**Preventing Apostasy**

*1 Timothy 4*

1. Some will depart (v. 1-5).
2. This is without a doubt (v. 1).

* Expressly – *rhētōs* – out spokenly, distinctly, definite, precise.

1. Not a prophecy of a special time (v. 1).

* Latter times – last dispensation. (Patriarchal, Mosaical, Christian)
* Apostasy in Paul’s time – *“You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace” (Galatians 5:4).*

1. Doesn’t happen fast (v. 1).

* Depart – *aphistēmi* – to stand off from, fall away.
  + Luke 8:13-15 (READ – Parable of sower).
    - Good seed = keep word and bear fruit.

1. Two Wrongs (v. 1).

* Giving heed – to pay attention to, and apply oneself to.
  + *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).*
* Deceiving Spirits and doctrines of demons
  + Some leading others away with false doctrine (Deceiving).
    - *“But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:3).*
  + Doctrines of demons refers to the nature of the teaching and not the being (not super human).
    - Departing results from false teaching.
    - “lies in hypocrisy” – teaching not with good intention but for selfish motives. But appear to be honest in intent.
    - Seared conscience – not teaching out of delusion. Just desensitized to the truth. (doing it not for truth but for fame)

(Not all false teachers the same. Here they are dishonest. However, some are honestly mistaken, but this doesn’t make it okay. Still evil. *“But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived” (2 Timothy 3:13).)*

1. False doctrine (context) (v. 2-5)

* Things which those who believe and know the truth should know are wrong. (Don’t be deceived!)
* So we need to take preventative efforts to lessen the chance of apostasy. 🡪

1. Preventative efforts are to be made (v. 6-11).
2. Instruct (bring to remembrance) these things (v. 6).

* Brethren – includes ***ALL*** Christians. We need constant reminders of these things in order to know what to watch for. (negative side to all positive preaching)
  + Preachers have a responsibility of this. If they do this they are good, continually following the faith and good doctrine. If not then they aren’t doing their job.

1. Exercise godliness (v. 7-11).

* Reject – shun, not even consider (v. 7).
  + Useless stories of claimed miracles and such that help in no way toward serving Christ.
  + We have the word. We are only to consider the things within it.
* Godliness – reverence, respect, piety (dutiful respect) toward God.
  + Life that now is – health, business, and intellect.
  + Which is to come – will get you to heaven. (laying up treasures in heaven)
  + This will always be true.
* We suffer in striving for godliness (v. 10). (Romans 12:1)
  + Because we have hope (trust in God).
  + Savior for all men *potentially*, for believers *actually*.
* Don’t only receive these things, but teach them (v. 11)!

1. Everyone has personal responsibilities (v. 12-16).
2. Be an example. (Outward) (v. 12)

* Practice what you preach. Speak with actions.
  + In word – example by teaching.
  + In conduct (conversation) – manner of life, how you carry yourself.
  + In love (charity) – doing right because it is right.
  + In spirit – enthusiasm, attitude.
  + In faith – unwavering in any circumstance.
  + In purity – toward opposite sex, we have a responsibility of keeping pure thoughts, and actions. *“Flee also youthful lusts” (2 Timothy 2:22).*

1. Give attention. (Inward) (v. 13)

* Reading – read scripture! Also other things that will help in the faith (articles, commentaries, sermons, issues that could affect the brotherhood).
* Exhortation – comfort. (the brethren, comfort is a gift from God, comfort in the word)
* Doctrine – teaching. Where edification is found. (feel good sermons are not doctrine)

1. Continue!(v. 15-16)

* Give yourself entirely – leave nothing out, not lukewarm. Don’t pick and choose.
* Progress should be evident – people should see it, you shouldn’t have to shove it down their throats.
* Take heed to what you are doing by example. Take heed to doctrine.