

## Thieves of God's Good Gifts

### I Tim. 4:1-5

#### **Expect apostasy and restrictive doctrines from demons. 4:1-3a**

- *Later times* = ??? See similar wording in II Tim. 3:1, Js. 5:3, Heb. 1:1,2, I Jn. 2:18, Acts 2:16,17. Consider also Paul's warning in Acts 20:28-30.
- Why is it important for us to expect believers to lose their faith?
- The ultimate source of all false teachings is the demonic realm. Recall even Peter's correction in Matt. 16:22,23 is unwittingly satanic.
- Again note the connection between a good/clear conscience and keeping one's faith strong, 1:5, 1:19, 3:9, also see II Tim. 1:3, Titus 1:15.

#### **Accept gratefully all that God has created for us to enjoy. 4:3b-5**

- Demonic doctrines of false teachers tend to be legalistic or antinomian. Both types aim to drive us away from God: the first does so by seeking to rob us from enjoying all God has for us, while the second seeks to prod us into enjoying those things God does not have for us.
- Marriage and meals (sex and food issues) are common targets of false teachers—Col. 2:8, 20-23, Rev. 2:14,20, and see Acts 15:28,29.
- Paul's refutation again appeals to the creation account as in 2:13,14. *Gratitude/thanksgiving* appears 2x and is also implied by *prayer* in v.5. God wants you and I as believers to . . . (Jn. 10:10)

