

Paths Which Lead from Faith

20 September 2024

Theme of First Timothy: Instructions so that God's people might live a godly life.

Six Warnings: Pathways that lead believers away from their faith in God's Word and from their steadfastness in the Christian faith.

1. THE PERSONAL SPHERE (1 Timothy 1:18-20)

- **"¹⁹ Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck."**
 - Some Christians get careless with their good conscience.
 - The Holy Spirit, at the time of your salvation, brought conviction, convincing you that you were a sinner in violation of God's perfect laws.
 - Your conscience was keenly aware of what was right and what was wrong.
 - After salvation, as time goes on, we begin to make light of sin, leaning on eternal security and God's forgiveness.
 - We start ignoring our conscience and justifying sin, little by little.
 - We begin reintroducing old habits, old friends, and vices into our lives that will lead us to shipwreck (vs 19).
 - If we cease to instantly respond to our conscience, it will eventually cease to move you to avoid sin and do right.

2. THE CHURCH SPHERE (1 Timothy 4:1, 6)

- **"In the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."**
 - Christians depart from the faith when they listen to, believe, and obey a preacher who tells lies and teaches false doctrine.
 - **"A good minister of Jesus Christ"** (vs 6) will warn the brethren of such men.
 - We must fellowship with people who believe God's word and strive to live by it, or we will depart from the faith.
 - Beware of *"good teachers"* who teach heresies.
 - The false doctrine of a church (**1 Tim. 4:3**) will lead to corrupt living.
 - The word of God must be adhered to. It must be our final authority, not the men who use it to teach.

3. THE DOMESTIC SPHERE (1 Timothy 5:8)

- A man who does not provide for his family **"hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."**
- When you refuse to work and, instead, you manipulate the system to try and get "free money" from the government (money which comes from people who work), you are worse than an infidel; you have denied the faith.
 - Even infidels know you ought to provide for your family.
 - Christians deny the faith when they don't practice Christian principles in their home.

4. THE COMMUNITY SPHERE (1 Timothy 4:11-15)

- People with time to gossip and spread tales from house to house have **"cast off their first faith"** (vs 12) and have turned aside to follow Satan (vs 15).
- Instead, you should be using that time to spread the gospel (not gossip), study the bible, and minister to others.

5. THE BUSINESS SPHERE (1 Timothy 6:9-10)

- A desire to be rich (vs 9) will cause you to err from the faith (vs 10).
- Preachers who aim to get money will always omit parts of the bible from their preaching so as not to offend and cause people to leave the church (with their money).
- Fathers who put more importance on money than they do on family, will opt to work overtime, spend more time on the job than with the family, and their children will be neglected and get into all kinds of trouble.
- Chasing money will affect the time you have available for bible study, prayer, and visitation.
- Figure out what you need to be happy and comfortable, and learn to be content.
- Don't buy things to compete with or to impress other people.

6. THE INTELLECTUAL SPHERE (1 Timothy 6:20-21)

- Many Christians who pursued higher education have “**erred concerning the faith**” (vs 21). They lost their faith in the word of God.

“Education without sanctification leads to degeneration and eventual abomination.”

Lester Roloff

- Know your limits. If education or written material causes you to begin to doubt the word of God, you'd better remove yourself from that situation.