

DANGEROUS DEPARTURES

1 Timothy 4:1-5

SUMMARY...

Paul has a sobering warning for Timothy: *Watch out for 'Dangerous Departures.'* That is, be prepared because, at a later time, people who were once with you in the ministry will abandon the cause of Christ. What Paul says is that they will depart the faith and follow false teachers, which ultimately is demon worship. It's serious business! Therefore, the charge he gives Timothy is the duty of diligence. He says, "Every moment of every day, deepen your relationship with God through Word and Prayer and then you can know you'll never depart."

LEARN: *Bible Study and Discussion*

1. Read [1 Timothy 4:1](#). How would you identify a false teacher? Why do so many people 'fall' for the teaching of false teachers? Have you ever thought about other religions, worldviews, and irreligion ultimately being the worship of demons? How does that change the way we should interact with them?
2. Read [1 Timothy 4:2-3](#). Compare and contrast God's creation and the devil's counterfeits. Paul mentions a couple; what other examples would you add to the list? In what ways have you bought into the counterfeits offered by the world? What paper-thin compromises or counterfeits do you gravitate towards?
3. Read [1 Timothy 4:4-5](#). How 'diligent' are you in testing everything you hear or read against the Word and prayer? What could you do this week to be a more diligent student of the Word?

ACT...

1. If you haven't developed a diligent Bible Study / Prayer rhythm, then create a system that is achievable and sustainable!
2. Pray against the temptations that cause you to make paper-thin compromises or that lead you into counterfeit beliefs. Talk to someone about these and ask that this trusted person hold you accountable.