

## How The Church Should Work Part 4

Based on Chapter 4 of The Book of First Timothy

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### 1 Timothy Chapter 4 God's Word Translation

#### A Prophecy about the Last Times

**4** The Spirit says clearly that in later times some **believers will desert the Christian faith**. They will follow **spirits that deceive**, and they will **believe the teachings of demons**. <sup>2</sup> These people **will speak lies disguised as truth**. Their **consciences have been scarred as if branded by a red-hot iron**. <sup>3</sup> They will try to stop others from getting married and from eating certain foods. God created food to be received with prayers of thanks by those who believe and know the truth. **4 Everything God created is good. Nothing should be rejected if it is received with prayers of thanks.** <sup>5</sup> **God's word and prayer set it apart as holy.**

- **Some Will Desert The Christian Faith**

There's a saying that goes "some were called, and some were sent and some just packed up and went". The Bible teaches us that we cannot lose our salvation (*Hebrews 6:1-6*). Jesus said no one can pluck us out of his hand (*John 10:28-29*). However, there will be many that will start out with Christ having never truly had a conversion experience. They cannot understand the spiritual things of God and when the going gets tough, they'll get gone. These are the ones that Jesus referred to in the parable of the Sower that had no root (*Matthew 13:20-21*).

#### **1 John 2:19 King James Version**

19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; **for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us**: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

## **Matthew 24:23-25 King James Version**

23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

24 **For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders;** insomuch that, **if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.**

25 Behold, I have told you before.

- **There Will Be Demonic Teaching In The Church**

### **2 Corinthians 11:13-15 King James Version**

13 For such are **false apostles, deceitful workers**, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 And no marvel; for **Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.**

15 Therefore it is no great thing if **his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness;** whose end shall be according to their works.

- **By Those who Have A Scarred consciences**

### **Romans 1:28**

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a reprobate mind**, to do those things which are not convenient.

A reprobate mind means a debased mind. God will give you the desires of your heart whether good or bad. If you resist, God he will not force himself into your life. Jesus said in Revelations 3:20, "I stand at the door knock" but you have to let him in. The more you resist the truth of God the more debased (twisted) or scarred your conscience gets. A scar is a hardened area where there is not much feeling. After you continually resist God, and choose wrong you will lose the ability to even tell what is right in wrong. Many people have lost their sense of right and wrong. The modern scientific term is "pathological" as in "pathological liar". It

refers to a person who can't even know that they are lying. It has become their reality because it's their nature. They can pass a "Lie Detector" test because they've lost the sense that they're actually telling a lie.

## **Guidelines for Serving Christ**

**<sup>6</sup>You are a good servant of Christ Jesus when you point these things out to our brothers and sisters.** Then you will be nourished by the words of the Christian faith and the excellent teachings which you have followed closely. **<sup>7</sup>Don't have anything to do with godless myths that old women like to tell. Rather, train yourself to live a godly life.** **<sup>8</sup>Training the body helps a little, but godly living helps in every way.** Godly living has the promise of life now and in the world to come. **<sup>9</sup>This is a statement that can be trusted and deserves complete acceptance.** **<sup>10</sup>Certainly, we work hard and struggle to live a godly life,** because we place our confidence in the living God. He is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

**<sup>11</sup>Insist on these things and teach them. <sup>12</sup>Don't let anyone look down on you for being young.** Instead, make your speech, behavior, love, faith, and purity an example for other believers. **<sup>13</sup>Until I get there, concentrate on reading Scripture in worship, giving encouraging messages, and teaching people.** **<sup>14</sup>Don't neglect the gift which you received through prophecy when the spiritual leaders placed their hands on you to ordain you** **<sup>15</sup>Practice these things. Devote your life to them so that everyone can see your progress.** **<sup>16</sup>Focus on your life and you're teaching. Continue to do what I've told you. If you do this, you will save yourself and those who hear you.**

- **You Have to train yourself to live a godly life (Verse 7)**

## **1 CORINTHIANS 9:27**

But I keep control of my body, and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

- **We work hard and struggle to live a godly life (Verse 10)**

Do not let anyone fool you with unsound doctrine (Teaching). The Bible says that they that live godly shall suffer persecution (*2 Timothy 3:12*). The Christian walk is a struggle and a sacrifice. This is what Jesus meant in Luke 9:23 when he said that anyone that follows him must deny themselves and take up their cross. It will cost you something to serve the Lord even though he paid the price for your soul. That is why he gave every believer the Holy Spirit which is the paraclete, also known as the comforter Because he knows it is impossible for us to keep ourselves (*Ephesians 4:30*). God therefore sealed us with the Holy Spirit.

- **Don't let anyone look down on you for being young (Verse 12)**

In the modern church we make the mistake of underestimating our youth. They are far more capable than we give them credit and they bring great things to the table for the Kingdom of God, that we older Saints may not understand. The apostle Paul was well aware that Timothy was very young, but he knew he was the right person for the job at the Church in Ephesus. How many times have we dismissed a young person's opinion or advice simply because we're older than them. The apostle Paul had full faith in Timothy and told him not to be discouraged when people dismissed him because of his age. He told Timothy to be an example to those older than him, younger than him and the same age as him.