

Persevere in the Faith

July 22, 2018

Passage: I Timothy 4:1-5

Main Point: Beware of deceiving spirits.

Case Study:

In one form or another, the old ascetic teachings find their ways back into every culture. In Paul's day, marriage and food were the targets of false teachers. These false teachers continue to teach false doctrines under the guise that, somehow by doing what they say, you will become more spiritual and closer to God. What false doctrines are being promoted by the "super-spiritual people" of our day?

The Word:

1. What does Paul mean when he says that certain teachers have had their consciences seared as with a hot iron? (v.2)
2. What is the truth regarding marriage and certain foods? Are these things good for people to enjoy? (v.3-4). (Helpful References: Mark 7:14-23, Matthew 19:4-12, Proverbs 18:22, 31:10).
3. Read Genesis 1:28-31. Why does Paul say to receive what God has provided with thanksgiving? (v.4) (Helpful References: Genesis 9:2-3, Acts 10:9-16, Romans 14:14-21).

The World:

1. Why would false teachers forbid people from getting married or order them to abstain from certain foods? (v.3)
2. Are there people who forbid others from eating certain things and from getting married today? Why? (v.3)
3. Some people try to justify substance abuse by citing that "everything God created is good." How would you refute this argument? (v.4)

The Application:

1. In what areas of your life might you be blinded by self-righteousness?
2. Have you ever been tempted or influenced by "super-spiritual" people? How can you avoid the lure of false holiness?
3. How can you better appreciate the things God has created for our enjoyment?

<u>What Questions do I have for my Family Group?</u>	<u>Key Cross References:</u>
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How to use this guide:

- **Study and discuss the passage**, not necessarily the outline of the sermon
- Don't feel pressure to ask all the questions, use your discernment based on time and needs of the group
- Engage the mind with good doctrine and move to the heart pushing toward application (A Key diagnostic for the leader to discern the health of his group is to listen "heart" conversation.