

**Kingdom Feature, December 2014/January 2015**

## **The School of the Prophets**

### ***“Discerning the Doctrines of Devils”***

#### ***Parts 1 & 2***

By Apostle Jerry Upton

#### **Part One**

1 Timothy 4:1-6

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.”

My desire in this newsletter is to fulfill what is openly declared and revealed in vs. 6—“to be a good minister of Jesus Christ.” Therefore, there are several areas that I desire to put you in remembrance of, some of which may be quite difficult to digest at first.

Because many of you have been trained and developed in “traditional Christianity,” you may not realize how great a hindrance this can be. When questioned by the scribes and Pharisees about why His disciples did not walk according to the tradition of the elders, Jesus said something very profound and revealing in Mark 7:5-13 -- (vs. 7). “Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” In this one scripture we see a pattern existing with religious people that carries over to our modern times:

- Vain (or empty, not heart driven or felt) worship
- Doctrines that are taught, that are “man’s commandments,” in order to bring you under the control of man.

Now also notice what it says in vs. 9: “And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”

The traditions of man have been repeatedly passed down from generation to generation throughout the church...to the very point that many have been deceived into thinking that they are following or standing on God’s Word when they are actually following the traditions of men...or in reality they are following the “Doctrines of Devils.” Now, please hear this: it doesn’t matter if you’re well meaning, sincere, serious, or trying to do what you feel is right; one of the stronger strongholds that Satan uses to promote his doctrine is in the organized religious buildings that are called “churches.”

Many of you have even wondered why after putting forth all the effort that you have in trying to be a true believer, you still see very few results or movement of God in your lives. Well, notice what it says in v. 13:

“Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.” This has to be one of the most revealing, profound statements that could be made by Jesus because He is declaring that it is actually possible to stop God’s Word from being effective in your life in any form or shape “due to the following and holding on to the traditions of man.”

You may not realize it, but one (not the only one) of the reasons why there are so many different denominations and mindsets throughout the land is because many doctrines which are promoted as God’s Word are simply the ideas, desires, and doctrines of man. The results of this are so much confusion, unbelief, division, defeat, strife and bitterness among those who call themselves “Christians” that the lost are not being drawn to God through the light in Christians’ lives; instead, they often want nothing to do with what is called “CHURCH.” And really, can you truthfully blame them? The travesty in all of this is the same as it was in the days of Jesus when He declared in Matthew 23:13, “But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.”

This is so tragic because there are many whom the Spirit of God is drawing to the Father; and the very moment that they earnestly turn to God with all of their hearts, rather than being taught God’s Word as it is written, they are taught and trained in the traditions of men and the doctrines of devils. Then for years they place their faith and trust in beliefs and ideas that are rooted and grounded in paganism, witchcraft, idolatry, and demonic rituals which are concealed in “religious clothing.”

Now, one of the first things I want to make completely clear is that those who expose the “doctrines of devils” are going to be met with the same hostility, persecution, and attacks that the apostles and prophets of old were met with. The traditions of men and the doctrines of devils

are protected by millions, even billions, of dollars and are promoted by way of radio, television, church services, preachers, pastors, teachers, magazines, and other media outlets. However, the truth of God's Word is the only thing that will stand; and as we approach the end of the last days, anything that you have trusted in which isn't really God's Word will pass away. Notice what it says in Luke 21:33—"Heaven and earth shall pass away; but my words shall not pass away."

Now I don't know about you, but I have willingly placed everything that I was taught, as well as what I taught thousands of others, before the fire and light of God's Word and His Word only. It has been quite revealing what the Holy Spirit began to teach and show me concerning God's Word "as it is written" rather than what man's tradition had interpreted it to mean. At first, it was quite difficult to let go of the traditions that I had placed my trust and faith in; that when the Holy Spirit began to open my "spiritual eyes," I could not deny the truth, freedom, life, and results that I began to see.

## **Part Two**

As I began my journey in the very first verse of 1 Timothy 4, I began to realize that the Holy Spirit was sending out an express (specific, detailed, exact, complete) warning to believers about what the condition of the latter (last, end, final) times or days would truly look like. First of all, "some shall depart from the faith." Now notice it doesn't say that they would depart from the church. There are probably more people going to "organized church buildings" than ever before, but this Scripture is in reference to those who are clearly revealed in Jude, vs. 3.

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye

should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

What should be noted in verses 3-19 in Jude is a revealing look at the secret motives and strategies of certain ones who would "creep in unaware" and have such a devastating effect upon those who make up the household of God. One of the first things that these false teachers would do to attack the "saving faith" of those who would believe would be to "turn the grace of our God into lasciviousness." What does it mean to do this kind of damage to the household of God? What it literally means is that they would promote, teach, and preach that since we have been saved by God's grace, anything we do as believers, regardless of how wicked, evil, immoral, or sinful, will not affect our position in God because, after all, we are saved by God's grace. This is what has led many to believe that "once they have been saved, they can never forfeit or lose their salvation," regardless of what they do or how they live.

Grace does not give "license" for a true believer to live and walk in immorality. The twisting, altering misinterpretation of being "saved by grace and not by works" (Eph. 2:8-10) has led many to believe that "anything and everything goes;" therefore, 'God fully understands why I still practice adultery, fornication, homosexuality, pornography, lust, and other forms of idolatrous living.' Well, first of all, due to this tradition of man and doctrine of devils, the rest of the scripture in Jude 4 comes into focus... "and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." Many believers are denying the reality that God ever was in their lives by the ungodly, premeditated, sinful lifestyles that they are living, teaching, and even preaching; but there is one thing that I can assure all of you who are truly God's sons or daughters: if you insist on continuing to live that way, God has something in store for you. It is found in Hebrews 12:17. Pay special attention to verses 5-8.

“And ye have forgotten the exhortations which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou are rebuked of him; For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.” (Hebrews 12:5-8)

I can truly testify to you from the reality of God’s Word, and through my ongoing experience, that God will not allow us to continue to walk and live in sin, rebellion, and immorality without suffering the consequences. The chastening hand of God that is found in these scriptures is clear evidence that God’s love for His children releases a divine discipline and correction into our lives to free us from willful, premeditated, and habitual lifestyles of sin and wickedness.

Jude, verses 5 & 6, are clear about “those who started out with God but failed to continue.” No matter which “denominational doctrine” tries to explain these scriptures away or water them down, the Word “as it is written” is most plain to understand. As you can well see in our day and time, not only is sexual immorality in great excess throughout the world, the same perversion is seen in the “organized church.” Any time it becomes an issue concerning the practice of homosexuality, adultery, fornication, pornography, and other forms of “lasciviousness” and the church condones or makes room for this to take place, then we can plainly see that we are in the last of the last days.

The book of Jude fully describes the attitude, secret motives, and hidden agendas of those who have “crept into our midst unaware” in verses 12 & 13. “These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear; clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming

out of their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever."

One of the driving forces behind these "doctrines of devils" is found in the last part of verse 16: "having men's persons in admiration because of advantage." Now you may ask. 'Well, what does that mean?' Essentially what is being said and also what is taking place in many religious circles today is that there are those who will compromise and teach, preach, or say anything that people like or want to hear in order to gain advantage with them. Many times that advantage will be to:

- Get more church members
- Get bigger tithes and offerings
- Get more power and control over others
- Get a position of prestige and authority

However, Jude, verses 14 & 15 also describe the end result of those who do such things: "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against them.

It doesn't get much plainer than this; and if you will simply take God's Word "as it is written" rather than interpreting it in the light of your particular belief or doctrine, the Word will speak for Himself. Now look with me back to 1 Timothy 4:1 and notice that those who departed from the faith did so because they gave heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.

I have studied, researched, and sought God concerning the operation and characteristics of these “seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.” The second verse opened up an area of revelation to me that I have literally spent the past 2 1/2 years studying. I cannot share this entire teaching on the “Doctrines of Devils and the Seducing Spirits” in this one newsletter, but those of you who would like to receive this teaching in its entirety may simply write me and request it by name. However, I must warn you that there may be many “sacred religious doctrines and teachings” that you have held onto for years that will be revealed for what they truly are.

Ephesians 5:27 plainly describes Jesus coming back for a "glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." The “spots” of false teaching and "doctrines of devils" are now being exposed in order for the church to walk and live in the glory of God.

I close by exhorting you to be willing to examine everything you trust and believe by the authority of God’s Word and His Word alone. Please continue to pray for me and for the mighty men of valor here. We are seeking God’s face and His divine will and purpose for our lives. As always, I pray for each of you; and I decree and confess, “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.” (Ephesians 1:17)