

# THE PASTORAL EPISTLES

## I & II Timothy, Titus and Philemon

### “God Speaks to His Church”

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Those Who Fall Away - I Timothy 4:1-5  
May 2, 2010

#### A. CONTEXT

1. Focus on Biblical teaching                      chapter 1
2. Order and organization in the church        chapters 2,3

#### B. TEXT

##### 1. But...

##### 2. In the later times...

- a. Some will fall away (not might or could but will!!!)
  - 1) Deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons  
Ephesians 2:1-3 – the world, the flesh and the devil.
  - 2) Hypocritical lifestyle/Seared consciences
  - 3) What does it mean to “fall away”? Can a believer lose his salvation?

Principle 1 – not all who say or think they are Christians are truly Christians Matthew 7:21-23

Principle 2 - Perseverance of the saints – eternal security  
I John 5:11-13

##### b. Danger of Asceticism/Legalism

- 1) This involves self-deprivation and is usually pursued out of a desire to glorify God, avoiding what is harmful and by limiting oneself to what is necessary to maintain life.
- 2) Characterized by an emphasis on rules. laws, lists, “do’s and don’ts”

- 3) Focus on how I sacrifice and suffer for God. Emphasis on my “godliness” measured by externals. This leads to pride, self righteousness and a critical spirit.
- 4) In our passage there were 2 “rules” being taught by the false teachers.
  - a. Forbidding of marriage
  - b. Abstaining from certain foods
- 5) Throughout the history of the church there has been a battle between asceticism and license.

Colossians 2:18-23

### **3. The importance of Thanksgiving and gratitude**

- a. The attitude of gratitude

Ephesians 5:20, Philippians 4:6, Colossians 3:15-17, 4:2

- b. The opposite of gratitude

- 1) complaining, always dissatisfied

- 2) fault-finding and critical spirit.

## **C. APPLICATION**