

# "TO TIMOTHY, MY TRUE CHILD IN THE FAITH..."

PAUL'S LETTERS TO TIMOTHY



## HOW ONE SHOULD CONDUCT ONESELF

### 1 Timothy 4

<sup>1</sup> But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, <sup>2</sup> by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> For everything created by God is good, and

### SOME WILL FALL AWAY

- Where is Paul getting his information about later times?
  - What does it mean to fall away from the faith?
  - What is a deceitful spirit?
  - What would be a "doctrine of demons"?
- How does one pay attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons? (see v. 2)
  - How could people teach such false doctrines?
  - Regarding the "hypocrisy of liars" — does this imply that they are doing this on purpose or out of ignorance?
  - How does a person sear their own conscience?
- What examples of such false doctrines does Paul give us?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - What do you think may have been behind these doctrines?
  - What are some other examples of such doctrines?
- Regarding foods, what foods should we abstain from?
  - Why?

nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude; <sup>5</sup> for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.

- Everything created by God is \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ is to be rejected if it is received with \_\_\_\_\_
- Foods are sanctified by means of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- What does it mean for food to be sanctified by means of the word?
- What does it mean for food to be sanctified by prayer

<sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; <sup>8</sup> for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all

- What things is Paul telling Timothy to point out?
- Part of a minister's job then is to do what?
- What is a minister to constantly nourish himself on?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- What does "words of THE faith" refer to?
- What does the word "sound" mean in this context?
- What kinds of teachings might fit the description of "worldly fables"? (also could be translated as "common myths", "common legends").
- Explain why Paul might have used the phrase "fit only for old women"
- On the other hand, \_\_\_\_\_ yourself for the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_;
- Looking at the following context, what metaphor is Paul using, when he uses the term "discipline"

things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. <sup>9</sup> It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. <sup>10</sup> For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.

<sup>11</sup> Prescribe and teach these things. <sup>12</sup>

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. <sup>13</sup> Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to

- How does this metaphor help us in living the Christian life (and especially for a minister of the Gospel)?
- If we had to choose between athletic discipline and godly discipline, which should we choose?
- Should we give less effort to godly discipline than we might to “getting in shape”?
  - What promises for the present life does godly discipline hold?
  - What promises for the life to come does godly discipline hold?
- Which is the trustworthy statement — v. 8 or v. 10?
  - What does it mean to “fix” your hope on God?
  - What does he mean when he says that God is the Savior of all men, especially of believers? In what sense is He the Savior of unbelievers?
- “Prescribe” means to give an \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- Why is Paul telling Timothy to be sure to command such things?
- Do older people sometimes look down on younger people and dismiss their ideas and teaching?
  - Is this sometimes warranted? Why?
  - When is it not warranted? Why?
- How does Paul advise Timothy to gain credibility in the congregation he is ministering to?
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

exhortation and teaching. <sup>14</sup> Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. <sup>15</sup> Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. <sup>16</sup> Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- show yourself an \_\_\_\_\_
- What was Timothy to give special concentration to?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ what is this?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ what is this?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ what is this?
- What spiritual gift do you imagine Timothy might have had? (consider v. 13)
  - How was this gift given to him? (see 2 Tim. 1:6)
  - How does this effect the modern day claims of modern miraculous gifts?
- How much effort is Paul suggesting for Timothy's godly discipline?
  - Take \_\_\_\_\_
  - Be \_\_\_\_\_
  - Why?
- Pay close attention to...
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - and to your \_\_\_\_\_;
  - \_\_\_\_\_ in these things,
  - for as you do this you will ensure \_\_\_\_\_ both for
    - \_\_\_\_\_
    - and for those who \_\_\_\_\_ you
- Summarize v. 16...