

Received With Thanks > 1 Timothy 4:1-5

4:1-3a False teaching has a certain pattern to it, which Paul reveals to us through his description of the false teachers in Ephesus: it starts by devoting yourself to teachings that come from the evil one rather than God, it then proceeds to embracing and promoting lies, and it ends up with prohibiting the very things that God says are good.

4:3b-5 By contrast, what Paul wants Timothy and the Ephesians to know is that Christians are to receive all of God's gifts with joy and thanksgiving. Following the pattern of the Scriptures leads not to asceticism or following laws to appear holy, but instead it leads to thankfulness to the Lord for all He has done and provided (most of all, salvation in Christ!).

Context: In chapters two and three, Paul taught on the nature of the church as a family. Here, in chapter four, we now see how Christians are to reject false teachings aimed at persuading people to embrace myths and speculations (1:4).

Aim: That Christians in Ephesus would not embrace false doctrines and laws, but instead hold to the truth that all God has done and created is good.

Gospel: Christ's work doesn't just aim at one aspect of our lives – the material, what to accept and reject, but also the spiritual: that we would be cleansed from our sin and set right with the Lord. Our response needs to involve both of these aspects: following Jesus in our everyday lives and trusting Him to see us safely into the eternal kingdom.

Application: Are you tempted by false teachings? Will you instead look to the Word as your standard for life and faith?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
