

INTRODUCTION

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the best of all good news that a person ever could hear!

God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten son, Jesus Christ, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. What good news! The death that inevitably comes at the end of this earthly life need not terrify you. When you trust myself to Jesus Christ, what is in store for you on the other side of death is everlasting life!

God is a Savior, who will have all men to be saved; to that end, He has provided a Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all... What good news! Jesus Christ stands between God and you, having paid for your pardon with His own blood. When you believe in Him, you are saved from the wrath of God to come on Judgment Day.

Jesus was crucified, killed by being nailed to a wooden cross. But on the third day, God raised Him up, and has made Him who was crucified the Lord over all. What good news! Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, and all your sins, all you have done wrong against God and against men, will be forgiven. What's more, you will be given, as a gift from God, His own Holy Spirit to live inside you.

With such good news, such a gospel, you could think that everyone who ever heard it would believe in all that Jesus Christ has taught us through His apostles, as is recorded in the Bible. But the sad truth, as the Lord Jesus has warned us, is that during the time until He comes back, many will depart from the faith. Instead of giving heed to the testimony of the Holy Spirit and of the holy angels, some people will give heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons. There will be preachers or teachers who will tell lies in hypocrisy, with their consciences seared. They, and those who listen to them, will teach things that may seem extra devout or super religious; they will forbid marriage and command that people abstain from foods.

But by the great loving care that Jesus Christ exerts for us, His disciples, we are alerted that such doctrine, forbidding marriage and commanding that we abstain from foods, points out the false teacher. Such doctrine must be false, because to forbid the eating of certain foods is to contradict the word of God, who created all things, and who has given us all His plants and all His animals for our food. There is no higher truth for us to know and believe about this than what the Bible plainly says: that every creature of God is good for food, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving.

We are thus equipped with a very useful tool for spotting false teachers and false teaching: Anyone whose doctrine includes prohibition of marriage or of certain foods, should not be listened to; whether he knows it or not, he is being used by the devil to lead people to depart from the faith. But what the Bible says about that here in 1 Timothy 4 can give rise to questions, which are perfectly valid. One question that people ask is this: If it is false teaching to prohibit certain foods, what about blood, and meat with the blood in it? Doesn't the Bible command we not eat blood? Last time we dealt with that question. The answer, in brief, is that God never gave us blood to be our food, but

instead prohibited our whole race from eating blood, Genesis 9, and prohibited the whole church from eating blood, Acts 15. So, while it is a mark of false teaching to prohibit the eating of certain foods, it is a mark of faithful teaching to prohibit the intentional eating of blood.

Today we take up another question that comes to mind for many Christians. If it is false teaching to prohibit certain foods, what about the fact that the Old Testament says not to eat certain kinds of meat, because those animals are “unclean”? How can it be false doctrine to command people not to eat foods, when, in the Old Testament, God Himself commanded that very through Moses?

The commandment from God for Israel to consider some foods clean and some unclean always was about holiness, about Israel being a holy nation, separated from all the nations, holy to the Lord.

The command from God not to eat certain foods, as unclean, was a ceremonial ordinance for Israel in the Old Covenant, to establish a certain kind of holiness. In the New Covenant, we certainly are to be holy unto the Lord, but not by the method of abstaining from certain foods.

TEXT

1 Timothy 4:1-5

BODY

- I. Abstaining from Foods Was An Ordinance for Israel In the Old Covenant - Leviticus 11
 - A. Lev 11:46-47 summary
 - B. Lev 11:1-2
 1. this is an ordinance
 - a) not law because it is universal right and wrong
 - b) but it is right because God has ordained it
 - c) we have no record of it having been given before
 - d) it is subject to repeal if and when God says differently
 2. this is for the children of Israel
 - C. What animals may and may not be eaten
 1. Lev 11:3-8 land animals
 2. Lev 11:9-12 marine animals
 3. Lev 11:13-19 birds
 4. Lev 11:20-26 bugs
 5. Lev 11:27-28 animals with paws
 6. Lev 11:29-44 creeping things

Abstaining from foods was an ordinance for Israel in the Old Covenant

- II. The Purpose of the Ordinance Prohibiting Unclean Foods Was Holiness - Leviticus 11:45
- A. For I am the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God
 - B. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy
 - C. God's people, whom He saves, are to be holy because He is holy
 - D. the manner in which that holiness is acted out is subject to what God requires; in this case, distinguishing between foods that may be eaten and foods that may not be eaten
 - E. How the prohibition against eating certain foods would make Israel holy - Leviticus 20:22-26
 1. Lev 20:23b God abhorred the pagan nations who dwelt in the promised land before Israel did because they committed all kinds of wickedness in their idolatry
 2. Lev 20:23a Israel must not adopt the ways of those nations
 3. The way in which God will have Israel to be holy is for them to be separated from the other nations or peoples
 - a) Lev 20:24b
 - b) Lev 20:26b
 4. Lev 20: 24b-25 The particular way in which God will separate Israel from the other peoples is to have them distinguish between clean animals and unclean

Abstaining from foods was an ordinance for Israel in the Old Covenant
 The purpose of the ordinance prohibiting unclean foods was holiness

- III. The Ordinance About Clean and Unclean Foods Has Been Repealed
- A. The technical term is that it has been abrogated
 - B. It was a law only for Israel during the days of the old covenant made with Israel through Moses at Mt. Sinai
 - C. God's prophet foretold how that covenant would end, to be replaced by the New Covenant - Jeremiah 31:31-34
 - D. The night before it happened, Jesus said that He would institute the New Covenant in His blood - Matthew 26:27-28 NKJV Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.
 - E. When the Lord Jesus died on the cross, that prophecy was fulfilled; the old covenant was ended
 1. Matthew 27:50-51a NKJV And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. 51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom...
 2. from then on, none of the ordinances of the old covenant were in effect for anyone, not even the Jews
 - F. Acts 10:9-16 Additionally, the old covenant ordinance about clean and unclean foods was explicitly repealed by the voice from heaven that spoke to Peter, telling him to kill and eat the animals previously considered unclean

Abstaining from foods was an ordinance for Israel in the Old Covenant
 The purpose of the ordinance prohibiting unclean foods was holiness
 The ordinance about clean and unclean foods has been repealed

IV. But God's People Are Still To Be Holy Because He Is Holy - 1 Peter 1

- A. 1 Peter 1:16 see how Peter quotes the line from the Old Covenant ordinance on clean and unclean foods
 - 1. the command to distinguish between foods is repealed; it was merely an ordinance for Israel
 - 2. but the command, "Be holy, for I am holy" cannot be repealed; it is God's command for His people always
- B. 1 Pe 1:3 whereas the basis for Moses commanding Israel to be holy was the deliverance by which God brought them up out of slavery in Egypt, the basis for Peter commanding the church to be holy is the deliverance by which God has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!
- C. 1 Pe 1:14 whereas the particular method for being holy to the Lord that God prescribed for Israel was to separate themselves from the nations around them, the particular method for being holy to the Lord that God prescribes for the church is to separate ourselves from the sins that we committed in our former lusts

CONCLUSION

Abstaining from foods was an ordinance for Israel in the Old Covenant
The purpose of the ordinance prohibiting unclean foods was holiness
The ordinance about clean and unclean foods has been repealed
But God's people are still to be holy because He is holy

No one but God had the right to institute the Old Covenant and to issue the ordinance about unclean foods. No one but God had the right to bring that old covenant to an end in favor of the New Covenant. No one but God now has the right to take people back to the Old Covenant food laws---and He has not taken us back, but has warned us against those who would.

~~Dillon~~ Jeff - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 99

Willie - Scripture Reading - Leviticus 20:22-26

Lord's Supper

Jeremiah - Congregational Prayer

Benediction - 1 Corinthians 10:31

Rita - Prelude

Journey - Trinity 700 "Trust and Obey"

Rita - Trinity 522 "Through All the Changing Scenes of Life"

Rita - Trinity 705 "Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord"

Leviticus 20:22-26 NKJV 22 'You shall therefore keep all My statutes and all My judgments, and perform them, that the land where I am bringing you to dwell may not vomit you out. 23 And you shall not walk in the statutes of the nation which I am casting out before you; for they commit all these things, and therefore I abhor them. 24 But I have said to you, "You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey." I am the LORD your God, who has separated you from the peoples. 25 You shall therefore distinguish between clean animals and unclean, between unclean birds and clean, and you shall not make yourselves abominable by beast or by bird, or by any kind of living thing that creeps on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean. 26 And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine.

Leviticus 11:44-45 NKJV 44 For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. 45 For I am the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

1 Peter 1:3,13-16 NKJV 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... 13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

1 Pe 1:22b love one another fervently with a pure heart

1 Peter 2:9-11 NKJV But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. 11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

1 Peter 2:17-18 NKJV Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. 18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.

1 Pe 3:1 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands...

- I. Was ceremonial law from the Mosaic Covenant
- II. Teaches the church today to be holy
 - A. God is holy, therefore we, His people, are to be holy
 1. God is separate from all sin
 2. we are to be separate from all sin
- III. The revoking of it teaches the church that the gospel is for the whole world
 - A. preach the gospel to all men
 - B. pray for all men

