

**I. Be Aware - 1 Tim. 4:1-5**

1. The Spirit (**verse 1**)
  - since He inspires scripture (2 Tim. 3:16) Paul means the Bible - which to them was the Old Testament
2. Later times
  - their times (New Testament times)
  - or, this can refer to second coming times - before Christ returns
3. Some will abandon the faith
  - Rea -how so... by following deceiving spirits - demons
  - Rea -note, taught by the Spirit, or follow deceiving spirits
  - Rea 4. At what point do you call a teaching “demonic?”
5. Hypocritical liars (**verse 2**)
  - false teachers
  - Rea -Jesus warned of false teachers, false prophets, wolves, and hirelings (among the sheep)
  - they have a seared conscience - cannot tell right from wrong
  - Rea -something that is seared, is numbed, - has no feeling
6. Their teachings (**verses 3-5**)
  - A. Forbidding marriage - remain single in order to serve God better
  - B. Abstaining from certain foods - possibly meat offered to idols (1 Cor. 8)
7. Foods are created by God to be eaten freely - with thanksgiving
  - this does not mean we can do anything if we are thankful as we do it
  - Rea -for example, my conscience does not hurt me when I drink or smoke MJ therefore it must be okay
  - foods “consecrated” - set apart
  - Rea -for some, their religion was all about what they ate, and the various laws they kept
  - Rea -Jesus taught that it is more about what comes out of our hearts, not what goes into our stomachs
  - Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
    1. Such teachings were a clear sign of the later days being upon us
    2. Discuss how to distinguish the “right” from the “wrong” teaching
    3. Discuss the teachings of “demon spirits”
      - some do not know they are being used by the devil
      - “get behind me Satan” was said to Peter not some random and evil person
    4. Why are religions that teach the right foods attractive?

**II. Be Disciplined - 1 Tim. 4:6-10**

1. Being a good minister means pointing these things out (**verse 6**)
  - his ultimate service was to Jesus Christ
2. This will “nourish” them on right teaching
  - Rea -a great insight into what “nourishes” us
3. Timothy himself had “followed” right teaching
4. More false teaching follows in **verses 7-10**

- A. Godless myths
  - B. Old wives tales
  - C. Physical training
    - that has some value for this life and the one to follow
- Rea
  - note that “some value” is there... which might make it even more deceptive. Half-truth is more dangerous than a whole lie.
- 5. On the positive side - trustworthy and needs full acceptance
  - teaching hope in the living God - not human beings
  - in this we labor and strive
  - God as their “Savior”
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. There are both negatives and positives in this passage
    - often our religion is only a list of “don’ts”
  2. A person, versus a practice is enjoined
  3. It must have been hard to keep the flock on the right track in the midst of Jewish backgrounds, and the pagan Gentile backgrounds
  4. Of what benefit is sound teaching?
    - what is the danger of poor teaching?
  5. Does going to a good seminary mean you will be able to give sound teaching?
- III. Be an Example - 1 Tim. 4:11-13**
  1. Teach these things (**verses 11-12**)
    - very simple and straightforward - this is what you ought teach
    - even “command” them
    - the pastor has God-given authority to teach the right thing
  2. Don’t let anyone look down on you because you’re young
    - their culture valued the aged
  - Rea
    - discuss the value and/ or danger of being a senior adult with “experience”
  - Rea
    - why is it so easy and dangerous to look down on youth?
  3. Note Paul gave sage wisdom to this young minister
    - A. Set an example for the believers
    - Rea
      - B. His advice was not words but actions
        - speech (not mean-spirited or rude speech)
        - love (the overriding attitude)
        - in conduct (as the deacons were counseled - “blameless”)
        - in faith (strong devotion to God)
        - in purity (clean living)
    - Rea
      - C. Often we silence the voices of our critics (in scripture) by actions, not words
        - the “speech” here speaks to demeanor, not having a clever argument
  4. Paul is coming soon... until then (**verse 13**)
    - A. Give yourself:
      - 1) public reading of scripture
      - 2) preaching
      - 3) teaching
    - Rea
      - B. Paul gives Timothy something to do
        - I understand him to say... don’t worry about these bad doctrines, give

yourself to good doctrine and it will take care of these wrong ideas

C. Public reading

-involved Old Testament scrolls

Rea

-a very different world from ours... where we all have bibles

-possibly some of Paul's writings

D. Preaching

-strong encouragement of the people to believe and behave

E. Teaching

-discipleship

Rea

**Ideas and Questions:**

1. With new believers from both Jewish and pagan backgrounds this new gospel, needed to be put out there - in our world today perversions of gospel truth abound also

2. Living an exemplary life will take care of much of our critics

-discuss how the poor ideas and improper conduct of TV evangelists hurt the local church

3. These verses give us (as well) the right "focus" - to get diverted off the right teaching, leads to getting involved in the wrong teaching

-we live in a time when everyone is looking for (and getting into) something "new" because they have lost faith in the "old" ways

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