

## Give Thanks for What is Good | 1 Timothy 4:1-5

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

### Sorrowful Departure

#### 1. Apostasy comes from bad theology:

##### a. Demonic influence

1. "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world." (1 John 4:1)
2. "Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" (Genesis 3:1-2)

##### b. Devout Hypocrites

###### i. False teachers

1. "And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds." (2 Corinthians 11:14-15)

###### ii. Cauterized consciences

1. "They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity." (Ephesians 4:18-19)
2. "The grim sequence of events in the career of the false teachers has now been revealed. First, they turned a deaf ear to their conscience, until it became cauterized. Next, they felt no scruple in becoming hypocritical liars. Thirdly, they thus exposed themselves to the influence of deceiving spirits. Finally, they led their listeners to abandon their faith. It is a perilous downward path from the deaf ear and the cauterized conscience to the deliberate lie, the deception of demons and the ruination of others."

## 2. Good Theology is marked by a clear conscience

- a. "The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." (1 Timothy 1:5)
- b. "...wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience..." (1 Timothy 1:18b-19)
- c. "So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man." (Acts 24:16)

## Sincere Self-Righteousness

### 1. Bad theology is always masked with Christian values

- a. Self-denial (asceticism)
- b. Ingratitude

## Sweet Thanksgiving

### 1. Good theology is marked by thanksgiving

- a. Redemption
  - i. True thanksgivings comes first from saving grace
- b. Creation
  - i. Knowing the truth about God leads us to enjoy what He has created
    1. "You say grace before meals. All right. But I say grace before the play and the opera, and grace before the concert, and grace before I open a book, and grace before sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing, walking, playing, dancing; and grace before I dip the pen in the ink." (G.K. Chesterton)