

1 TIMOTHY VERSE BY VERSE
SESSION 10 | 1 TIMOTHY 4:4-12

1 TIMOTHY 4:1-12 | FORTHCOMING CHALLENGES

- Verses 1-3 – see session 9
- Verse 4 –
 - Paul states that **every creature of God is good**, yet in the last days it will be taught to **abstain from meats** (v. 3).
 - If these words describe the **latter times** of the prophetic age (and not of the church age), then how can it be that **nothing is to be refused** from among **every creature**?
 - We have a few options.
 - We can interpret according to Genesis 9:3, which was during a time *before* kosher laws of Torah yet there were still clean and unclean animals, as evidenced in the ark.
 - In Acts 10:15 Peter was instructed to eat that which was not kosher, and this was prior to any revelation of the mystery by Paul (if not to Paul).
 - There is also the possibility that Paul is *only* speaking of kosher meats to begin with. That is, the discussion is of **meats which God hath created to be received** (removing the comma after **meats**).
 - If we do the *easy* thing and make this to be the **latter times** of the church age, then we solve the problem of kosher foods, since such is unrelated to the body of Christ, but we then must enter into the following problems:
 - The **house of God** (v. 3:15) becomes the Pauline church, and the Pauline church then becomes **the pillar and ground of the truth** (v. 15) rather than a *new creature* built upon the **foundation of the apostles and prophets** (Eph. 2:20).
 - The **mystery of godliness** (v. 3:16) becomes the Pauline mystery, even though everything that describes it is prophetic (see notes on v. 16).
 - The rapture must lose its imminence since the church is *not* currently filled with those **forbidding to marry** (v. 3) nor teaching that we should **abstain from meats** (v. 4).
- Verse 5 –
 - Foods which are (or can be) **sanctified by the word of God and prayer** should be consumed, even when others teach of abstaining from such meats.
 - Note: this was the consensus of rabbis in the Holocaust.
- Verse 6 –
 - In any dispensation, it is valuable to be **nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine**.

- In verses 7-10 Paul gives Timothy information about being a **good minister of Jesus Christ**. It begins with instruction in this verse, namely, to **put the brethren in remembrance of these things** (the things of verses 1-6).
- There is a possibility that **the brethren** is always a reference to *Jewish brethren*. This would be difficult (if not impossible) to fully prove. It would likely only be true when used with a definite article.
- Verse 7 –
 - Rather than **good doctrine** (v. 6), some follow **profane and old wives fables** (ideas with no value). Timothy is instructed to **exercise himself unto godliness** instead
- Verse 8 –
 - There is a **little** profit in **bodily exercise** (Paul is not belittling exercise, simply showing its fleeting benefits).
 - He tells Timothy, in contrast, that **godliness** not only has a **promise of the life that now is** (in comparison to **bodily exercise**), but also a promise of the life **which is to come**.
 - The reason that this sounds so *works based* is because Paul is speaking about the last days, and not about the church age.
- Verse 9 –
 - It is difficult to know whether Paul is speaking about the words he has just spoken, or “the Word” in general (see Young’s Literal Translation). In any case, both are **worthy of all acceptation**.
- Verse 10 –
 - Paul’s longtime **labour** and suffering **reproach** was based on a simple fact: his **trust in the living God**.
 - Their trust was that God **is the Saviour of all men**. But how can God be **the Saviour of all men** without some kind of universalism? It is simply because *He is the only Savior available to men*. Without God, there is no salvation.
 - He is Savior **especially of those that believe**. This is a way of saying, “God is the only Savior, and He saves those who believe.”
- Verse 11 –
 - We must be careful to recognize that this is a command to Timothy that is specific to him. The church does not have a “replacement set” of the Ten Commandments.
- Verse 12 –
 - Continuing to instruct Timothy, Paul teaches him to live an exemplary life, and not to let others **despise thy youth**.
 - The word **despise** is καταφρονέω [kataphroneo], which is an “unending concentration,” or a “fixation.”