

INTRODUCTION

What a privilege we have had...mystery of godliness!

What a responsibility we now know that we have...pillar and ground of the truth!

Understanding the times we live in.

Knowing what to do as the disciples of Jesus Christ in such times.

TEXT

1 Timothy 4:1 NKJV Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

BODY

- I. The Holy Spirit Has Spoken Expressly About What We Should Expect
 - A. 1 Tim 4:1a
 1. NKJV Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times...
 2. GEN the Spirit speaketh evidently, that in the latter times...
 3. KJV the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times...
 - B. We creatures do not, by our own power, know the future
 1. that is one of the thing that distinguishes creatures from our great Creator
 2. we cannot even know everything about the present or the past; and we do not have any certain knowledge of the future by our own power
 - C. But God, our Creator, is omniscient; that is, He knows everything, absolutely everything
 1. He never had to find it out or learn it; He always knows everything
 2. therefore He knows the future, what we call the future
 - D. There are many things about the future that God our Creator has not made known to us; we are to trust Him
 1. that He has all of that under His control, and
 2. that He will do what is best
 - E. There are some things about the future that God our Creator has made known to us
 1. the Holy Spirit of God has carried men along, so that they were able to write down the very word of God; what they wrote is the holy scriptures, the Bible
 2. what the Bible says, then, is the Holy Spirit speaking, which our Lord Jesus commands us to hear

- F. John chapters 15 and 16 - Some of these things about the future tell us what to expect in this life, between the time when the Lord Jesus came, and when He shall come again, which today's verse calls, "latter times" or "later times"
1. John 15:7 NKJV If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you ~~desire~~ will, and it shall be done for you.
 2. John 15:10 NKJV If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.
 3. John 15:19-20 NKJV If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' **If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.** If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.
 4. John 16:2 NKJV They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.
- G. The Lord Jesus tells us these things about the future, about what to expect in this life, to encourage us when we have troubles
1. John 16:1 NKJV "These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble.
 2. John 16:4a NKJV But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them."
- H. I find myself rejoicing inside at this!
- I. Some of the things the Lord has told us about the future are in visions, which we might have trouble interpreting, or being sure that we are interpreting correctly; some things are spoken to us in language that men distort, so that we might be unsure of what is meant by it; but this part, which the apostle mentions here, the Spirit says explicitly; there is no room to be unsure of what is meant by it:

The Holy Spirit has spoken expressly about what we should expect

- II. We Should Expect That Some Shall Depart From the Faith
 - A. G868 apostēsontai
 - 1. literally to stand off or away
 - 2. our word “apostasize”
 - B. The faith - those things the Lord Jesus and His apostles taught us to believe, as written down in the Bible
 - 1. the gospel of Jesus Christ
 - 2. the mystery of godliness
 - C. Some shall believe other things instead of those things
 - 1. denying or ignoring some things that are true
 - 2. accepting some things that are not true
 - D. This plays out in different ways
 - 1. small: a person or a few people
 - 2. large: the Roman Catholic system; or a whole denomination of hundreds or thousands of groups
 - 3. personal: a person or group previously professing the truth does themselves apostacize
 - 4. historical: a group has been apostate for generations; the present members did not personally personally apostacize, but are apostate
 - E. APPLICATION
 - 1. this is one of the most distressing, upsetting things in life
 - 2. the fact that the Holy Spirit expressly said this would happen, and that it was written down for us to know, helps my spirit tremendously
 - 3. illus. the David Lines home

The Holy Spirit has spoken expressly about what we should expect
We should expect that some shall depart from the faith

- III. Some Shall Depart From the Faith By Giving Heed to What They Should Not
- A. To give heed to something; to pay attention to it; to devote yourself to it
 - B. Literally, to hold your mind on something
 - C. In the case of something verbal, a message in words, either spoken or written, the concept is to listen attentively, and to accept the message as true
 - D. We come to the faith by giving heed to the gospel of Jesus Christ when it is preached; and this is the work of the Lord in us
 1. Acts 8:5-6 NKJV Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. 6 And the multitudes with one accord **heeded** the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.
 2. Acts 16:13-14 NKJV And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. 14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart **to heed** the things spoken by Paul.
 - E. We stay in the faith by giving heed to that same gospel, and, more broadly, to all that the Bible says
 1. Hebrews 2:1 NKJV Therefore we must **give** the more earnest **heed** to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.
 2. 2 Peter 1:16-21 NKJV For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well **to heed** as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.
 - F. But some give heed to what they should not
 1. deceiving spirits
 2. doctrines of demons
 3. see 1 John 4:1-3

CONCLUSION

The Holy Spirit has spoken expressly about what we should expect

We should expect that some shall depart from the faith

Some shall depart from the faith by giving heed to what they should not

May it be that we here are not among those who shall apostacize.

-Let us continue meeting together every Lord's Day.

-Let us continue preaching and heeding the Word of God.

-Let us continue praying the Lord will help us.

Jeremiah - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Hebrews 1:1-3

Stephen - Scripture Reading - Jeremiah 23:13-20

Jeff - Congregational Prayer

Audrey - Prelude "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

Rita - Trinity 27 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Rita - Trinity 535 "How Good It Is to Thank the Lord"

Allison - Trinity 596 "Jesus Lives, and So Shall I"

GEN: Nowe the Spirit speaketh evidently
KJV: Now the Spirit speaketh expressly
NKJV, ESV: Now the Spirit expressly says
CSB: Now the Spirit explicitly says

- this need not be discerned; it is not merely implied
- when the Word of God is written by those whom the Holy Spirit carries along or inspires to write, the Bible refers to it as the Holy Spirit speaking
- the Lord Jesus said repeatedly in the book of Revelation, "he who has ears, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches"

KJV, GEN: in the latter times
NKJV: in latter times
ESV, CSB: in later times

- something characterizes the latter times
- not meaning times that were way off in the future for Timothy and the church in Ephesus
- but the times that were upon them

GEN, KJV: some shall depart from the faith
NKJV, ESV, CSB: some will depart from the faith

Barnes:

The Greek word here - ἀποστήσονται apostēsontai - is that from which we have derived the word "apostatize," and would be properly so rendered here.
The use of the word "some," here τινες tines - does not imply that the number would be small.

Calvin:

in all ages, there have been impostors, who recommended false worship, by which true godliness was buried

Clarke:

They will apostatize from the faith, i.e. from Christianity; renouncing the whole system in effect, by bringing in doctrines which render its essential truths null and void, or denying and renouncing such doctrines as are essential to Christianity as a system of salvation. A man may hold all the truths of Christianity, and yet render them of none effect by holding other doctrines which counteract their influence; or he may apostatize by denying some essential doctrine, though he bring in nothing heterodox.

Bengel:

viz. by denying what is true and adding what is false

Carroll:

This is apostasy, not from personal faith, but from "the faith" – the truth embodied in the mystery of godliness.

- this is one of the most distressing, upsetting things in life
- the fact that the Holy Spirit expressly said this would happen, and that it was written down for us to know, helps my spirit tremendously
- illus. the David Lines home

GEN: and shall giue heede vnto
KJV, NKJV: giving heed to
ESV: by devoting themselves to
CSB: paying attention to

G4337 *prosecho*

This is how we come to be in the faith.

Acts 8:5-6 NKJV Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. 6 And the multitudes with one accord **heeded** the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

Acts 16:13-14 NKJV And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. 14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart **to heed** the things spoken by Paul.

This is how we stay in the faith

Hebrews 2:1 NKJV Therefore we must **give** the more earnest **heed** to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

2 Peter 1:16-21 NKJV For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well **to heed** as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

GEN: spirits of error
KJV: seducing spirits
NKJV: deceiving spirits
ESV, CSB: deceitful spirits

1 John 4:1-6

Calvin:

He means prophets or teachers, to whom he gives this designation, because they boast of the Spirit, and, under this title, insinuate themselves into the favor of the people. This, indeed, is true at all times, that men, whatever they are, speak under the excitement of the spirit. But it is not the same spirit that excites them all; for sometimes Satan is a lying spirit in the mouth of the false prophets, in order to deceive unbelievers, who deserve to be deceived. (1Kg_22:21.) On the other hand, every one that renders due honor to Christ speaks by the Spirit of God, as Paul testifies. (1Co_12:3.)s

Gill:

either to doctrines which are of a deceiving nature; or to men who profess to have the Spirit of God, and have not, but are evil men and seducers, deceiving, and being deceived

Clarke:

Pretenders to inspiration, and false teachers of every kind, belong to this class.

Bengel:

Seducing spirits are those who speak by false prophets, and are called spirits, not only in respect of their own nature, but because they inspire[29] (with their deceit) these false prophets

Fairbairn:

to stamp the instrumentality as essentially evil, working under the influence, and for the interest, of the adversary of souls. Some have supposed the instrumental agents themselves to be designated seductive spirits and demoniacal teachers; but this is contrary to the usage of Scripture, and also to the connection here. It is the unseen prime movers of the mischief in the spirit-world, not the instruments employed by them, that are so characterized by the apostle.

Carroll:

As the mystery of godliness is propagated through human agents under the influence of the Holy Spirit, so the mystery of lawlessness is propagated through human agents under the influence of Satan.

GEN, KJV: doctrines of devils

NKJV: doctrines of demons

ESV: teachings of demons

CSB: the teachings of demons

VWS:

Teachings proceeding from or inspired by demons.

