

## **I. Watch Out for False Teaching**

- A. False Teaching and Apostasy Prophesied (4:1a; Matt 7:15; 24:9-13; Mark 13:5, 21-23; Acts 20:29-30; 2 Pet 2:1; 2 Tim 3:1-5)
- B. The Demonic Source of False Teaching (4:1b)
- C. The Spreaders of False Teaching (4:2; 2 Cor 11:13-15)
- D. The Content of the False Teaching (4:3)
  - 1. General Category: Asceticism (Matt 11:18-19; Col 2:20-23)
  - 2. Forbidden Marriage (1 Cor 7:1ff)
  - 3. Abstain from Foods (1 Cor 8-10; 8:13; 10:31; Rom 14:20)

## **II. Respond by Receiving with Thanksgiving**

- A. The Goodness of God's Creation (4:3-4; Gen 1:31)
- B. Receive God's Gifts with Prayer and Thanksgiving (4:3-5; Gen 1:29; Gen 9:3; Rom 14:6; Eph 5:20; 1 Thes 5:18)

“The devil’s cleverest ruse is to make men believe that he does not exist.” —Charles Baudelaire

“Some theology is so bad it can be spotted a mile off. But most false doctrines contain enough truth to resist detection. The most dangerous heresies often sound the most like authentic Christianity.” —Philip Ryken

You say grace before meals.

All right.

But I say grace before the play and the opera,

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

### Reflection Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

- 1. Have you ever been tempted by asceticism? Why does it mislead so many?
- 2. What is the difference between asceticism and biblical fasting? (See Mark 2:18-20)
- 3. How can you make a regular practice of receiving God’s gifts with thanksgiving?