

1 Timothy

Lesson 4: 1 Timothy 4

We are living in a day where lies have infiltrated the church and false teachers have blurred the truth. This is one of Satan's tactics. His objective is to blind people to the truth of God and His Word. While Satan has been successful in this, God warns His church about these false teachers. He tells us how we can spot a false teacher and continue in the truth. In chapter 3, we learned about the standard for godly leaders in the church. In this chapter we will see Paul's warnings of false teachers and his encouragement to Timothy to be a godly leader. Let's dive in and see what God has to say about false teachers versus teachers of the truth.

➤ **Read 1 Timothy 4:1–5**

1. In verse 1, what has the Spirit revealed about the times we are in?
2. What will draw people away from the truth?
3. Read Acts 20:17, 28–30. Why should Timothy not be surprised that he is dealing with false teachers in Ephesus?
4. In verse 2, how does Paul describe false teachers?
5. What are some of the things that false teachers were teaching?
6. In verses 3–5, what does Paul reveal about what God has created?

Application: Considering what has been studied above, what are some ways you can spot a false teacher today?

Application: Seeing Paul’s harsh words concerning false teachers, what does this tell you about how God views the truth? What are ways you guard the truth?

➤ **Read 1 Timothy 4:6–10**

7. According to verse 6, what is the role of faithful leaders in the church?

8. In verse 7, what are faithful leaders to avoid?

9. At the end of verse 7–8, what does Paul say Timothy is to train for? What illustration does he use to describe this training?

10. In verse 10, what does Paul say about the effort given to pursue godliness?

Application: Practically, what are some of the ways you “disciple yourself for the purpose of godliness”?

Application: Do you think the church today accepts the notion of spiritual discipline and hard work? Explain your answer.

11. At the end of verse 10, Paul says God “is the Savior of all men.” Why does Paul add “especially of believers”?

➤ **Read 1 Timothy 4:11–16**

12. In verses 11, what are some of “these things” that Timothy was to “prescribe and teach”?

13. In verse 12, what does this tell us about Timothy? How was he to be an example?

14. In verse 13, what three things was Timothy commanded to do?

Application: Why do you think the reading of Scripture has become less common in the worship of Christian churches today? What is the result of this?

15. In verse 14, what two ways was Timothy confirmed into ministry to use his “spiritual gift”?

16. In verse 15, Paul tells Timothy to “be absorbed in them.” What must pastors be “absorbed” in?

17. In verse 16, what three things does Paul say every pastor must do?

Application: What one verse impacted you the most in this lesson? Why?