1 Timothy 4:1-10 - Exploration

**Verse 1. - But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,**

1. Fall away, or depart, or apostatize (become apostate). Comes from the Greek word aphistemi, meaning to withdraw or remove.
2. This does not mean that they leave the faith it means as a whole the nations will start to not worship the true God. We can see that in today’s society more than ever where people worship themselves more than God. Romans 1:22 states “Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible mankind, of birds, four-footed animals, and crawling creatures.”
3. People are being led astray by teachings not of man, as we heard in our bible study on 2 Peter but by the teachings of Satan and his legions. There has been a mass exodus from Christianity in the last 20 or so years. Societies have traded the true God and Jesus of the bible for a blasphemous Christ who is ok with everything and all you have to do to go to heaven is die.

**Verse 2. - by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,**

1. Have you ever sat and wondered if they truly believe what they say? Or is it like us if we tried to say the same things that society preaches today with a straight face. The scripture is clear here that they believe what they say. The same as we know the truth they believe they are speaking the truth because their consciences have become seared to the point of not knowing the truth. Romans 1 again brings this up in verse 28 when God gave them a debased or depraved mind.

**Verse 3. - who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.**

1. This is a very famous verse for the first part. This is where Paul by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit explicitly says do not forbid people to marry. This goes in contradiction with Roman Catholic teaching that Priests cannot be married. Even though their “first priest” was Peter who was married.
2. The second part of this verse was primarily written to the Jews of the day. As we all know Paul was Hebrew by birth, but we saw in his writings and in Acts that Messianic Jews (as they are known today) were still trying to follow the Levitical laws and Christ at the same time.
3. This verse as a whole does not mean that if God tells you not to marry that you should anyway, and that you should eat absolutely anything. It means that as a church we are not to tell people to abstain from such things unless it is God appointed and for their health.

**Verses 4 and 5 - For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude; for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.**

1. In continuation of the previous verse, Paul was telling us that everything is sanctified by His Word and through prayer. Gen 1. (God created and it was good), Acts 10:15 (What God calls Holy, it is Holy) or clean and unclean.
2. 1 Corinthians 10:31 “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all things for the glory of God.” All things were created good by God and all of creation was very good as we see in Gen 1:31.

**Verse 6 - In pointing out these things to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the good doctrine which you have been following.**

1. When we call out sin, or when we call out false teaching it strengthens our resolve in Christ Jesus. It reaffirms our doctrinal stance and allows us to be separate from the world and its teachings.
2. This is one of the hardest things to do as a human. Everyone wants to be accepted and it is definitely easier to just go with the flow and say it's not my place to judge. When in reality it is our place to take a stand and our place to judge. Because what we bind on earth will be bound in heaven (Matt 18), and 1 Corinthians 6:3 “Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?”

**Verse 7 - But stay away from worthless stories that are typical of old women. Rather, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;**

1. This should be obvious to all of us, but let us be honest we live in a part of Ohio where wives tales and false doctrines are taught as truth. We have all heard them and I will not go into them, but the Word of God tells us to stay away from them.

**Verses 8 and 9 - for bodily training is just slightly beneficial, but godliness is beneficial for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance.**

1. Working out is a great thing, but working out your salvation with fear and trembling is much more profitable to a human
2. Obviously Paul was not telling Timothy to not work on his body as well. He was not saying just eat whatever you want, do whatever you want, just read your bible and say your prayers. He was saying that the important part of this life is following Christ. It is disciplining yourself in the scriptures because they have eternal consequences.
3. Verse 9 is a part of the 5 faithful sayings the others are also found in Timothy and Titus. (1 Timothy 1:15, Chief of Sinners), (1 Timothy 3:1, aspire to be an overseer or bishop), (2 Timothy 2:11, If we die with Him we live with Him), and (Titus 3:4-7 “4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He richly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”)

**Verse 10 - For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have set our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all mankind, especially of believers.**

1. This is our reason for going on. We serve Christ because He first served us. We set our hope in Christ because He is the only hope we have in this world. He saved us, and it is our duty to tell the world this truth.
2. Remember our labors will not be in vain. We will get to see our Savior again and we will get our Heavenly reward.

In Closing, Paul wrote two letters to Timothy training him and encouraging him for the office of ministry. He gives Timothy doctrine and what to watch out for. He gives him trustworthy sayings that are based on biblical truths. This passage of scripture is timeless. It was relevant in Paul’s day as it is definitely in ours as well. We are seeing it be more and more relevant as time passes on and the return of our Kind and Savior becomes much more imminent.

Prayer