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I TIMOTHY CHAPTER 4

In Your Group Read 1 Timothy chapter four (aloud) in a modern translation or read it in the King James Version (below). As a Group, Discuss the general content of the chapter.

THE LETTER OF 1 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 4 King James Version

1 TIMOTHY 4: [1] Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; **[2]** Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; **[3]** Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. **[4]** For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: **[5]** For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. **[6]** ¶ 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 attained. **[7]** But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. **[8]** For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. **[9]** This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation. **[10]** For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe. **[11]** These things command and teach. **[12]** Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. **[13]** Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. **[14]** Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. **[15]** Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. **[16]** 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.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GROUP: Read and Discuss each verse and translation along with the “Additional Information” in each box provided.

**1 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 4
VERSES 1-2**

1 Timothy 4: [1] Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; [2] Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; (King James Version)

¹Now the Holy Spirit clearly says that in the later times some people will stop believing the faith. They will follow spirits that lie and teachings of demons. ² Such teachings come from the false words of liars whose consciences are destroyed as if by a hot iron. **(New Century Version)**

¹God’s Spirit clearly says that in the last days many people will turn from their faith. They will be fooled by evil spirits and by teachings that come from demons. ² They will also be fooled by the false claims of liars whose consciences have lost all feeling. **(Contemporary English Version)**

The Spirit makes it clear that as time goes on, some are going to give up on the faith and chase after demonic illusions put forth by professional liars. These liars have lied so well and for so long that they’ve lost their capacity for truth. (verses 1-2) **(The Message)**

God’s Spirit specifically tells us that in later days there will be men who abandon the true faith and allow themselves to be spiritually seduced by teachings of demons, teachings given by men who are lying hypocrites, whose consciences are as dead as seared flesh. (verses 1-2) **(Phillips Translation)**

[1] The Spirit has explicitly said that during the last times there will be some who will desert the faith and choose to listen to deceitful spirits and doctrines that come from the devils; **[2]** and the cause of this is the lies told by hypocrites whose consciences are branded as though with a red-hot iron. **(Jerusalem Bible)**

[1] Now, the Spirit clearly states that in the future some will turn away from the faith and be followers of spirits that deceive *them*, and of demonic teachings **[2]** taught by hypocritical liars, whose consciences are *as dead as though* seared by a red-hot iron. **(The New Translation)**

[1] The Spirit says clearly that later on some people will lose their faith as they listen to the teachings of demons and false prophets who claim to have the Spirit. **[2]** Such false prophets are liars who pretend to be teaching the truth, and their consciences are dead, as if they had been burned with a hot iron. **(New Testament in Everyday American English)**

[1] The Holy Spirit clearly says that in the later times some people will stop believing the true faith (*teaching*). Those people will obey spirits that tell lies. And those people will follow the teachings of demons. **[2]** Those teachings come through men who tell lies and trick people. Those men cannot see what is right and what is wrong. It is like their understanding was destroyed by a hot iron. **(The-Easy-to-Read-Version)**

Additional Information: (Verse 1) – “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly.” The Apostle Paul repeats to Timothy the warning he had given many years earlier to the Ephesian elders: “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, **speaking perverse things**, to draw away disciples after them (Acts 20:29-30). The Spirit of God through the Scriptures has repeatedly warned of the danger of turning away from the Christian faith (See Matt. 24:4, 12; Acts 20:29-30; 2 Thess. 2:3; Heb. 3:12; 6:6; 10:29; 1 Jn. 2:18-19; Jude 3).

“Depart” from the faith. The Greek word for “depart” is *aphistemi* and means to remove, desist or desert. It is translated depart, draw away, fall away, refrain and withdraw self (Strong’s Lexicon). It is the source of our English word “apostatize, and refers to someone moving away from an original position, that is, professing Christians who defect after believing lies and deceptions of the devil. **“Depart from the faith”** may be translated: “will abandon the Christian faith,” “will apostatize,” “will stop being Christians” (Help for Translators, p. 37).

“Giving heed to seducing spirits.” The Greek means more than simply “pay attention to”; here it means “to follow,” “to obey,” “to give allegiance to.” (Help for Translators, p. 37).

“Doctrine of devils” are not teachings about demons, but false teaching that originates from them. The goal is to pervert and corrupt God’s Word by turning Christians from the apostles doctrine (See Acts 2:42). Teaching of demons are transmitted through false teachings that claims to be teaching that is inspired by God.

(Verse 2) - “Speaking lies in hypocrisy.” **“Hypocrisy”** is the Greek word *hupokrisis* and means the acting of a stage-player, deceit, pretence. A feigning to be what one is not.

“Having their conscience seared with a hot iron” (“whose consciences are dead, as if burnt with a hot iron). As your finger is numb when it has been burned with a hot iron, so too their consciences are numbed by the searing of sin. (Liberty Bible Commentary, Vol.2, p.635) The meaning is that these false teachers no longer are able to distinguish truth from error. Like skin that has lost all its feeling after being badly burned, so their consciences are dead. (Helps for Translators, p. 38).

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1 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 4
VERSES 3-5

1 Timothy 4: [3] Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. [4] For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: [5] For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. (King James Version)

[3] *men* who forbid marriage *and advocate* abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. **[4]** For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude; **[5]** for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer. **(New American Standard)**

³ will forbid people to marry or to eat certain foods. But God created these foods to be eaten with thankful hearts by his followers who know the truth. ⁴ Everything God created is good. And if you give thanks, you may eat anything. ⁵ What God has said and your prayer will make it fit to eat. **(Contemporary English Version)**

These men forbid marriage and command abstinence from foods – good things which God created to be thankfully enjoyed by those who believe in him and know the truth. Everything God made is good, and is meant to be gratefully used, not despised. The holiness or otherwise of a certain food, for instance, depends not on its nature but on whether it is eaten thankfully or not. It is consecrated by the word of God and by prayer. (verses 3-5) **(Phillips Translation)**

[3] They will forbid certain people to marry, and forbid the eating of certain foods. But God created these foods to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. **[4]** Because everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected. You are to receive all of it with a prayer of thanks. **[5]** When prayer is offered and God's word on this matter is believed, that food is blessed by God for your use. **(The Last Days Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verse 3) – “God hath created to be received with thanksgiving.”

This affirms the biblical emphasis on the goodness of God's creation (Gen. 1:31), and the divine command that all plants and animals could be eaten (Gen. 1:29; 9:2-3); and see the teaching of Jesus for his followers (Mark 7:19), and Peter's experience (Acts 10:15) (Helps for Translators, p. 38).

1 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 4 VERSES 6-9

1 Timothy 4: [6] ¶ 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 attained. [7] But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. [8] For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. [9] This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. (King James Version)

[6] In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, *constantly* nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. **[7]** But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; **[8]** for

bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and *also* for the *life* to come. [9] It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. **(New American Standard)**

⁶ If you explain this to the brothers and sisters, you will be doing your duty as a worthy servant of Christ Jesus, one who is fed by the message of faith and the true teaching you have followed. ⁷ Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Spend your time and energy in training yourself for spiritual fitness. ⁸ Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is much more important, for it promises a reward in both this life and the next. ⁹ This is true, and everyone should accept it. **(New Living Translation)**

You will be a faithful minister of Christ Jesus if you remind your church members of these things. You will show yourself as a man nourished by the message of the true faith and by the sound teaching he has followed. But steer clear of all these heathen old-wives' tales. Take time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit. Bodily fitness has a limited value, but spiritual fitness is of unlimited value, for it holds promise both for this present life and for the life to come. There is no doubt about this at all; it is a truth that you can accept completely. (verses 6-9) **(Phillips Translation)**

[6] If you give these instructions to the brothers you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, as you feed yourself spiritually on the words of faith and of the true teaching which you have followed. [7] But keep away from those godless legends, which are not worth telling. Keep yourself in training for a godly life. [8] Physical exercise has some value in it, but spiritual exercise is valuable in every way, because it promises life both for now and for the future. [9] This is a true saying, to be completely accepted and believed. **(Today's English Version)**

[6] If you put all this to the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus and show that you have really digested the teaching of the faith and the good doctrine which you have always followed. [7] Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales. Train yourself spiritually. [8] "Physical exercises are useful enough, but the usefulness of spirituality is unlimited, since it holds out the reward of life here and now and of the future life as well"; [9] that is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt it. **(Jerusalem Bible)**

[6] If you give the brothers and sisters this information, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus. And you must continue to feed yourself on the truths which we believe, and which are a part of the good teaching which you have followed faithfully. [7] But keep away from those godless fairy tales which old women tell to entertain the children, and keep on training yourself to live a godly life. [8] Remember that exercises for the body are of some small value, but godliness is valuable in every way, since it promises life right now as well as Life in the next world. [9] And this is something everyone can believe and accept without question as the truth. **(New Testament in Everyday American English)**

[6] If you continue to warn your assembly about these lies, you will be doing your duty as a worthy minister of Jesus Christ. In this way, you will be feeding them the true message of faith and sound doctrine, and bringing them to maturity in the faith by the same true teachings that you yourself have so closely followed. [7] But have nothing to do with using godless, worthless stories in your sermons, which aren't worth telling. Instead, you must continue to perform every exercise necessary to keep spiritually

strong. **[8]** Exercising your body is indeed profitable for a short while, but taking care to build up your spiritual strength is profitable in every way you can think of, both for your present life, and for the next life too. **[9]** That is a statement of utmost importance, and should receive everyone's most serious attention. **(The Last Days Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verse 7) – "Fables" is the Greek word *muthos* meaning a tale, that is, fiction (myth) (Strong's Lexicon). It is that which is fabricated by the mind set over against the real and actual truth (Lexical Aids to the N.T.).

(Verses 7-8) – "godliness" in Greek is *eusebeia*. It is from *eu*, "well," and *sebomai*, "to be devout," denotes that piety which, characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him. In 1 Timothy 6:3 "the doctrine which is according to godliness" signifies that which is consistent with "godliness," in contrast to false teachings. (Vine's Lexicon).

1 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 4 VERSES 10

1 Timothy 4: [10] For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe. (King James Version)

¹⁰We work hard and suffer much in order that people will believe the truth, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and particularly of those who believe. **(New Living Translation)**

[10] Because of this, we work hard and do our best because our hope is in the living God, the One Who would save all men. He saves those who believe in Him. **(The New Life Testament)**

[10] We work hard and suffer much in order that people will believe it, for our hope is in the living God who died for all, and particularly for those who have accepted his salvation. **(The Living Bible)**

[10] It's because we have hope in all that God has promised that we work hard, even while we're being accused and criticized. We work and persevere because we believe in a living God who is a Savior of all men, but the Savior especially of all who are His true followers. **(The Last Days Bible)**

Additional Information: "Who is the Saviour of all men." This can refer to the fact that the atonement of Christ is not limited to just certain people; it is available to all. Heb. 2:9; Acts 2:21; Rev. 22:17 (Last Days Bible).

"Specially of those that believe." This emphasis makes it probable that the statement "Saviour of all" refers to God's desire and power to save all; however he can actually save only those who believe, that is, who believe the gospel, the message of salvation (Helps for Translators, p.42).

1 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 4 VERSES 11-13

1 Timothy 4: [11] These things command and teach. [12] Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. [13] Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. (King James Version)

[11] Prescribe and teach these things. [12] Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but *rather* in speech, conduct, love, faith *and* purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. [13] Until I come, give attention to the *public* reading of *Scripture*, to exhortation and teaching. **(New American Standard Version)**

¹¹Teach these things and insist that everyone learn them. ¹²Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you teach, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity. ¹³Until I get there, focus on reading the Scriptures to the church, encouraging the believers, and teaching them. **(New Living Translation)**

¹¹Teach these things and tell everyone to do what you say. ¹²Don't let anyone make fun of you, just because you are young. Set an example for other followers by what you say and do, as well as by your love, faith, and purity. ¹³Until I arrive, be sure to keep on reading the Scriptures in worship, and don't stop preaching and teaching. **(Contemporary English Version)**

[11] Command those things. Teach them. [12] Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say and in how you live. Also set an example in how you love and in what you believe. Show the believers how to be pure. [13] Until I come, spend your time reading Scripture out loud to one another. Spend your time preaching and teaching. **(New International Reader's Version)**

[11] So you must continue to teach these things, and you must continue to demand that the people hold firmly to them. [12] Don't let anyone find any reason to despise you because of your youth. But you must earn their respect by being an example to the believers – by the things you say and the way you say them, how you live, by the genuine love you have for all, by the spirit in which you work and accept situations, by your faith, and by the purity of your life. [13] Until I come your way, devote yourself to both the private and public reading of the Scriptures, to the teaching of its meaning, and to the challenging of your hearers to put the truths of those Scriptures to work in their lives. **(The Last Days Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verse 13) - The Greek word for "reading" in this passage is *anagnosis* and means reading, especially the public reading of Holy Scriptures. In 1 Timothy 4:13, it refers to the public reading of the Scriptures (including the letters of the apostles) appointed to be read in public in the New Testament worship service (See Colossians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:27). The readers in the church whose duty it was to read, expound or give application to the passage were called *anagnomstai*, the public readers.

"The word for 'Scripture' in Greek is *graphe*. In the New Testament this term is used exclusively of Scripture and is used in such a way that **quoting Scripture (or reading) is understood to be the same as quoting God** (See John 10:35; Romans 4:3; 9:17; Gal. 4:30)" (Expository Dictionary of Bible Words, p.544).

"The Scriptures were formally constituted into a canon (a rule of measure that established them as being the true Word of God). The reading of them was, along with prayer, the chief part of the service of worship from the time of Ezra onwards. Indeed, it seems that the reading out of the law (the Word of God) gave the motivation [and pattern] for the first meetings for worship (in the New Testament church),

where the word of God was heard. The first Christians were Jews among Jews.” (Dictionary of N.T. Theology, Vol.3. pgs. 485, 493).

It was always the **practice of God’s people to have the Word of God read aloud** in the congregation. This is true whether it was the Old Testament or the New Testament (Ex. 24:7; Deut. 31:11; Josh. 8:35; 2 Kings 23:2; Neh. 8:7-8; Luke 4:16; Acts 15:21; Col. 4:16; 1 Thess. 5:27). In the book of Revelation it states, “Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy (usually in the New Testament the epistles were read aloud) and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it” (that is, the blessing comes to those who obey and apply its words) (Rev. 1:3). There was also a warning that what was read was not to be added to or taken away from (Rev. 22:18-19).

Without **all** the Scriptures on a particular subject we will be led to wrong conclusions, resulting in wrong doctrine.

1 TIMOTHY CHAPTER 4 VERSES 14-16

1 Timothy 4: [14] Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. [15] Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. [16] 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. (King James Version)

Do not neglect the special gift that was given to you through prophecy at the time when the assembled elders laid their hands on you. Give your whole attention, all your energies, to these things, so that your progress is plain for all to see. Keep a critical eye both upon your own life and on the teaching you give, and if you continue to follow the line I have indicated you will not only save your own soul but the souls of your hearers as well. (verse 14-16) **(Phillips Translation)**

[14] You have in you a spiritual gift which was given to you when the prophets spoke and the body of elders laid their hands on you; do not let it lie unused. **[15]** Think hard about all this, and put it into practice, and everyone will be able to see how you are advancing. **[16]** Take great care about what you do and what you teach; always do this, and in this way you will save both yourself and those who listen to you. **(Jerusalem Bible)**

You have a gift that came to you transmitted by the prophets, when the presbytery laid their hands upon you; do not neglect that gift. Attend to these duties, let them absorb you, so that all men may note your progress. Watch yourself and watch your teaching; stick to your work; if you do that, you will save your hearers as well as yourself. (verses 14-16) **(Moffatt Translation)**

[14] And you must stop neglecting to use the gift God gave you when the elders of the church laid their hands upon your head and the prophecy was given concerning you. **[15]** Continue to give serious attention to these things. In fact, give your full attention to them, to the extent that everyone will clearly see the progress you are making. **[16]** Always pay close attention to both how you live and what you teach. Continue to be concerned about how truthful and effective they both are, because in doing so you will both ensure your own salvation and the salvation of those who listen to you. **(The Last Days Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verse 14) – “the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.”

Christian presbytery or elders appear in Acts (Acts 11:30; 14:23; 15:2, 4, 6) and in the Letters (Titus 1:5-6; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:1). They were the Christian counterpart to Jewish elders in the synagogues. They were men of considerable authority in the congregation (Helps for Translators, p. 43). It appears that elders were pastors, overseers and bishops in the New Testament.

(Verse 16) – “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine” refers to one’s conduct as a Christian and a church minister (Helps for Translators, p. 44).

“Continue in them.” In Greek the demonstrative pronoun is plural and refers to the double duty of looking after himself and his teaching. (Ibid., p. 44).

“For in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.” Ultimately only God can save, of course; yet in a secondary sense the New Testament speaks of a person “saving” himself (Phil. 2:12) and others (James 5:19-20; Jude 23). (The Bible Knowledge Commentary, p. 741).

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(1 Timothy Chapter 4)

Instructions for Group Leader: Do not let the group read the following questions and answers. The leader of your group should ask the group the following questions and encourage the group to discover the answers by going to the appropriate Scriptures. **Discuss and answer (as a group) the questions correctly by using the Scripture(s). Turn to 1 Timothy Chapter 4.**

1. **Read 1 Timothy 4:1.** God's Spirit makes it clear that in the last days some will: a. attend church more regularly. b. study the Bible with diligence. c. depart from the Christian faith.

2. **Read 1 Timothy 4:1.** God's Spirit makes it clear that in the last days some will: a. follow the Apostle's doctrine closely (Acts 2:42). b. give heed to the doctrine of Christ (Heb. 6:1-2). c. be fooled by evil spirits and doctrines of devils.

3. **Read 1 Timothy 4:2.** In the last days some will: a. be fooled by the false claims of liars. b. be fooled by hypocrites. c. all of the above.

4. **Read 1 Timothy 4:3.** What false teachings did Paul mention in 1 Timothy 4:3? a. forbidding people to marry. b. forbidding the eating of certain foods. c. all of the above.

5. **Read 1 Timothy 4:4-5.** Food is blessed by God when: a. prayer is offered with thanksgiving. b. God's Word is believed. c. all of the above.
6. **Read 1 Timothy 4:6.** We are to be constantly nourished on: a. the words of faith. b. sound doctrine. c. all of the above.
7. **Read 1 Timothy 4:7.** We are to have nothing to do with: a. each other. b. old wife's fables, that is, a tale that is fabricated by fiction and untruth.
8. **Read 1 Timothy 4:8.** Godliness is profitable: a. in this life. b. in the life to come. c. all of the above.
9. **Read 1 Timothy 4:10.** It is because we have hope in all that God has promised that we work hard, even while we're being accused and criticized. True or False.
10. **Read 1 Timothy 4:12.** We are to set an example for others to follow by what we say, as well as by our love, faith and purity. True or False.
11. **Read 1 Timothy 4:13.** We are to give attention to: a. the public reading of Scripture. b. sound doctrine. c. all of the above.
12. **Read 1 Timothy 4:14.** We are not to neglect the use of our spiritual gifts. True or False.
13. **Read 1 Timothy 4:16.** We should always pay close attention to: a. how we live. b. what we teach, that is, sound doctrine. c. all of the above.
14. **Read 1 Timothy 4:16.** Take care about what you do and what you teach, salvation depends on it. True or False.

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