

# 1 Timothy 4 - Set an Example for Believers

## 4v1-5 Paul warns of a falling away from the Truth.

The Bible **expressly** (distinctly) warns of this apostasy (Gk. "falling away" **2 Thess 2v3**) which would arise out of 1st Century ecclesias.

**Key NT Scripture: 2 Thess 2v1-11.** Paul says that this system would deceive many and eventually be controlled by one man, the "Man of Sin" (the Pope). This man would be in existence through history until Christ returns to destroy him. Paul quotes **Dan 11v36** in saying that he would oppose and exalt himself above God, and even call himself God. The "mystery of iniquity" was already working in the 1st century, in the ecclesia itself. It would be characterised by deceit, counterfeit miracles, signs and lying wonders. Those who are deceived by her will not be saved, because they refuse "the love of the truth". There are many parallels between **2 Thess 2 / Rev 13,17**.

**OT: Daniel 7** Roman Catholic Church (RCC) persecuted believers through history: **v21,25**. It took control of Europe: **v23-25**. It spoke blasphemy against God and wore out the Saints, cp. **Rev 13v1-10**. **Daniel 8v23-25** Rome is characterised by fraud, deceit and pride. **Zech 5** The apostate woman characterised by "wickedness".

**NT: Matt 23** The Pharisees and their system of legalistic Judaism was the foundation of RCC. Many allusions to **Zech 5** in **Matt 23**. **Acts 20v31** For 3 years Paul warned the ecclesia "night and day with tears" about grievous wolves who would not spare the flock. **2 Cor 11v2-4** False teachers would arise to lead many from the Truth, preaching "another Jesus" and "another gospel". **1 Cor 15v12; 2 Tim 2v18** They denied the doctrine of resurrection, eventually replacing it with an alternative, ie. immortal soul. **2 Pet 2v1-3** They would 'make merchandise' out of religion. **1 John 2v18-19** Their leaders would be skilled in art of deception. This is a Christian apostasy: "They went out from us" **1 John 4v1-4** Denied Christ's humanity, replaced with Trinity. **Rev 2v18-22** Jezebel in Thyatira symbolic of the apostasy in early stages. **She refuses to repent: Rev 9v20-21; 16v9,11**. **Rev 17v1-6** She is the mother Church. She has daughter churches.

**Lessons for us:** The human mind can easily tend towards legalism. It is easy to appear righteous to others. Human beings like to ignore sin, excuse it, or cover it with religious observance and ritual. The RCC was just **the end result** of this fleshly way of thinking. Christ however teaches us to deal with sin, face up to our faults, repent and turn our lives around: **Lk 14v18-19; 1 Jn 1v8-9**.

**The solution** to apostasy is in **1 Tim 4v6-16**. Paul exhorts Timothy to set an example for believers **in the way he lives**. Also that he is diligent in exhorting believers with **sound Bible teaching**.

**Colour code:** Blue (God & Jesus); Red (sin/devil/judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words & phrases); Purple (return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation). Prepared for Study Week 2010.

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**v1 Now:** Gk. "But". A sharp contrast! The "mystery of Godliness" in **3v16** is contrasted with what Paul calls the "mystery of iniquity" in **1 Thess 2v7**.

**The Spirit** is the Word of God: "Here what the Spirit saith unto the Ecclesias" (7x in **Rev 2-3**).

**Seducing Spirits:** "Deceitful teachers", **1 Jn 4v1**.

**Devils:** False doctrine about the devil and demons is characteristic of RCC and her daughter churches.

**v2 Lies: 2 Thess 2v10. Hypocrisy: Matt 23v13-19:**

The 7 woes. **Conscience seared:** "branded", as on a slave. These are slaves to sin: **Rom 6v16,21**, marked in the forehead: **Rev 14v9;17v5**. They lack feeling: **Eph 4v18,19**. Willingly ignorant: **2 Pet 3v5**. Continual, unrepentant sin deceives and numbs us to reality: **1 Cor 6v9; Gal 6v7; 2 Tim 3v13**. The answer is **REPENTANCE** (see notes on right).

**v3** RCC forbids its Priesthood to marry: **Dan 11v37**.

RCC forbade eating meat on Fridays, cp. **Col 2v16**.

**The truth:** Doctrine / Faith / Word of God – Always emphasised in this chapter. See **2 Tim 3v13-17**.

**v4** cp. **Mk 7v15**. Peter learned this in **Acts 10v9-16**.

**v5** Thanks for food: **Lk 24v30; Acts 27v35**.

## 4v6-16 Be a Good Example to Believers

**v6 These things:** these are the warnings of **v1-5**. It is important for young brethren to study and teach Bible prophecy, particularly that relating to the apostasy. Prophecy inevitably has doctrinal implications. **Daniel** and **Revelation** particularly help us appreciate how true believers are separate from the apostate church system.

**v7** Don't get caught up with worthless, ungodly gossip. **Exercise:** literally means "gymnastics". Our minds are exercised by the meat of God's Word to discern between good and evil: **Heb 5v11**. Our characters are exercised and developed through life's trials: **Heb 12v11**. **Godliness:** Key theme, see **1 Tim 2v2,10; 3v16; 4v7,8; 6v3,5,6,11**.

**v8** Sport is good for the body "for a little time". Even the best sports men and women have limited careers. Training in Godliness however has an eternal benefit, and is also helpful in this life: **Matt 6v33**. An athlete always keeps his eye on the goal, training daily with discipline, eating healthy food and giving up all things that will weigh him down: **Heb 12v1-3**. He has a clear vision of future victory, which spurs him to press on: **Phil 3v13-14**.

**v10 Trust** is a vital aspect of faith. **Isa 12v2; Nah 1v7; Zeph 3v12; 1 Tim 4v10; 6v17; Heb 2v13**. This is a real challenge in times of trial: **Isa 40v31**.

## CHAPTER 4.

<sup>1</sup> He foretelleth a departure from the faith, <sup>6</sup> and giveth divers directions to Timothy.

**N**OW the Spirit speaketh expressly, that <sup>d</sup>in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to <sup>e</sup>seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

<sup>2</sup> Speaking lies in hypocrisy; <sup>e</sup>having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

<sup>3</sup> <sup>b</sup>Forbidding to marry, <sup>c</sup>and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received <sup>d</sup>with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

<sup>4</sup> For <sup>e</sup>every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

<sup>5</sup> For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

<sup>6</sup> 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 <sup>a</sup>attained.

<sup>7</sup> But <sup>i</sup>refuse profane and old wives' <sup>k</sup>fables, and exercise thyself rather unto <sup>l</sup>godliness.

<sup>8</sup> For bodily exercise profiteth <sup>l</sup>little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, <sup>a</sup>having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

<sup>9</sup> <sup>p</sup>This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.

<sup>10</sup> For therefore we toth labour and suffer reproach, because we <sup>r</sup>trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

<sup>11</sup> These things command and teach.

<sup>12</sup> <sup>a</sup>Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in <sup>e</sup>conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

<sup>13</sup> Till I come, give attendance to <sup>d</sup>reading, to <sup>b</sup>exhortation, to <sup>d</sup>doctrine.

<sup>14</sup> <sup>r</sup>Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee <sup>p</sup>by prophecy, <sup>b</sup>with the laying on of the hands of <sup>i</sup>the presbytery.

<sup>15</sup> Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them;

that thy profiting may appear <sup>2</sup>to all.

<sup>16</sup> Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

**v10 Suffer reproach:** Faithful believers will always suffer persecution: **Lk 6v22; Heb 11v26; Acts 14v22; 2 Tim 3v12**.

**Living God: Isa 37v17; Matt 16v16.** God lives in His Saints! Yahweh Elohim = "He who will be Mighty Ones", ie. His purpose! **Num 14v21; Psa 72v17-19; Isa 11v9**.

**v12 Youth** is a time of great opportunity if used in God's service: **Eccl 12v1**. These attributes speak of a way of life consistent with what we believe, the way we speak, our love for others, our purity: **Titus 2v7-8**.

**v13** Paul's constant plea is to teach others the substance and power of God's Word.

**v14** Timothy was given the Holy Spirit to assist in the ecclesia: **2 Tim 1v6**.

**v15 Meditate** means to be diligent. The Truth must be our whole life.

## v16 The Solution to all these challenges.

1. Consider our own lives and examine ourselves: **1 Cor 11v28; 2 Cor 13v5**. Are we leading Godly lives as an example to other believers? **2 Tim 3v10**.

2. Hold fast to the First Principles of the One True Faith, "the Truth": **v3,5,6,13,16**. This is so vital that Paul warns of false teachers again in **2 Tim 4v3-4**.

**The power of God's Word to change us:** **Psalms 119v9-16, 81-82, 97-105; Prov 2v1-10; 3v1-6; Mark 4v2-12; John 6v63; 1 Pet 1v23-25; Heb 4v12**.

**Faith in God's Word** prevents us from being deceived: **Col 1v23; Heb 11v1-6**.

**Repentance:** This is the key to preventing our consciences from being numbed: **v2**. Repentance is for our benefit. It involves facing up to our faults, confessing to God and honestly resolving to try better. Then sin is restrained from making us its slave: **Psa 32v1-6; Ezek 18v21-32; 33v19; Zech 1v2-5; Luke 13v2-5; Acts 2v37-38; 3v19; Heb 10v26; Rev 2v5,16; 3v3,19**.