

Goodness, Godliness, Gifting: 1 Timothy 4:1-16

A Bible Study in Six Parts

1. Read 1 Timothy 4:1-2

“The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.” (1 Timothy 4:1-2, NIV)

Discuss:

- What are some of the worst heresies that have infected the church?
- How can we protect one another from “deceiving spirits and things taught by demons” and ensure we do not fall prey to “hypocritical liars”?

2. Read 1 Timothy 4:3

“They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth.” (1 Timothy 4:3, NIV)

Discuss:

- Why would Paul be so concerned about false teachings that forbid marriage?
- How does thanking God for his gifts shape how we think and live? (You might want to read Romans 1:21)

3. Read 1 Timothy 4:4-5

“For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.” (1 Timothy 4:4-5, NIV)

Discuss:

- What brings you joy that you can thank God for that you might not have previously mentioned in your prayers?

4. Read 1 Timothy 4:6

“If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed.” (1 Timothy 4:6, NIV)

Discuss:

- How we help one another lead lives that are “nourished on the truths of the faith” and “good teaching” and steer one another away from deception and heresy?

5. Read 1 Timothy 4: 7-10

“Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. That is why we labour and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe.” (1 Timothy 4: 7-10, NIV)

Discuss:

- In our time, what are “godless myths” that have snared Christians?
- How can we train one another “to be godly” and why is this so important?
- How can we excite our brothers and sisters about a relationship with the “living God”?

6. Read 1 Timothy 4:11-16

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

“Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.” (1 Timothy 4:11-16, NIV)

Discuss:

- How can we set a godly example in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity?

- Why is it so important that churches set aside time for the public reading of Scripture and teaching?
- How have people in your home group blessed you with their gifts?
- How can we resolve to watch our lives and doctrine closely?