rome seems to have gotten away from fish on Friday.)

V. 5, *it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer*.

Sanctified:

- 1) to render or acknowledge, or to be venerable or hallow
 - 2) to separate from profane things and dedicate to God
 - 2a) consecrate things to God
 - 2b) dedicate people to God
 - 3) to purify
 - 3a) to cleanse externally
 - 3b) to purify by expiation: free from the guilt of sin
 - 3c) to purify internally by renewing of the soul
- (Online Bible)

The *word of God sanctifies*, or determines what meat is pleasing to the Lord and what is not. The list is found in Numbers 11.

And of course, *prayer*. Our food is to be prayed over.

by the word of God and prayer --that is, "by means of intercessory prayer" (so the Greek) --that is, consecratory prayer in behalf of "the creature" or food--that prayer mainly consisting of "the word of God." The Apostolic Constitutions [7.49], give this ancient grace, almost wholly consisting of Scripture, "**Blessed art thou, O Lord, who feedest me from my youth, who givest food to all flesh: Fill our hearts with joy and gladness, that we, having all sufficiency, may abound unto every good work in Christ Jesus our Lord, through whom glory, honour, and might, be to thee for ever. Amen.**" In the case of inspired men, "the word of God" would refer to their inspired prayers (#1Ki 17:1); but as Paul speaks in general, including uninspired men's thanksgiving for meals, the "word of God" more probably refers to the Scripture words used in thanksgiving prayers. (JFB)

Vv. 6-16

V. 6, reminding the church of these things made Timothy a good minister.

Why? Because in this age, this wicked doctrine out of the pit of hell would be prevalent, and multitudes of people would be swept into it. I also believe that if a one world church is to come, it will come out of the Roman system that teaches these doctrines of demons. Paul says warn the brethren of this false doctrine, so they will not get caught up in the false church.

Bring the people along into good, sound doctrine that you are in, so they will not get carried away.

Vv. 7-11.

We now enter into Paul's personal instructions to Timothy. Paul again deals with false teachers rather than with

the Church. Timothy is to watch for these things and avoid them.

V. 7, *Profain, old wives fables.*

Not necessarily stories that were anti-God, but just stories that have no foundation in fact: It is true; it is needful.

Should not spend time even considering them.

V. 8, *Bodily exercise.*

Paul is writing in a Greek culture where the body was all important. The false teaching then probably went the extreme the other way from keeping the desires (sin) under control to the spirit which would be good, to the monastery type of Christianity fasting 7 days a week, bed of nails, &c. Here again it is easy to lose the balance and go the extreme either way. The profit is in godliness the heart right with God, the outside body. The outside does not make one right with God.

(12) Godliness consists in spiritual exercise, and not in outward strictness of life, which though it is something to be esteemed, if it is used correctly, yet it is in no way comparable with godliness. For it profits not in and of itself, but through the benefit of another; but godliness has the promise both of the present life, and of that which is to come. (Geneva)

8. *profiteth little*--greek, "profiteth to (but) a small extent." Paul does not deny that fasting and abstinence from conjugal intercourse for a time, with a view to reaching the inward man through the outward, do profit somewhat, #Ac 13:3 1Co 7:5,7 9:26,27 (though in its degenerate form, asceticism, dwelling solely on what is outward, #1Ti 4:3, is not only not profitable but injurious). Timothy seems to have had a leaning to such outward self-discipline (compare #1Ti 5:23). Paul, therefore, while not disapproving of this in its due proportion and place, shows the vast superiority of godliness or piety, as being profitable not merely "to a small extent," but unto all things; for, having its seat within, it extends thence to the whole outward life of a man. Not unto one portion only of his being, but to every portion of it, bodily and spiritual, temporal and eternal [ALFORD]. "He who has piety (which is 'profitable unto all things') wants nothing needed to his well-being, even though he be without those helps which, 'to a small extent,' bodily exercise furnishes" [CALVIN]. "Piety," which is the end for which thou art to "exercise thyself" (#1Ti 4:7), is the essential thing: the means are secondary. (JFB, Online Bible.)

A healthy body, or the extreme a monk type attitude, does not promise us anything in the life to come. The promise comes from godliness in the heart promises of long life, food, clothing, good name, &c. Not only in this life, but in the life to come. Wickedness can promise the good life here in now, but not then.

So Timothy, says Paul, as you set up these churches, remember not to pay any mind to the groundless tales and watch for false teachings concerning the physical body.

Vv. 9, 10.

Saviour of all men; as preserving all men, and having opened for them a way of salvation, and commanded that it be made known to them, and that they should be entreated to embrace it. #2Co 5:20. *Especially of those that believe*; for to them alone does the perfect and everlasting salvation which he has provided for and offered to all men become actual. (Family Bible Notes, Online Bible.)

Obviously, Christ is not the Saviour of all men in the sense of eternal salvation, for not all men are saved. He is the provider for all men through his providence, but he only eternally saves those who believe. And he is the one who gives the faith to believe.

Paul suffered all things so he could take the gospel to those who would believe. He realized that not all would believe, but he preached to all. (Cf., 1 Cor. chaps 1 & 2.)

V. 11, Paul tells Timothy to spread the gospel and teach the things he has covered.

V. 12. How old was Timothy? No one knows. But here Paul tells him not to let anyone look down on him because of his age. However, in the same breath, Paul tells Timothy to be an example. His life must be at a point where people will look up to his example. If they cannot look up to it, then they will despise his youth.

1) *word, speech* how do you talk to people. A humble attitude? What kind of impression do you leave with people when you talk and carry on a conversation?

2) *conversation* how do you act under all conditions and circumstances?

3) *charity* do you love the brethren, and does it show?

4) *spirit* what kind of disposition do you display?

5) *faith* all times, especially in times of trials, do you display an unshakeable confidence in God?

6) *purity* above reproach at all times with the opposite sex. He is not encouraging a life of being single. The doctrine of celibacy has done more to corrupt the true teaching on marriage than about anything else. (He. 13:14.) Rome developed celibacy to keep the priesthood from gaining too much power and passing that power on to its children. However, I know Protestant pastors who do that very thing, *e.g.*, Dixon.

If a young preacher will set the example in these things, then no one has a right to despise his youth. These things are usually a result of maturity, both in age and in faith.

V. 13, Timothy s, and every pastor since, job is to read and study. Preach, exhort and teach. The preacher must study. Over the years, I have been quite surprised at how little preachers read and study the word of God.

V. 14, not only should Timothy study to show himself approved, but he should work to show himself approved, worthy of the confidence placed in him when he was set aside for the ministry.

The presbytery remember there were many small churches in an area meeting in homes. Paul, leaving Troas, called all the elders together from the church (many small groups) at Ephesus where they kneeled and prayed before Paul left. (Ac. 20.) Here Paul reminds Timothy to prove or use the gift, office, he has been set aside for when the presbytery got together and ordained, set him aside, him to the ministry. These were probably the elders, bishops, pastors of these many small churches in the area.

V. 15, think back on your calling, how it came about and how you were set aside, the way God worked in your life to bring you to this point, and then give everything you have to accomplish what God has for you. Let everyone see you working toward your goal and growing. Otherwise, they will despise your youth.

V. 16. There are two parts here given to the ministry:

1) not enough just to have sound doctrine, but must

2) have a sound, growing life, setting the example of what a pastor should be.

This is a 2 fold job if we expect to succeed in God s calling, and reach others with God s calling for their lives.

Keep in mind, Timothy is at Ephesus where Paul in Acts 20 warned of wolves who would come in with their false teachings. Paul is telling or equipping Timothy here with how to recognize them, and deal with them, along with setting up the church. So not only is sound doctrine essential to exposing them, but so is a sound life.