

THE BOOK OF 1 TIMOTHY

“The Great Apostasy”
(1 Timothy 4:1–7)

“The Great Apostasy”



- Introduction / Greeting (1:1-7)
 - ▶ Jesus Christ OUR Hope (1:1,2)
 - ▶ The value & necessary commitment to the doctrine of Christ (1:3-7)
- The Lawful Use of the Law (1:5-11)
- Paul : A Pattern (1:12-17)
 - ▶ If Paul can be saved ANYONE can be saved!
- Fight the good fight (1:18-20)
- Pray for leaders (2:1-7)
- Behavior of men & women in the church (2:8-15)
- Qualifications of elders (3:1-7)
- Qualifications of Deacons (3:8-13)
- Behavior in God's House (3:14-16)

1 Timothy 4:1–7 (NKJV)

¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ³ forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴ For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; ⁵ for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. ⁶ If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. ⁷ But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.

“The Great Apostasy”

The CHURCH Needs To Be Aware & Warned



**1 Timothy 4:1
(NKJV)**

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

- **“Now”** : The particle (de) is transitional, and is translated “but” in the ASV. It shows a connection between what has just been said and what follows.
- Seeing the church is the “pillar & ground of the truth,” it (we) must be aware of the strategies of the truth’s enemies (cf. 1 Peter 4:1–18; Jude 17–18).

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- **“the Spirit expressly says”** : The Holy Spirit “spoke” - inspiration was verbal (1 Co 2:12-13; Ac 8:29; 13:2; Ep. 3:4,5).
- **“expressly”** : (rhētōs) “expressly” - without ambiguity or equivocation.
- Paul had forewarned the church at Ephesus of such apostasy once through its elders (Acts 20:28-31), and now through Timothy, who was at Ephesus (cf. 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 4:1-5; 2 Thess. 2:1-12; 2 Pet. 2:1-3).

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- **“in latter times”** : parallel to “last days” — the whole of time from Pentecost (Acts 2) till the second coming of Christ. NOT a reference to those days just before the end of the world, or to the period of eschatological events, as some contend.
- **“will depart from the faith “** : To apostatize (Luke 8:13; Hebrews 3:12). To move away from one’s original position, (Gal. 1:6, 7; 5:4)

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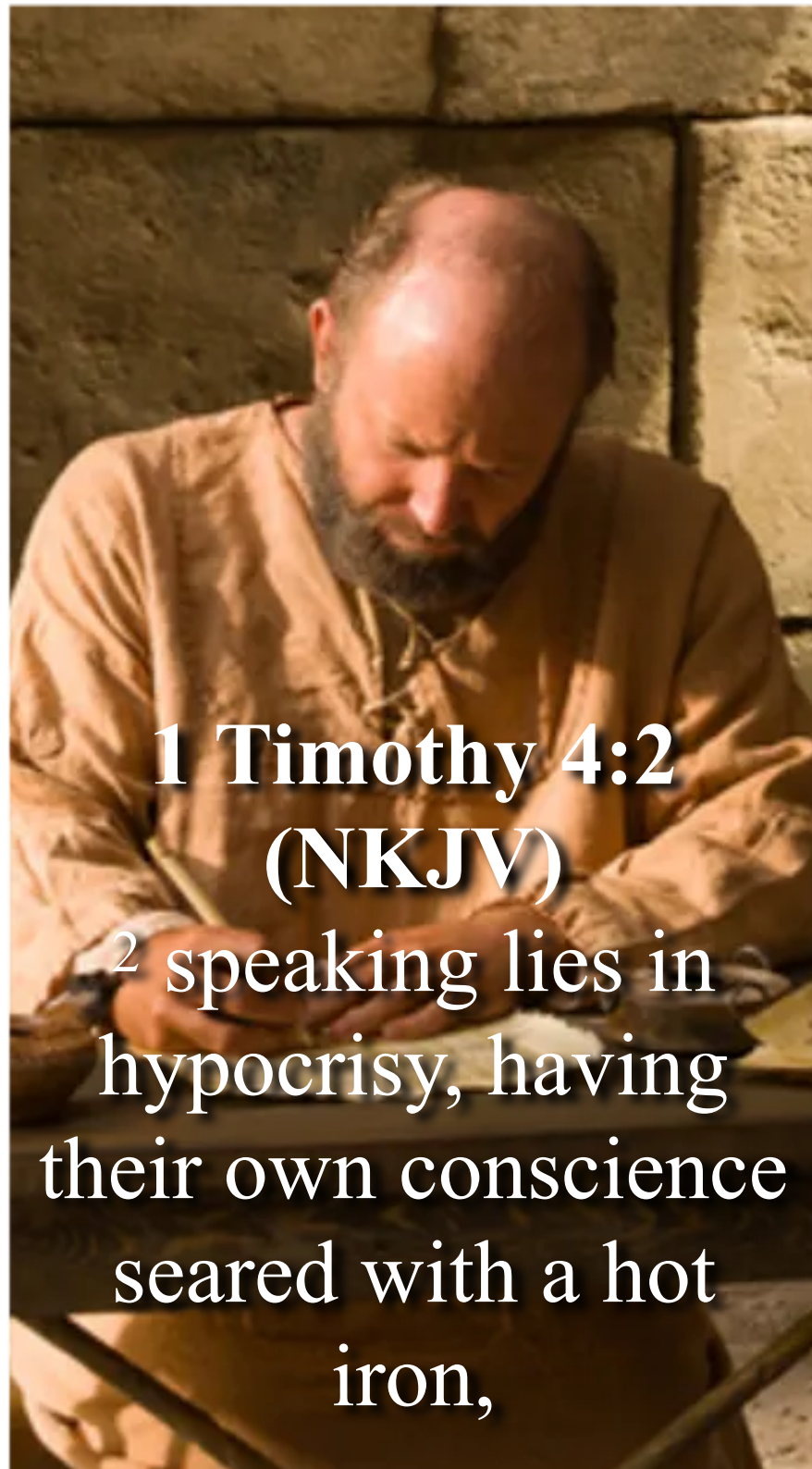


**1 Timothy 4:1
(NKJV)**

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

- **“from the faith”** : i.e., the gospel. Some will fall away from the truth revealed by the Holy Spirit (1 Timothy 1:19; 3:9; 4:6; 5:8; 6:10,21; 2 Pet. 2; 2 Thes. 2:1-12)
- **“giving heed to deceiving spirits”** : Yielding to misleading doctrines from men who who claim to be inspired (2 Tim 3:13; 2 Thess. 2:2; 1 John 4:1-3)
- **“and doctrines of demons”** : the ultimate source of their false doctrine is Satan, for he is the father of all lies (John 8:44; James 3:15).

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**1 Timothy 4:2
(NKJV)**

**² speaking lies in
hypocrisy, having
their own conscience
seared with a hot
iron,**

The CHURCH Needs To Be Aware & Warned

- **“speaking lies in hypocrisy” :**
“Pretense, outward show, by the hypocritical preaching of liars” (Arndt p. 845). These false teachers must make themselves appear different from what they really are (Mt. 7:15; Je. 5:31; 23:14, 32; Ro. 16:18; 2 Pe. 2:1–3)
- **“having their own conscience seared with a hot iron” :** Their conscience would become callous, hardened against the truth (Eph. 4:19) (“their own conscience” i.e., they were also deceiving themselves)

“The Great Apostasy”

Specific FALSE Doctrines



1 Timothy 4:3–5 (NKJV)

³ forbidding to marry,
and commanding to
abstain from foods
which God created to
be received with
thanksgiving by those
who believe and know
the truth.

- **“forbidding to marry”** : In contrast, Jesus endorsed the marriage relationship (Matthew 19:3-9), as did Paul, (1 Co. 7:2, 28, 36–39), and the Hebrew writer noted that marriage is honorable in all (Hebrews 13:4).
- ▶ In the centuries to come, Augustine (354-430 A.D.), would advocate celibacy and argued sexual relations in marriage is evil.
- ▶ When Gnosticism came into maturity, it forbade marriage in order for one “to be holy” (Reese p. 165).

“The Great Apostasy”

Specific FALSE Doctrines



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“A false asceticism is the key emphasis of their teaching. How often has this sort of ascetic teaching, under the guise of a more spiritual religion, arisen to plague mankind! The Essenses and Therapeutae in the days before the church, the Gnostics during the early centuries, Roman Catholicism with its celibacy for priests down to the present hour all are examples of this practice” (Kent p. 152).

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Specific FALSE Doctrines



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■ “forbidding to marry” :

- ▶ Some have tried to argue that any attempt to forbid any marriage is a mark of apostasy.
- ▶ John the Baptist told Herod that it was unlawful for him to have a certain wife (Matthew 14:4).
- ▶ Jesus noted that certain “marriages” are sinful (Mat. 5:32; 19:9) as did Paul (Rom. 7:2-3; 1 Cor. 7:10-11).
- ▶ Paul is taking about forbidding people from marrying who have the Scriptural right to marry!

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Specific FALSE Doctrines



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- **“commanding to abstain from foods” :**
The term “foods” (“meats” in some translations) means foods of any kind.
- ▶ Judaizers, Gnostics, Catholics (Fridays, Lent), Seventh-day Adventists, and all types of ascetics have promoted this error.
- ▶ Paul faced it squarely in his Epistle to the Colossians (Colossians 2:21-23).
- ▶ The error arises from a false view that to deny “normal appetites is thought to be praiseworthy” (Kent p. 152)

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Specific FALSE Doctrines



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- **“commanding to abstain from foods” :**
The term “foods” (“meats” in some translations) means foods of any kind.
- ▶ While restrictions regarding meat eating were imposed upon the Jews under the Mosaic system, such is no part of the new covenant (cf. Col. 2:14-16; Acts 10:10-15).
- ▶ “⁴ For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; ⁵ for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.” (1 Tim 4:4,5)

“The Great Apostasy”

The CHURCH Needs To Be TAUGHT!



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1 Timothy 4:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. ⁷ But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.

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(NKJV)

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The CHURCH Needs To Be TAUGHT!

- **“instruct the brethren in these things” :**
 - ▶ Warnings about false teachers
 - ▶ Warnings about false doctrines
- **“reject profane & old wives' fables” :**
 - ▶ “Profane” is in contrast to “good doctrine” and “words of faith” that nourish. Fables are untrue embellishments (1:4, 6:20, & Titus 3:9)
- **“exercise yourself toward godliness” :**
 - ▶ Command, teach & practice the truth (1 Tim 4:11)

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Hebrews 12:22–29 (NKJV)

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of* Abel. ²⁵ See that you do not refuse Him who speaks.