



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The First Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy

Chapter 4

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Introduction

- The main function of the bishop is to guard the faith by:
 - ❖ Preaching it
 - ❖ Confirming the believers in it
 - ❖ Defending it
- St. Paul in chapter 4 instructs his disciple St. Timothy how to guard the faith:
 - ❖ Prediction of a coming apostasy
 - ❖ St. Timothy's duty toward it
 - ❖ General directions to him



Apostasy

- Spirit says: (Dan 7:25; Dan 8:23; Dan 11:30; Mt 24:11-24)
- Latter times: the new convent and before the appearance of Antichrist
- Deceiving spirits vs. the Spirit of Truth
- Any teaching against the Truth is from the demons



Apostasy

- Hypocrisy: sheep's clothing. It is the tool of false teachers
- Seared with hot iron: implying their extreme insensibility
- They bear the marks of their hypocrisy in their conscience (the image is taken from the branding of criminals)



Apostasy

- Forbidding to marry: to appear as morally perfect and spiritual
- Abstain from foods: false spiritualism vs. fasting and self-control
- Though all are partakers in these foods created by God, only the believers fulfill God's design in creation by partaking of them with thanksgiving



Apostasy

- Others either abstain from them, or in partaking of them, do not do so with thanksgiving
- The believers are those who know the truth and abide in it and not those who appear godly to deceive the people (morality vs. spirituality)



Apostasy

- The gifts which are from God ought not to be despised
- Foods, though pure in themselves, become impure by being received with an unthankful mind (Rom 14:6; Tit 1:15)
- They are sanctified by the Word of God (Gen 1:29)



Apostasy

- When man is about to use it, he is to sanctify or set it apart to that use by prayer, thanksgiving, and the Word of God
- Set apart as holy to be separated from the rest of creature which is under the bondage of vanity and corruption (Rom 8:19)



Apostasy

- The good minister of Jesus Christ:
 - ❖ Is nourished in the words of faith
 - ❖ Carefully follows the good doctrine (explanations and applications of the faith)
 - ❖ Instructs the brethren with the truth
- Timothy is a good example of this



Apostasy

- The good minister also:
 - ❖ Rejects false teaching
 - ❖ Exercises himself toward godliness
- Profane: because they lead away from godliness
- Old wives' fables: myths
- The goal of self-discipline is godliness



Apostasy

- Reaching the inward man through the outward discipline, profits somewhat
- But godliness is profitable for all things. Why?
- It has the promise of life in its truest enjoyments and employments now, and life blessed and eternal, hereafter



Apostasy

- “Faithful is the saying” confirms the assertion as to the “promise” attached to “godliness”
- Lest verse 8 be interpreted as the followers of God should enjoy worldly prosperity and exemption from natural evils



Apostasy

- He said, it is because we exercise ourselves to godliness that we have both labor and reproach
- We accepted these because we trust in the living God
- In the midst of persecutions and afflictions, we have the peace of God



Apostasy

- Savior of all men: He died for everyone
- Especially for those who believe because only they accepted His gift of Salvation
- Those that perish, perish through their own fault



Apostasy

- Let it be the sum and substance of your preaching (with authority), that true religion is profitable for both worlds
- Vice destroys both body and soul
- Christ tasted death for every man
- He saves to the uttermost all them that believe in His name



General Directions To Timothy

- Act so as to be respected in spite of your youth
- Be an example: the true way of preventing men from despising your youth
- Word: in all that you say in public and private and the word of doctrine
- Conduct: behavior (application of the Word of God)



General Directions To Timothy

- Love: In love to God and man; show that this is the principle and motive of all your conduct
- Spirit: In the manner and disposition in which you do all things
- Faith: Be faithful
- Purity: Chastity of body and mind



General Directions To Timothy

- Give attention to:
 - ❖ Reading: public reading of Scripture
 - ❖ Exhortation: declaring applications of Scripture (addressed to the feelings and will)
 - ❖ Doctrine: teaching explanations of Scripture (addressed to the understanding)

General Directions To Timothy



- Do not neglect the gift — by letting it lie unused
- Priesthood is a gift of the Spirit
- Prophecy (1 Tim 1:18): The leaders of the church declare by the Holy Spirit the will of God to the called ones to the office of the priesthood

General Directions To Timothy



- Laying on of hands: The consecration and ordination
- Eldership: The bishops
- Meditate: Revolve them frequently in your mind; consider deeply their nature and importance; and let all your conduct flow from this inward feeling and conviction



General Directions To Timothy

- Give yourself entirely to them: Entire self-dedication
- Progress: toward perfection and the image of the ideal bishop
- Evident to all: not for your glory but for the winning of souls
- Watch your piety and the orthodoxy of the doctrines

General Directions To Timothy



- The teaching will be of no avail unless one's own life is in accordance with it; and one's own purity of life is not enough unless one is diligent in teaching
- Continue in them: This is your calling
- In performing faithfully his duty to others, the bishop is promoting his own salvation and those who hear him (his flock)



Conclusion

- Why do we pray before eating?
- What are the characteristics of the good minister?
- Why is spirituality preferred over morality?
- Why do the believers suffer? Does this contradict with the promise of the life that now is?
- What should the minister do to be saved?