

**The First Letter Of
St. Paul
To Timothy**

Introduction

- The main function of the bishop is to guard the faith by:
 - Preaching it
 - Confirming the believers in it
 - Defending it
- St. Paul in chapter 4 instructs his disciple St. Timothy how to guard the faith:
 - Prediction of a coming apostasy
 - St. Timothy's duty toward it
 - General directions to him

Apostasy

- **Spirit says:** (Dan 7:25, Dan 8:23, Dan 11:30, Mat 24: 11-24)
- **Latter times:** the new covenant and before the appearance of Antichrist
- Deceiving spirits vs. the Spirit of Truth
- Any teaching against the Truth is from the demons

Apostasy

- **Hypocrisy:** sheep's clothing. It is the tool of false teachers.
- **Seared with hot iron:** implying their extreme insensibility.
- They bear the marks of their hypocrisy in their conscience (the image is taken from the branding of criminals).

Apostasy

- **Forbidding to marry:** to appear as morally perfect and spiritual.
- **Abstain from foods:** false spiritualism vs. fasting and self-control
- Though all are partakers in these foods created by God, only the believers fulfill God's design in creation by partaking of them with thanksgiving.

Apostasy

- Others either abstain from them, or in partaking of them, do not do so with thanksgiving.
- The believers are those who know the truth and abide in it and not those who appear godly to deceive the people (morality vs. spirituality).

Apostasy

- The gifts which are from God ought not to be despised.
- Foods, though pure in themselves, become impure by being received with an unthankful mind (Rom 14:6; Tit 1:15).
- They are sanctified by the Word of God (Gen 1:29).

Apostasy

- When man is about to use it, he is to sanctify or set it apart to that use by prayer, thanksgiving, and the Word of God.
- Set apart as holy to be separated from the rest of creature which is under the bondage of vanity and corruption (Rom 8:19)

Apostasy

- The good minister of Jesus Christ:
 - Is nourished in the words of faith
 - Carefully follows the good doctrine (explanations and applications of the faith)
 - Instructs the brethren with the truth
- Timothy is a good example of this

Apostasy

- The good minister also:
 - Rejects false teaching
 - Exercises himself toward godliness
- **Profane:** because they lead away from godliness
- **Old wives' fables:** myths
- The goal of self-discipline is godliness

Apostasy

- Reaching the inward man through the outward discipline, profits somewhat.
- But godliness is profitable for all things.

Why?

- It has the promise of life in its truest enjoyments and employments now, and life blessed and eternal, hereafter.

Apostasy

- “Faithful is the saying” confirms the assertion as to the “promise” attached to “godliness”
- Lest verse 8 be interpreted as the followers of God should enjoy worldly prosperity and exemption from natural evils.

Apostasy

- He said, it is because we exercise ourselves to godliness that we have both labor and reproach
- We accepted these because we trust in the living God
- In the midst of persecutions and afflictions, we have the peace of God

Apostasy

- **Savior of all men:** He died for everyone.
- Especially for those who believe because only they accepted His gift of Salvation.
- Those that perish, perish through their own fault.

Apostasy

- Let it be the sum and substance of your preaching (with authority), that true religion is profitable for both worlds
- Vice destroys both body and soul
- Christ tasted death for every man
- He saves to the uttermost all them that believe in His name

General Directions To Timothy

- Act so as to be respected in spite of your youth
- **Be an example:** the true way of preventing men from despising your youth
- **Word:** in all that you say in public and private and the word of doctrine
- **Conduct:** behavior (application of the Word of God)

General Directions To Timothy

- **Love:** In love to God and man; show that this is the principle and motive of all your conduct.
- **Spirit:** In the manner and disposition in which you do all things.
- **Faith:** Be faithful
- **Purity:** Chastity of body and mind

General Directions To Timothy

- Give attention to:
 - Reading: public reading of Scripture
 - Exhortation: declaring applications of Scripture (addressed to the feelings and will)
 - Doctrine: teaching explanations of Scripture (addressed to the understanding)

General Directions To Timothy

- Do not neglect the gift — by letting it lie unused.
- Priesthood is a gift of the Spirit.
- **Prophecy** (1 Tim 1:18): The leaders of the church declare by the Holy Spirit the will of God to the called ones to the office of the priesthood.

General Directions To Timothy

- **Laying on of hands:** The consecration and ordination
- **Eldership:** The bishops
- **Meditate:** Revolve them frequently in your mind; consider deeply their nature and importance; and let all your conduct flow from this inward feeling and conviction

General Directions To Timothy

- **Give yourself entirely to them:** Entire self-dedication.
- **Progress:** toward perfection and the image of the ideal bishop.
- **Evident to all:** not for your glory but for the winning of souls.
- Watch your piety and the orthodoxy of the doctrines.

General Directions To Timothy

- The teaching will be of no avail unless one's own life is in accordance with it; and one's own purity of life is not enough unless one is diligent in teaching.
- **Continue in them:** This is your calling
- In performing faithfully his duty to others, the bishop is promoting his own salvation and those who hear him (his flock).

Conclusion

- Why do we pray before eating?
- What are the characteristics of the good minister?
- Why is spirituality preferred over morality?
- Why do the believers suffer? Does this contradict with the promise of the life that now is?
- What should the minister do to be saved?