

Pastoral Epistles - No. 10

I TIMOTHY 4: 1-11

Signs of Departure from the Faith (Verses 1-5)

By 65 AD the local Christian churches assumed a settled form which continues throughout this present age. One sad characteristic is the behaviour of adherents who were not true Christians, and who:

- * commit themselves mentally to plausible non-Biblical teachings invented by demons. A great many of these errors are current today. Their leaders are infatuated with their teachings, and act a part consciencelessly in spreading them (see II Peter 2: 1)
- * discouraging marriage and the eating of certain foods, which our Lord has provided for the good of His people, that they should partake and be thankful (see Romans 14: 21-23; Hebrews 13: 4).

All divine creation is good (see Genesis 1: 25 etc.), and worthy to be esteemed and appreciated. The Scriptures authorise this, and Christians respond with intercession which brings Christ into our enjoyment of it. We should be sure from Scripture why we believe and behave as we do.

The Responsibility of Christian Leaders to Their People (Verses 6-11)

Good deacons who are nourished by good teaching and faithful words. Having themselves followed them, they lay these matters upon church members. They refuse positively all ungodly tales and grandmotherly myths. They exercise, but not excessively (as an Olympic athlete), insofar as this contributes to the enjoyment of life. But relationship with Christ in the innermost being profits the Christian far more, both now and in the life to come. This is another "faithful saying". Because he hopes in the God of Life, Paul accepts weariness and reproach. Divine provision for the enjoyment of life is for everyone, and total well-being for the believer in particular (see I Corinthians 9: 24-27).