

## INTRODUCTION

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners! (1 Tim 1:15a) God our Savior will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth. There is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all! (1 Tim 2:3b-6a) That God would save sinners by His own Son, Jesus Christ, being manifest in the flesh, is the great mystery of godliness, revealed to the world as God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, and received up in glory. (1 Tim 3:16)

This mystery, and all that the Bible says about it, is the substance of our faith in God through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. We believe in Him; and what we believe about Him is what the Bible, the holy scriptures, the word of God teaches us to be the truth. This congregation, along with every other true congregation of the living God, is the pillar and ground of that truth. We believe that truth, we study to know and understand it better, and we proclaim it for sinners to know and believe, and so to be saved.

The Holy Spirit of God, sent here to us by Jesus Christ, has spoken expressly about what we should expect during these times in which we live, between the day when Jesus Christ came the first time, and the day when He suddenly will come again. What we should expect in these latter times is that some shall depart from the faith; some shall apostasize. There shall be one great apostasy, in the form of the Roman Catholic system, with the Antichrist Pope of Rome its head; there shall be apostasy by individuals; and there shall be apostasy of every size in between. There shall be whole groups that become apostate, so that over time people join in the apostasy, never having known the truth; and there shall be many sad cases of individuals who hear the truth, and seem to embrace it, but then deny or ignore the precious truths of the faith, or embrace doctrines that are not true, and depart from the true churches.

By God's grace, we have repented of our sins, believing in Jesus Christ to forgive us our sins and grant us eternal life with Him. We give heed to the truth testified to by the Holy Spirit, and by the angels. Those who apostasize, who depart from the faith, do so by giving heed to deceiving spirits, and the doctrines of demons.

So much we have considered together already from 1 Timothy. We take up right at that point today.

How is it that people give heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons?

The deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons come to people by means of human teachers, who teach them to depart from the faith.

By the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, the apostles have taught us about such teachers. Understanding them, we can be ready to resist their false doctrine, standing fast in the faith.

## TEXT

1 Timothy 4:1-2 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,

## BODY

Those teachers who lead people to depart from the faith

### I. Speak Lies In Hypocrisy

#### A. They speak lies

##### 1. G5573 *pseudologos*

- a) pseudo has passed into English, to denote something false
- b) logos you know, from John referring to the Son of God as the Logos, the “word”
- c) *pseudologos*, then, refers to false word, false speaking

##### 2. there is such a thing as a saying being true or false

- a) a saying that accurately represents reality, what is real, is true; a saying that fails to represent reality accurately is false
- b) the world, under the sway of the devil, tries to undermine this very concept
  - (1) it tries to deny that there is any such thing as truth
  - (2) it tries to deny that something can be known to be true or false
  - (3) it tries to redefine truth as whatever consensus has been reached, or whatever the majority agrees on
  - (4) it accuses anyone who insists on truth of being some kind of bigot or extremist, of being motivated by hatred

##### 3. the teachers the Bible refers to here speak things that are false

##### 4. normally we reserve the word “lie” to refer to a saying

- a) that the speaker knows to be false, or
- b) that he is aware he doesn’t know to be true

##### 5. in today’s verse, the word used, *pseudologos* is an adjective describing those people who lead others to depart from the faith: they are false-speaky; lie-talky

#### B. They speak lies in hypocrisy

##### 1. G5272 *hupokrisis* which has come into English almost unchanged as “hypocrisy”

##### 2. illus. We might go to see a play on the stage, or we might watch a movie on the video screen. Actors are pretending to be somebody they are not. They are saying something that is not their true thoughts. They do this to enjoy the experience, to gain the audience’s applause, and to get paid money. We do not say they are speaking lies, because it is just an act, just a play, they are just actors playing a part.

##### 3. but we need to understand that there are plenty of people who are putting on an act when they speak, even though they are not in a play or movie

4. I will testify to something about the analogy of the stage and the pulpit
    - a) I was on stage for years, for about 10 years of my life, from elementary school through college; now I have been in the pulpit for a number of years; I can compare them; many of you have not had those experiences, so you may not understand this
    - b) the experience of acting on stage and of speaking in front of a group or crowd gives a similarly enjoyable sensation; some would say an adrenaline rush
      - (1) spiritual fulfillment is present only in preaching/teaching
      - (2) carnal sensation is the same
    - c) the applause and admiration from a crowd at a play feels good in a way very similar to the appreciation from an audience like a church or conference
      - (1) spiritual fulfillment is present only in preaching/teaching
      - (2) carnal sensation is the same
    - d) I have not had many paying gigs on stage, just a few. But being paid to sing or act on stage, which is a very enjoyable kind of work, is very similar to being paid to preach and teach in the church. Big-time performing on state pays very well; big-time preaching and teaching in churches and conferences pays very well, too. But even small-time preaching and teaching can pay enough to make it very tempting.
    - e) do not think for a minute that some who preach and teach don't do it for the enjoyment, the applause, and the money
  5. I will testify to the shocking ability of such liars to tell bald-faced lies
    - a) car - ABS
    - b) truck - dealer services
- C. Our Lord Jesus, God manifest in the flesh, never spoke lies in hypocrisy
1. He is the embodiment of the truth, and preached to us the truth
  2. He identified the hypocrites around Him; He Himself did not merely play a part; He taught us the truth in all sincerity
  3. He was not seeking a good feeling, men's applause, or any worldly gain for Himself; instead, He despised such things in favor of serving God in truth, and giving Himself for our salvation
- D. By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the apostles did not write lies in their letters
1. the apostles were only human, and had sin remaining in their flesh as we have in ours
  2. but as they wrote their letters, the Holy Spirit so carried them along that they were able to rise above temptation and write the truth in all sincerity

Those teachers who lead people to depart from the faith speak lies in hypocrisy; and  
 Those teachers who lead people to depart from the faith

## II. Have Their Conscience Seared

### A. Something has taken place in their conscience

1. the conscience is a person's faculty for judging what is right and wrong
2. the Bible tells us how the conscience works: Romans 2:14-15 for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, (15) who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)
  - a) there is a law, a rule, some standard that a person knows
  - b) a person thinks and has feelings about his conduct in relation to that standard
  - c) the person's conscience either accuses him of doing wrong, or excuses him as doing right

### B. Their conscience has been seared or burned

1. G2743 *kauteriazō* our medical term "cauterize"
2. the conscience has been burned or seared or cauterized, so that it does not function properly
  - a) where there has been a bad burn, the skin is not like normal skin; it is a kind of scar
  - b) in the language of Romans 2, as we just read, the conscience that has been seared does not accuse a person when he is doing wrong; the sense of guilt does not prick the conscience; a numbness has set in;
3. explanation Romans 1:28-32 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; (29) being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, (30) backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, (31) undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; (32) who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.
  - a) people do not live by knowledge of God; they refuse to be governed by God's law; they do not fear God; they do as they please rather than as God pleases
  - b) God gives them over, so that their mind is reprobate or debased
    - (1) figuratively cauterized or seared or burned
    - (2) literally given over or reprobate or debased
  - c) they become filled with deceit
  - d) they know God will judge people for such things, but they do them anyway, and approve of others who do them

### III. APPLICATION

- A. Be comforted when it grieves you to see the way things are going
  - 1. the Lord Jesus has warned us, by His Holy Spirit, through the writing of His apostles, that it would be just this way
  - 2. God has a perfect plan, and He is acting according to His plan; He leaves nothing to chance; He is causing all things to work together for the good of those who love Him, who are the called according to His purpose
- B. Do not underestimate the ability of men and women to speak lies
- C. Do not think it perfectly safe to listen to whatever doctrine is available
  - 1. there are activities that are necessary, but potentially very dangerous
    - a) e.g. driving, using power tools, operating heavy equipment like tractors, etc.
    - b) when we do these activities, we take safety precautions
  - 2. recognize that listening to people speak about religion, especially listening to those who seem to be Bible teachers, is a necessary activity, but potentially very dangerous; so take precautions
- D. Do not believe something just because it is said convincingly
- E. Follow the example of the noble Bereans - Acts 17:10-11
  - 1. receive the word with all readiness
  - 2. search the Scriptures daily to find out whether things you hear are so (in my opinion, this would be together with your fellow church members)
- F. Do not ignore God, lest He leave you to a reprobate or debased mind
- G. Do not speak or act against conscience, lest it become damaged
- H. Whatever church you are in, if you know the pastors, and they seem to you to be men of good character, beware doctrine that differs from your own church's doctrine
  - 1. certainly there can be errors in your own church; maybe your own church or your pastor is apostate!
  - 2. but be extremely cautious about departing from what your own church and your own pastor teaches; be sure you are convinced from the scriptures before leaving the church to which you belong, especially if you are leaving your own church and pastors in favor of the doctrine of some teacher whom you don't know well, or whom you do not know at all

### CONCLUSION

Those teachers who lead people to depart from the faith speak lies in hypocrisy; and  
Those teachers who lead people to depart from the faith have their conscience seared.

Haven - Prelude - "Jesus Paid It All"

Allison - Trinity 712 "I Know Whom I Have Believed"

Rita - Trinity 773 "O Lord, Make Haste To Hear My Cry"

Audrey - Trinity 178 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

Thad - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 40:1-3

Jeremiah - Scripture Reading - Psalm 40:4-17

Dillon - Congregational Prayer

Benediction: 1 John 5:20

Calvin:

“of men speaking”

it ought to be known that these two are so closely joined together that the former springs from the latter; for consciences, that are bad and seared with the hot iron of their crimes, always flee to hypocrisy as a ready refuge

Geneva:

For they will as it were practise the art of disguised persons and players, so that we may not think they will lie lurking in some one corner or keep any resemblance of being shameful.

Whose conscience became so hard, that there grew a callous over it, and so became to have a canker in it, and now at length required by very necessity to be burned with a hot iron.

Poole:

In or through the hypocrisy of such as speak lies, and of such as have a conscience seared with a hot iron; which doubtless is the sense; so the words explain the manner how they were seduced to apostacy, viz. through the hypocrisy or dissimulation of men that speak lies, and had consciences benumbed, and mortified,

Gill:

Or "through the hypocrisy of those that speak lies"  
whose consciences are cauterized and hardened, and past feeling

Barnes:

“by, or through the hypocrisy of those speaking lies.”

who knew that they were inculcating falsehoods

The allusion here is doubtless to the effect of applying a hot iron to the skin. The cauterized part becomes rigid and hard, and is dead to sensibility. So with the conscience of those referred to. It has the same relation to a conscience that is sensitive and quick in its decisions, that a cauterized part of the body has to a thin, delicate, and sensitive skin. Such a conscience exists in a mind that will practice delusion without concern; that will carry on a vast system of fraud without wincing

VWS:

These deceivers are not acting under delusion, but deliberately, and against their conscience. They wear the form of godliness, and contradict their profession by their crooked conduct

Ellicott:

through the hypocrisy of men that speak lies.

MacArthur

supernatural source, natural means (human)  
hypocritical lie speakers

deceivers and liars whom come masked  
do what they do without compunction  
not as the burning of the brand...but...how they can carry on this hypocrisy...their conscience  
has been burned...conscience...scarred beyond function...to cauterize...conscience by  
constantly being ignored...they feel nothing as they purvey their lies

their teaching, and this is just a sample  
by ascetic means