The Pastoral Epistles (Letters)

- Lesson 4 -

| 1 Timothy 4:1-16 | Your Personal Notes: |
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| 1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giv- | |
| ing heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; | |
| 2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; | |
| 3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain | |
| from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. | |
| 4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: | |
| 5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. | |
| 6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Je- | |
| sus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. | |
| 7 But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and ex- | |
| ercise thyself rather unto godliness. | |
| 8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the | |
| life that now is, and of that which is to come. 9 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all accepta- | |
| tion. | |
| 10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is | |
| the Saviour of all men, specially of those that be- | |
| lieve. | |
| 11 These things command and teach.12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an | |
| example of the believers, in word, in conversation, | |
| in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. 13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to ex- | |
| hortation, to doctrine. | |
| 14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was | |
| given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. | |
| 15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly | |
| to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. | |
| 16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both | |
| save thyself, and them that hear thee. | |

Spurgeon's Notes

- 4:8—They overvalue this life who consider it to be a better thing than divine love, for the love of God is better than life—his loving-kindness is better than life itself. Some would give anything for their lives, but they would give nothing for God's love. If their lives were in danger, they would hasten to the physician; but though they do not enjoy the love of God, they yet sit at ease and seek not the priceless benefit. They who feel rightly think it a cheap thing to live apart from God. They recognize that life would be but death unless God were with us and that death itself is but the vestibule of life while God is our joy and our strength.
- 4:13—Read and depend on the Spirit of God. How often do we open the sacred book and read a chapter through—perhaps at family prayer or perhaps in our own private devotion—and, having read from the first verse to the last, we shut up the book thinking we have done something right and proper and in a vague way somehow profitable to us? Right and proper as the thing is, we may really have gained nothing thereby. We may, in fact, have only drilled ourselves in the merely external part of religion and may not have enjoyed anything spiritual or anything that can be beneficial to our souls if we have forgotten the divine spirit through whom the world has come to us.