

1 Timothy 4 Summarized

Sentences

4:1-3, now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

4:4-5, for every creature of God *is* good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

4:6, if you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.

4:7-9, but reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

4:10, for to this *end* we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is *the* Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

4:11, these things command and teach.

4:12, let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

4:13, till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

4:14, do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

4:15, meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.

4:16, take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Paragraphs

4:1-5, [Individuals twisting God's Word—turning it into lies—and teaching other clearly wrong and false things, things that cause serious problems in every area of church life] is what God's Spirit said would happen in latter times, i.e., some will depart from the faith and instead follow Satan's deceiving spirits and demonic teachings. They will speak hypocritical lies because their conscience is seared. They'll forbid marriage and various foods, which are obviously right and godly to those who believe and know the truth, i.e., the godly know that such things are blessings from God because He made them. Thus, they're good and not to be refused but received with thanksgiving since they're sanctified by God's Word and prayer.

4:6-11, if Timothy shows the brethren how to carefully follow the words of faith and good doctrine which he's carefully followed and which have nourished him, he'll be a good minister of Jesus Christ. But he must reject the demonic lies and instead train himself in godliness. Because unlike bodily exercise, godliness is profitable for *all* things: it blesses our life now and the one to come. This is a trustworthy statement and worthy of all acceptance. It's the reason Paul and others labor and suffer; they trust the living God, the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things Timothy must command and teach.

4:12-16, Timothy must not give anyone a reason to despise his youth, instead, he must be an example to them all in his speech, behavior, love, spirit, faith, and purity. Until Paul arrives, he must focus on God's Truth, reading, teaching, and encouraging them with it. He must not neglect the gift God gave him which was recognized by prophetic word and the elders who laid hands on him. He must meditate on these things, give himself entirely to them so that his godliness will be evident to all. He must pay close attention to his conduct and God's teaching. He must continue in them, in doing so, he'll save himself and those who hear him.

Whole Chapter

[Individuals twisting God's Word—turning it into lies—and teaching other clearly wrong and false things, things that cause serious problems in every area of church life] is what God's Spirit said would happen, i.e., some will depart from the faith and follow Satan's false, demonic teachings. Since their conscience is seared, they'll lie about marriage and various foods, forbidding both. But those who know and believe the truth know that these things are not to be refused because God made them as blessings to be received with thanksgiving. If Timothy shows the brethren how to carefully follow these good teachings that he's carefully followed, he'll be a good minister of Christ. He must reject demonic lies and instead train himself in godliness. Unlike bodily exercise, godliness is profitable for all things now and in the afterlife. Thus, this truth is worthy of all acceptance. It's the reason Paul and others labor and suffer; they trust the living God, the Savior of all men, especially of those who trust Him. This is what Timothy must command and teach until Paul arrives, i.e., he must be a pure, godly example in every area of his life; he must read, teach, and encourage with God's Word. He must refuse to neglect the recognized gift God gave him. He must give himself entirely to studying and obeying God's Truth so that his godliness will be evident to all and thus he'll be able to save himself and those who hear him.