

# The Truth Series

## Part 5

### 1 Timothy 4

By Gary Hoffman

**Matthew 5:17-19** *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. 19 **Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.**”*

**Matthew 24:35** Heaven and earth will pass away, but **My words will by no means pass away.**

**James 1:25** *But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*

### 1 Timothy 4

Did Paul nullify food laws here? Did Paul refer to the Scriptures as a doctrine of demons? What is the doctrine of demons spoken of here? Forbidding to marry? Abstaining from certain foods?

- *1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to **deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,***
  - Is the doctrine of demons here referring to the Torah? If so, God's word is a doctrine of Demons. Is this possible?
- *2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to **abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving** by those who believe and know the truth.*
  - These two things are the doctrine of demons: forbidding to marry and abstaining from foods. These were both the doctrine of the Gnostics of the Greek world. They forbid to marry, of which the Torah says the opposite and they were on various diets, including vegetarianism. Both these issues were to bring the body into submission though starving the flesh. These were not Torah commands, but practices of the pagan world..
  - Also note that the issue emphasizes that they were commanding to abstain from foods that God had created to be received with thanksgiving. In alignment with the Torah (law), this would be the foods that Yahweh already deemed clean. This would not however include those that He already deemed unclean. The unclean was NEVER to be received with thanksgiving, but was actually considered an abomination. Was this a temporary truth, or are we taking away from the eternal Word of God, in declaring all foods OK, even those the LORD determined unacceptable for consumption.
- *4 For **every creature** of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; 5 for it is **sanctified by the word of God and prayer.***

- Is this verse then making all foods ok to eat? It does, only if you take it out of context. If taken in context. No food that is already ok'd by the word (Leviticus) is to be refused, because God already told you what foods are good. If you receive them with thanksgiving, it is sanctified, no matter what the Gnostics say.
  
- *6 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, **nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.***
  - Good doctrine is God's word, which Timothy followed, who was circumcised, by Paul.
  
- *7 But **reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.** 8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.*<sup>1</sup>
  - Another reference to the Greek religious groups who had many fables and were health and wellness nuts (very similar to the New Age movement of today.) Biblical Godliness was the ideal, above all the doctrines of the world. At any rate, this cannot be used to ok the eating of all foods, in contradiction to the existing Word of God.
  - Are our beliefs directly supported by Scripture. The “church” has continually cast away that plumb line for thousands of years and our faith has deteriorated and deviated from the truth. We are the modern day Pharisees, Scribes, Sadducees, Essenes, etc, who hold to the tradition of our elders and compromise the truth of the written Word of God. We are where we are because we are the lawless church.

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<sup>1</sup>The New King James Version, Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1996, c1982.