

Seducing Spirits and Doctrines of Devils

© 2010 Rev. Earl Jackson

1Ti 4:1-7 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; **2** Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; **3** Forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. **4** For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: **5** For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. **6** If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. **7** But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself *rather* unto godliness.

Verse one of this passage is often quoted to show that in the last days a falling away will occur, a great apostasy, which will result in a massive embrace of doctrines of demons, among people professing themselves to be Christians. I'd like to address this briefly.

1. Apostasy from the faith, means that you were really never in the faith to start with.

There is a correlative statement about this in Second Timothy.

2Ti 3:1-5 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

People who “love themselves, are covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers etc”, are clearly not Christians. Men who are “Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God” simply do not qualify as Christians. Read the list...unholy, without natural affection, blasphemers, lovers of pleasures more than God, etc. There is no possibility that this list is describing Christians. These are the marks of the last day apostates.

With that in mind then, when it talks about “some departing from the faith”. It is important to know who these are. They are people who have only a “form of Godliness”, but no “actual Godliness”. This whole affair concerns “doctrine”, which is an intellectual component of religion. All religion has “doctrine”. True ones and false ones, they all have this component. In the case of our text, the doctrines are either the doctrines of Christ, which are true, or the doctrines of demons, which these apostates prefer. “Departing from the faith” refers to departing from the body of revealed truths

(doctrines) which the church has received in Christ. These apostates, obviously are conversant with the doctrines they left behind. So we cannot say they are ignorant of the truth. That is not the case.

Paul wrote another verse which clarifies what is going on here.

2Ti 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

The problem is that these heretical apostates, who pursue demon doctrines rather than truth, do not “endure sound doctrine”. That means they do not endure in it, even though they are aware of it. It says that they exercise positive volition against it. “They shall turn away their ears from the truth”. This is a deliberate and willful act, and it is not the act of a Christian. A Christian is a person, who desires the truth more than anything. He is a follower of Christ, not demons.

Being able to thus identify these apostate teachers is very important. People tend to think that these are just good and sincere men, who went a little bit astray, and who did not know what they were actually doing. Wrong. These men Knew the truth... Rejected it... And voluntarily turned their ears to something which they know is false. There is no indication of doctrinal ignorance in these passages. They knew the sound doctrine, but chose not to endure in it. Instead they chose the false doctrine which they knew was unsound, and they knew was fictitious (fables).

2. Religion, both true and false has to do with the spirit realms.

This is practically denied today in many church (mostly of a cessationist nature).¹ Here we have Paul saying “The Spirit speaketh expressly”. That is the Holy Spirit. He is the Spirit which we are supposed to derive our doctrines from. He speaks and we should listen. That is our realm. We are in the Spirit, and The Spirit is in us.

But then he also speaks of the “seducing spirits, and devils” (or the demonic spirits). These are just as real as the Holy Spirit, and we as Christians are not supposed to be ignorant of them, or of their devices of entrapment (2Cor. 2:11). The issue in this great last days apostasy is, a doctrinal abandonment of the Holy Spirit’s truth, and a willing embracing of seducing spirits and their evil doctrines. This means that the players

¹ Cessationism is the doctrine that the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit have ceased with the death of the Last Apostle. Since one of those gifts is “the discerning of spirits” these people, who hold this view have faulty understanding of the spirit dimension which is all around us. “Discerning of spirits” was given exactly to help the church measure such demonic threats, coming from the spirit realm, and to assess them in such a way as to steer Christians clear of dangers when they arise.

involved here are dallying in the spirit realm, both sides of it, and when they know the truth they willingly choose the evil, because of personal greed and gain. It says specifically that they are: *“Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth (2Tim. 3:7).* These people are not uneducated. They are “ever learning”. That makes them quite refined and respectable. The problem is that **in all their learning the truth alludes them.** Learning cannot cure lostness! *The natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God. It is impossible for him to know them (2Cor. 2:14).* Education cannot cure depravity. Men will always love darkness rather than light (Jn. 3:19). A desire to see cannot cure blindness. Even if these men wanted the truth, and wanted to be saved, they could not, because salvation is of the Lord, and they are clearly of the devil. They can’t be saved, because the Lord has not given them new hearts. They do not have it in themselves to save themselves, because that power is given only by God (Jn. 1:12). As a matter of fact, they don’t want salvation, or anything to do with it. They are sort of like Israel in Paul’s day. *“For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God” (Rom. 10: 1-2).* The salvation they want is self-salvation, self-righteousness, not the Lord’s righteousness. That’s why they are not saved.

These verses ought to remind us of the reality of the evil spirit realm. The devil is not dead or inactive simply because he has been bound by Christ’s finished work. He is still *“a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour” (1Pet. 5:8).* He still has *“seducing spirits and doctrines of devils”*, trips men up, appeals to all their worldly lusts and passions, and fires them up with lies and heresies, capable of making them famous, rich and powerful in this world. Write a few New York Times Best Sellers, broker a few television deals, appear on Oprah and a few other talk shows, and the millions will start rolling in. Who cares if it is heresy? The pay is good. Who cares if it disgraces the Lord? Satan’s make it worth everything...a mansion, an unlimited bank account, private jets, yachts, condo’s in the tropics. Life is sweet to them who tickle the ears of men, and pander to the greedy and selfish generation of the last days. Who cares if people are eternally damaged? It is the here and now that matters. It is teaching people how to seize the moment, and have their best life now. It is showing them how to be purpose driven, even when the purpose displeases God.

Demon’s are directly responsible for all the false teachers and false teachings that are proliferating now as never before. The signs and wonders crowds, following the deceivers in their camps, are having gold dust fall around them, gems appearing in peoples hands, so called glory clouds appearing in their services...It is all of the devil and his seducing spirits. Jesus never manifested the presence of God with any of these false signs. Why not? If anyone should have brought the glory cloud to His preaching events, Jesus should have. But why is it absent? Where was the gold dust when he preached? It all boils down to mans quest for the sensational, and how easily it is satisfied by simple deception. Pharaohs magicians satisfied all the courtiers of Egypt with their deceptions. But God won in the end. God will win in the end of our day, also, and he won’t need the help of any of these men either. When the true miracle worker returns, these charlatans will all be cast into outer darkness forever. When Christ comes...It’s lights out! The

party's over!

Rev 22:14-15 Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and **whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.**

Rev 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, **or maketh a lie:** but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

3. The two examples Paul gives.

1Ti 4:3 Forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from meats,

These are very important examples of apostate, Godless teachings, inspired by demons and seducing spirits. Do not miss the point here. Some people think Paul was simply referencing the Gnostic heresy which came in the second century. Actually his reference here to “celibacy“, and “vegetarianism” has virtually nothing to do with Gnosticism. Paul cites these two examples because they are at the heart of all the apostate systems of doctrine. They seek to impose false religious strictures on the consciences of men. All false doctrine operates this way. If you do this, or don't do that, you will enter into a deeper more meaningful relationship to God. You will be more spiritual if you follow this practice, or of you don't do this or that. It's a way of getting closer to God.

Marriage is a divine institution of the earliest order...established at the dawn of creation, by God himself in the garden of Eden. The idea of “forbidding to marry” attacks the very foundation of all divine institutions. That's what apostate doctrine does. It attacks the foundations of true happiness, by trying to show a better way. A new and improved way to be spiritual. .

The matter of “abstaining from meats” is a concept utterly foreign to the Bible, also. Notice the words: “*meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified.*” Here what Paul says in another spot.

Col 2:20-22 *Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?*

Notice it. These are commandments and doctrines of men. They cause men to “perish”. But doctrines, are tools to control and manipulate the minds of other people. That's what doctrines are. That's what they do. This is why we want to receive Christ's doctrine. By it He controls and manipulates our minds. Our minds are transformed by it (Rom. 12:1-2), and by it we receive “the mind of Christ” (Phil. 2:5). Well, false doctrine is no

different, and the teachers of it are aware of its mind bending and warping power. By doctrines of devils and seducing spirits, they are able to control the minds of others. So, the false doctrines are clearly an assault on the minds and hearts of men, by these false teachers. If you become a vegetarian, you will be a better Christian, because you will be living in harmony with God's creation, and you will not be killing animals. Guess what? That's a bald lie, and is an ensnaring doctrine, a mind manipulation. If God says that eating meat is fine, then what right do these false teachers have of ensnaring your conscience? and getting you to think what God says is good, is really bad? Think of it. God says the creatures of God are good for mans food, and are nothing to be refused. But Rev. Barley Green wants you to embrace the doctrine that God doesn't really know whats good for man. Barley Juice is better than blade steak any day. New and Improved Christianity! Listen. If you want to kill a cow and eat it, God says "Go ahead! If you want to open up a slaughterhouse and kill thousands of cows for people to eat. Go ahead!

These guys want to rob your conscience, and make you feel guilty, because they think their laws and doctrines are better than God's laws and doctrines. That's exactly what they do. Every one of them is subtly saying...God does not know what He is talking about.. This is a much better way. This is a much better doctrine. That is always the mark of doctrines of devils. Don't miss it, because the demons don't want you to know that they are simply offering AN IMPROVED VERSION, A BETTER DOCTRINE, A SUPERIOR WAY, AN EASIER SPIRITUALITY, A CLOSER WALK WITH GOD, A BETTER MOUSETRAP. BEWARE! BEWARE! BEWARE! This is the very heart of all seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.

Take yourself back to the fall narrative in the garden of Eden. The essence of it is this exact same seducing spirit. Yea, hath God said? The devil appeared to Eve with the express idea of taking her brain captive to new ideas, better ways and better doctrines. Satan tried to teach Adam and Eve, an improved version of Christianity! A better way to think and live...much better than the way God taught them. He would show them the way to be truly spiritual, truly happy. Satan, as you know was 100% successful in propagating his improved religion. His words reveal it all. God did not know what He was saying. He is trying to keep you ignorant. Do this and you will live. Do this and you will become like God Himself. His doctrine was designed to seize their minds and hearts and take control. And that is exactly what it did, and has been doing ever since. It has not changed. Eat carrot's and you'll be a better Christian. Eat carrots and your mind will be controlled by the false doctrine. Go into a convent or a monastery and you'll be a better Christian. Wear a chastity belt, and you'll be like Christ. Marriage is an old fashioned doctrine. It is totally unnecessary. We don't need that old institution. All of God's old doctrines and institutions are open for debate. If marriage goes, then church should go also. Old institutions are hindrances in today's electronic androgynous society. Mung beans are Ok. Salad is OK. But a steak is an abomination. It's cruelty to animals to eat them! If you want to be more spiritual, follow these 15 steps to a happier you. If you want to get the most out of life buy this book that will show you how to live your best life now. Want more money, sow a little seed money to me, and do this or do that. It will bring you Gods blessings on your bank account. If you do this you'll have a BMW. If

you do this you'll never want. If you do this you won't need that. It never ends.

4. Paul's instructions on how to be a good minister in the face of apostates and their devious doctrines.

1Ti 4:6-7 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself *rather* unto godliness.

If you want to be a good minister in times of declension here is God's key. "*Put the brethren in remembrance of these things*". There is no compromising with them. There is no leading them on to think, everything's OK. You believe what you want, and I'll believe what I want. No. PUT THEM IN REMEMBRANCE! They know the truth that they have chosen to leave. Remind them. That is their only hope for rescue. Turn back to the lord you have rejected. That seems simple enough, doesn't it? Remind the brothers of these things! Notice that if you do this, it is because you yourself are "*nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine*". This is what America needs right now "GOOD MINISTERS"! Where are they? If you have one in your church, you can bet that he is reminding people of the dangers of the apostates, false prophets, deceivers, workers of iniquity and proponents of new and improved versions of Christianity. You cannot improve on Christ! Stick with Him, and you will be a good minister!

All false doctrine, all doctrine of demons, springs from the original seducing spirit, Satan. His doctrine has not changed ever since he first perpetrated it and foisted it upon Adam and Eve, he always leading people to believe that his version is an improvement over what God has said. Guess what? He is foisting it upon the consciences of millions even today. You need to be alive to God and the truth enough so that you can recognize this stuff. Demons are all around, and their attacks within the Church are furious and unrelenting. Preachers need to become "good ministers" and get people right with God, instead of telling people how to have better sex, or how to make more money, or how to grow bigger tomatoes. Men are perishing. Their own flocks are being seduced as they speak. The sheep are being scattered on every hand. They need to get their congregations on their knees, reading their Bibles, and filling their minds with Christ's doctrines. These things are the only answer, and good ministers will be nourished up in these "good doctrines", and get their people so nourished up in the "good doctrines" also. I am herby "putting you in remembrance of these things" today. Don't walk away from this opportunity to repent, and get back to God, if that's what you need to do. I have reminded you, and I'm praying that the Holy Spirit will use it to bring you and others like you back from the realm of evil spirits and into the realm of God's Spirit, the Spirit of Truth and Righteousness.