

1 Timothy

Week 4 - Chapter 4

Pray for your time together in God's Word!

? Who are some people that you look up to? Why do you look up to them?

1 Timothy 4:1-5 (NIV)

¹Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ²through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, ³who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

? What's going wrong here? How and in what ways are the Ephesians departing from the faith?

? In the beginning of the passage, who is active in this departure?

? What explicitly were some of the heresies going on there?

? What are some of the false influences in the Church today? How does today's Church stray from the truth of God's Word, from the Gospel?

? How do you avoid being deceived by false teachers?

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What are some ways you personally are tempted to forget the Gospel?

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Looking at verse 2, the false teachers' consciences' are 'seared.' What do you think that means?

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How do you think that happens?

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Are there ways you are searing your conscience?

1 Timothy 4:6-16 (NIV)

⁶If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. ⁷Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; ⁸for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. ⁹The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. ¹⁰For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

¹¹Command and teach these things. ¹²Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. ¹³Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. ¹⁴Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. ¹⁵Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. ¹⁶Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

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Verses 7 and 8 assert that godliness has value both now and in eternity. What is that value? What are the promises that it holds?

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What does it mean to train yourself for godliness?

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How does verse 10 tie into training yourself for godliness?

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What's the toil and striving here?

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How does 'hope set on the living God' tie into toiling and striving?

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This passage lists a lot of "action" words: command, teach, devote, set an example, etc. What do you think this list of actions indicates about godliness and about faith? Is faith just an internal state?

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How does it matter that godliness has external manifestations according to this passage?

Do you get tired when you read a bunch of action verbs in a row? Is the Christian life about trying as hard as you can? Where does external godliness come from? How do we do all these things? Are we performing or is there a source?

John 15:5 (NIV)

⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

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What does Jesus say about doing?

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What is our community application of this passage?