

We are the Living Picture of God - 1 Timothy

Warning: Heresy Can Be Very Near - 1Tim. 4:1-5

Introduction: Keep focus on big picture, but don't miss the close-by heresy.

Summary: If you add to the gospel of the free grace of Christ a bit of human effort, some self-denial, etc., then you ruin everything for which Christ died.

I. Some will depart, fall-away and promote heresy vs. 1

A. "Later times" means time after the advent of Christ (not "end times")

Hebrews 1:1-2

Acts 2:17

1 John 2:18

B. "The Holy Spirit is saying now,," through Holy Spirit utterance in Paul

Acts 20:29-30 7 yrs. Prior

Colossians 2:16-18

C. The source of deceit/insincerity v.2 false teachers (even w/in church)

D. The deceit described vs. 3 anything physical/sensuous contaminates

Colossians 2:20-3

II. God's solution to false teaching and heresy vss. 4-5

A. His very own creation shows how all is good

Genesis 1:31

B. By confident prayer as a new, changed believer in Christ

1 Corinthians 10:31

Psalms 111:4-5

1 Timothy 6:17

Application: Why did some in the early church purpose the subtlety of heresy, and why would some follow along? Is there similar temptation for us today? Pride is a killer, it creates substitutes: "A little glory for me based on my extra effort, surely, God is pleased." The antidote: Our glorious dying Savior—"Look there is flowing a crimson tide, whiter than snow you may be today!" It's glorying in His wonder & beauty that our inflated "Me" will shrink. "Grace, grace, God's grace, greater than all our sin and shame!"

1 Timothy 4:1-5 ESV

Now 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