

THE PASTORAL LETTERS

People of Gratitude

1 Timothy 4:1-5

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1. In the midst of such glorious things being spoken of the church as the pillar and support of truth, believers are exhorted to be on guard against deceitful doctrines that are sure to come.

- a. The reality is that some people who profess to be Christians will be _____ and will fall away from the faith.
- b. These false teachings need to be seen for what they are: doctrines of _____.
- c. These false doctrines are spread by people whose consciences have been _____ because of their embrace of things that are known lies.

2. Asceticism is a false teaching that fools people into thinking they are being spiritual when in fact they are denying the Scriptures. It is an attempt to obtain _____ by what is being given up.

- a. It is a false teaching to forbid and distort the institution of marriage as a means of godliness.

- b. It is a false teaching to embrace _____ legalism as a means of godliness.

3. The key to dealing with the false teaching of asceticism is God centered gratitude.

- a. God has created both marriage and food to be gratefully _____ by those who embrace the truth.
- b. Remember that all God has created is _____ and is to be received with gratitude.
- c. Though marriage and food may seem like ordinary things, believers grow in godliness through them by understanding this: *“God’s word to man warrants him to use the creation gift, and man’s _____ to God acknowledges the gift, and asks His blessing on it.”* - Patrick Fairbairn