

Teacher Class Notes

I Timothy: Lesson #57 – The Spirit Says Some Will Fall Away For Wednesday, Dec. 3rd

Read I Tim. I Tim. 3:14 – 4:16 (a simplified explanation of the text is supplied at the end of these notes).

Memory Verse: I Tim. 4:1 “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith.”

We are still studying about the first letter that Paul wrote to Timothy. *Show the class the I Timothy poster so that they can review things this epistle is talking about.*

Behaving in the House of God

- Paul wrote to Timothy about how Christians should behave in the house of God. The house of God is not the church building, but it’s the church itself, the people who are saved.
- We should remember that God expects people in His house to live and behave in a good way.
- Even though the church building is not the house of God, it is still an important place because we assemble to worship God there. When we are in the church building, what kind of things should we be careful about?
 - Don’t talk during the services.
 - Don’t run in the church building. You could run into people, especially older people and hurt them.
 - Do your Bible lessons.

Mysteries About Jesus

- Paul uses the word “mystery” a lot when he writes his letters. A mystery is something that was hidden, that people had not known about, but then God told them about it in His Word. There were several great mysteries about Jesus:
 - He was God come down to live in the flesh as a man. That’s something that may be hard for us to understand, but its true.
 - Jesus was seen by angels. They were part of His life from birth to death to His resurrection and ascension.
 - Jesus was preached to the Gentiles. Nearly everything in the Old Testament was about Israel. Jesus lived as a Jew under the Law of Moses. He grew up in Israel and never traveled outside of it. Yet in time His story was preached among Gentiles and has continued to be since those days. People all over the world, including us follow Him.
 - Jesus was taken up into glory. We remember how the apostles watched as He went up in the clouds and went to sit at the right hand of God. From there He continues to rule.

Some Will Depart From the Faith

- There are so many wonderful truths God gave us in His Word – truths about Jesus and the church and heaven and godliness.
- It's sad to think that some people don't keep following God's Word. They may still go to church, but many churches don't really follow the Bible. They make up their own laws and do things the Scripture never taught. They fall away from the truth that God gave us. That's what our **memory verse** is about: I Tim. 4:1 "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith." *Please work with the class to learn this memory verse.*
- Back in Paul's time some people started saying that you couldn't eat certain types of meat and others said you couldn't get married. But Paul said God had given both of those. In the New Testament, Jesus never says we can't get married or eat a certain kind of meat. So these people were teaching things God did not teach.
- Other people taught all kinds of stories that the Bible never taught, but Paul said we shouldn't be studying those things. We should just study the Bible.

Exercising Your Body and Exercising Your Spirit

- A lot of people exercise. Most doctors think we should exercise a lot to keep us healthy. That's probably true. It would help us live healthier lives.
- But what about the spiritual person you are inside? Did you know your spirit needs to be exercised?
- We exercise our spirit by worshipping God, by praying, by studying His Word, and by living righteously. Those kind of things build us up on the inside and make us more healthy spiritually.
- Which kind of exercise do you think is most important – Exercising your body or exercising your spirit? Did you know that one day you won't have your body any more, it will die. But your spirit will always be alive.
- Exercising your spirit will help you to be a better person in this life, it will help your family, and make you happier. But even more important it will get us ready to go to heaven.

Young People Can Be Great Examples

- You don't have to be an older person to be important to God. He tells us that young people can be good examples. Paul tells us that younger people can be a good example...
- ...In the way they talk. Not using bad words or talking bad about other people. By not lying. By singing to God.
- ...In the way you live. By living for God, studying your Bible lesson and praying.
- ...In loving other people. Showing love for your parents and other members of your family, and also showing love for other people at church.
- ...In your faith. By really believing in God, and in Jesus and in the Bible.
- ...In purity. By not telling dirty stories or watching bad shows on TV.

Bible Quiz: Review the Bible questions with the class. Also encourage them to study them at home.

Simplified Explanation of the Text

Great Mysteries About Jesus

I Tim. 3:14-15 I'm hoping that I can come to you soon, but if I am delayed, I am writing these things to you, so that you can know how you must behave in God's house, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

16 Now without any disagreement, we all confess "There is great mystery about He who we worship and hold in reverence. God appeared in the flesh. He was shown to be righteous and vindicated in the Spirit. He was seen by angels. He was proclaimed to the Gentiles. He was believed on in the world. He was received up into glory."

Some Will Depart From the Faith

4:1-2 But the Spirit speaks plainly and unmistakably that in times after this some will separate themselves from the faith, giving attention to deceiving spirits and demonic teachings who speak lies in hypocrisy. Their consciences have been seared and branded by a hot iron.

3-5 Forbidding marriage. Abstaining from foods. Things which God created, for those who are faithful and know the truth, to be received with thanksgiving. For everything God created is good and none of it should be despised and rejected, if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is sanctified by the Word of God and by prayer.

6 If you set these truths out for the brethren, you shall be a good servant of Jesus Christ, fed in words of the faith and sound teaching which you have followed.

7 But reject fictitious worldly myths and silly old stories more fit for old women. Instead, exercise yourself for a worshipful respect of God.

8-9 Exercising the body profits you a little, but a true reverence for God will profit you in everything because it has promises for our lives now, and for life to come. That is a saying that can be believed.

10 This is the reason we work tirelessly and endure people's abusive insults – because we put our trust on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, but especially those who believe.

11 These are the kind of things to command and teach.

Let No One Despise Your Youth

12 Let no one disregard your teaching just because you are young. But prevent that by setting an example for other believers to follow, in the words you speak, in the way you live, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity.

Things Timothy Should Be Giving Special Attention To

13 Until I come, give attention to reading, to admonishing others and to teaching.

14 Don't carelessly neglect the gift in you, which was given you by prophecy with the laying on of the elder's hands.

15 For certain ones have already turned aside to follow after Satan.

16 Give special attention to your own life, and to what you teach. Keep doing this, because doing this will save both you and those that hear you.