

Paul's  
1st Letter to  
**Timothy**



**Lesson 4-Preaching and Teaching a True Message**

**Focus: 1Timothy 4:1-16**

➤ **Foods and False Teachers (v.1-5)**

- (v.1-2) *The Holy Spirit had especially revealed to Paul about the apostasy or departure from the truth that was going to come in among the believers in Christ, especially in the last days of earth's history, before the return of Jesus! Such a false message, filled with lies, was and is inspired by Satan and his demons! The devil is a "liar and the father of it" (John 8:44). Satan always goes around trying to deceive us all, inasmuch as is possible for him to do (See Revelation 12:9; 16:13,14; Matthew 24:4, 24). Paul's speaking about such a coming apostasy was also spoken about in Acts 20:28-32. His 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter to the Thessalonians, chapter 2 is another place that mentions such apostasy. **Those who follow these things will speak lies, being hypocrites, and their conscience will not be against them because it is no longer sensitive to right and wrong since they have abused it too much by choosing to follow their own evil ways over God's righteous ways.***
- (v.3) **"Forbidding to marry."** Some people forbidding other people the choice of being able to marry (perhaps even for some religious reasons) is a sin against God's teachings and plan. God permits His people to marry, whether a pastor, layperson, or otherwise. We have not been forbidden that by God, but are given that option freely. Our bodies and natural emotional desires were engineered for marriage between a man and a woman by God himself! (See Genesis 2:24). God and His word do not forbid it, and neither should we. God allows that choice, but only encourages that we should choose wisely and according to godly principles. Marriage of a believer to an unbeliever is forbidden by God (for sake of faithfulness to God, and for lovingly sparing us a lifetime of miserable problems and dangers to both ours and our children's eternal salvation). To keep godly families in the earth, God has forbidden such wicked unions...we cannot be unequally yoked together with unbelievers (See 1 Corinthians 7 and 2 Cor. 6:14-18). When churches, such as the Catholic church (for example), forbid their pastors and church leaders the option of marriage, they are actually transgressing the word of God and are teaching false doctrines—lies from Satan! That is not God's plan at all!
- (v.3-5) Concerning **"foods which God has created to be received with Thanksgiving..."**, we should consider the following. Some people have taken these verses and suggested that it is now okay to eat whatever you like (that is, including the animals which God considers unclean for consumption and for offering to Him). They say that all we need to do is to pray over the food and it will be okay. BUT, that is not what these verses are telling us. We should consider very carefully what God is and what God is not saying to us here in these verses. *The laws concerning clean and unclean foods are mentioned to us in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. They tell us that some animals are NOT to be eaten by human beings. Some examples include pigs, camels,*

*rats, rabbits, sea food like shells, crabs, and octopus (anything that doesn't have fins and scales), and birds of prey like hawks and vultures. These animals often eat other animals, usually have very poor digestive systems and often contain lots of disease, bad bacteria, and chemicals in their bodies. We should never eat them! Even Noah knew about such animals, long before the time of Moses (See Genesis 7:1,2). Obviously God does not want us to eat such things—even Isaiah said that when Jesus comes, those who knowingly disobey God, concerning the eating of such things (defiling their bodies which are to be the Temples of the Holy Spirit) will be destroyed by God's fires of judgment (Isaiah 66:15-17). To eat something GOD said not to eat is the same sin as Adam and Eve eating the fruit which God had forbidden! That very sin brought death and untold evil into this world.*

- *These verses do not permit the eating of unclean animals. They speak of **things which God CREATED to be eaten (not the animals which were not created for such)**. Also the "every creature" translation of verse 4 cannot be understood to mean every every every creature. Obviously human beings cannot be included there! Therefore, there are restrictions. This text should be referring to all the creatures which God created for such a purpose of being eaten, as verse 3 stipulates. Verse 5 says it must be set apart or sanctified not only by prayer, but also by "THE WORD OF GOD." Therefore, if the word of God does not permit or sanctify it, then we are not to touch or eat it! The Bible is very clear. Let us not confuse the real meaning of God's word.*

➤ **Teaching and Living God's true message (v.6-10)**

- *The pastor's work is to "put in remembrance" or to remind the people of God about the holy and sacred truths which we are to live our lives by! All of us must be "nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine [teaching]." The minister's duty is to keep these words of truth before the people so that we may freshly remember and follow God's holy words, being both encouraged and inspired in the faith of God!*
- *We should not waste our time with unprofitable stories and falsehoods, whether in books, on TV, radio, or elsewhere! (v.7) Such only increases ungodliness. We should exercise ourselves in the true things of God! Godly fitness is much more to be desired than mere physical fitness which many strive for with great effort, but to just a little profit comparatively (v.8-10).*
- *(v.10) God is the savior of all men because He has died for the sins of all people, but especially to those who believe because we who believe are the ones who have received those benefits of salvation (compare to 1 John 2:1,2).*

➤ **Advancing in the work and not neglecting "the gift" (v.11-16)**

- *The minister must be an example to the believers. He should live by God's holy words and meditate much in them! Even as Joshua was also told by God (See Joshua 1:8-10). Then our profiting and doing well will appear to all! Pay attention to the doctrine and be sure to teach good and pure doctrine so that both the minister and the listeners will be saved by that truth!*

*Question (s) for the Heart:*

**Would you like to learn and live by God's true message for your life? \_\_\_\_\_**