

SOUND WALK IN THE CHURCH

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have prayed and read the Bible for this lesson to learn what the Holy Spirit wants you to teach your students. Then let Him guide you in using these notes. When you follow this procedure you will be a better teacher of your students.

Lesson Aim: Learn how to live a godly life to maintain a sound walk with other members in the church.

Suggestion: This lesson will call attention to important truths in this week's lesson. After the lesson, give your class next week's Student Lesson so they can share their answers in class next week.

Introduction: Paul warned Timothy that some church members would become apostates, departing from the faith to follow seducing spirits and doctrines of demons. He was to watch out for false teachers and give them no place to teach in the church at Ephesus. Timothy was to defend the church by living a godly life as an example to the true believers. In this way he would save himself and the true believers in the church from false doctrine. "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (1 Tim 4:8b).

Will people lose their salvation, if they depart from the faith? 4:1

People cannot lose their salvation. Jesus said, "I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. My Father, Who gave them to Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand" (Jn 10:28-29). So how does a person depart from the faith? Notice, they are not departing from their faith, but from the faith. The faith refers to the doctrine of faith. People can depart from their faith in a doctrine, but never from their faith in Jesus as their Savior. Why? They are a new person with a new heart that will not depart from Jesus (2 Cor 5:17).

Why is it wrong to forbid marriage and to abstain from eating meat? 4:3-4

God established marriage as a good thing when He created Eve to live with Adam, be his helper and bear children (Gen 1:28). Some people choose not to marry when war or tribulation is at hand so they do not put a family in danger. Others refuse to marry, so they can focus on the ministry God has given them. But religions that forbid marriage are denying that God provided a blessing in marriage when it is received with thanksgiving. As for the eating of meat, Hindus believe some people's souls are reincarnated in the bodies of animals, so killing an animal is as horrible as killing a person. But God created all creatures which can be eaten as food when received with thanksgiving (Gen 9:23).

How can apostates be defeated from corrupting a church with false doctrines? 4:6-10

First, a good pastor will teach his people how to defend themselves against apostates by negative and positive preaching and teaching. He will be negative by exposing the apostates' false doctrines. Jesus was negative with the scribes and Pharisees (Mt 23). A good pastor must also be positive by teaching the truth from the Word of God (4:6). Second, a pastor must exercise himself unto godliness and teach his people how to do it. Believers need to know their Bibles practically and pray earnestly so they can witness effectively and obey willingly. Physical exercise is profitable now, but spiritual exercise is profitable now and forever. Apostates will be defeated by the truth of God's Word and by the godly lives of God's people.

How can God be the Savior of all men? 4:10

God is the potential Savior of all men: He sent His Son to pay for the sins of all men (1 Tim 2:6; Heb 2:9; 1 Jn 2:2). But God is the actual Savior of only those that believe: He raised His Son to share His life with them (Jn 1:12-13; 3:16; 5:24).

How can a pastor or leader be an effective teacher? 4:16

Timothy was exhorted to take heed, first to his own personal life, and then to the doctrine, the subject he was teaching. A person must pay attention to his own life first, to be certain he is living according to the Word of God that he is teaching. Otherwise he would be a hypocrite. Students can detect a hypocrite very quickly and when they do, they stop listening to such a teacher. Timothy had to exercise himself in godliness (4:7), while he was teaching others.