

1 Timothy 4 - Seducing Spirits

December 10, 2015

1 Timothy 4:1-6

- 1 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.

Colossians 2:8-10 NAS

- 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy (*philosophia - love and pursuit of wisdom*) and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.
- 9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,
- 10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

Colossians 2:18-19 NAS

- 18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,
- 19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

Paul identifies 3 variations of spiritual error and false doctrine:

1. Human Philosophy - *mimicking Christian ideals without embracing Christ, "good" is many times the enemy of "God"*

"...philosophy - empty deception - the tradition of men - the elementary principles of the world..."
Col 2:8

Psychology and humanism wrapped in pseudo-spiritual terminology. Snippets of truth create immediate excitement, temporary relief and a humanistic pride, but have no eternal value of honoring or pleasing God.

Human Philosophy...	Biblical Doctrine...
exalts man, philosophy, methodology	exalts God
relies on self-will and self-discipline	crucifies self-life - Christ lives within

focuses on acquiring knowledge	focuses on knowing God
self-gratification & self-justification	pleases & honors God
promotes self-reliance, independence	promotes total dependence on God

Friedrich Nietzsche, 1844-1900, German philosopher

"That which does not kill us, makes us stronger."

"To live is to suffer, to survive is to find some meaning in the suffering."

"God is dead."

"You have your way. I have my way. As for the right way, the correct way, and the only way, it does not exist."

"Ah, women. They make the highs higher and the lows more frequent."

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, **came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom**, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

2 **For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.**

3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

4 **And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:**

5 **That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.**

2. **Asceticism** - attempting to achieve a higher spiritual state by rigorous self-denial and self-abasement

Asceticism promotes three errors of the heart:

1. the pride of spiritual elitism
2. will-worship and self-discipline
3. superficial relief from guilt

"...forbidding to marry - commanding to abstain from meats - delighting in self-abasement..." Col 2:18, 1 Tim 4

Matthew 6:16

"Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: **for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast.** Verily I say unto you, They have their reward."

1 Timothy 4:1-5

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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.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NAS

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may win.**

25 **Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things.** They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

26 **Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;**

27 **but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.**

Disciplining the flesh to achieve a higher spiritual state, to earn God's favor, or absolve yourself from sin is asceticism, vain religion and self-righteousness.

Disciplining the flesh to starve and weaken the fleshly appetites, so you can seek God without distraction and obey His Word, is exercising godliness.

3. **Mysticism**

The pride of exclusive or secret knowledge; knowledge that others either don't possess or can't access. It is knowledge of the obscure and the peripheral. What is mysterious and supernatural is intriguing to human nature.

Colossians 2:18 NAS

"Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and **the worship** (*threskeía - religion*) **of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind.**"

Invoking the help of angels, as well as understanding the hierarchy and ranking of angels was a popular trend at this time. Some even thought they could or had to approach God through the mediation of angels.

Exorcism Thriving in U.S., Say Experts

ABC News, September 11, 2015

"By conservative estimates, there are at least five or six hundred evangelical exorcism ministries in operation today, and quite possibly two or three times this many," he writes, in addition to numerous exorcisms performed by charismatic, Pentecostal and other brands of Christianity.

Some involve tying people to chairs and then trying to scream the demons out of them; others retch and curse while writhing on the floor. Some are more like therapy sessions, where counselor-exorcists discuss demons of lust and guilt along with traditional mental

health concerns.

Many conservative protestants see the devil as an active force in the everyday lives of people, and feel that exorcism is the natural way to deal with it. They might undergo several exorcisms — also called a "deliverance" — a month.

New Age religions also have their own brand of exorcism, believing that spirits of the dead and other supernatural creatures routinely interfere with and sometimes possess the living, and must be told to leave.

In 1997, a Korean Christian woman was stomped to death in Glendale, Calif., and in the Bronx section of New York City, a 5-year-old girl died after being forced to swallow a mixture containing ammonia and vinegar and having her mouth taped shut.

In 1998, a 17-year-old girl in Sayville, N.Y., was suffocated by her mother with a plastic bag, in an effort to destroy a demon inside her.

Cuneo reports that a Wisconsin woman successfully sued her psychiatrist in 1997, after he diagnosed her as diabolically possessed, and having 126 personalities, including the bride of Satan and a duck. The experience left her suicidal, she claimed."