**I Timothy Chapter 4, Part 12**

**Salutation (1:1-2)**

**I. The Personal Charge (1:3-20)**

**II. The Public Charge (2:1-6:10)**

A. The Organization of the Church (2:1-3:16)

1. The Place of Prayer in the Church (2:1-8)

2. The Place of Women in the Church (2:9-15)

3. The Place of Bishops in the Church (3:1-7)

4. The Place of Deacons in the Church (3:8-13)

**5. The Place of Christ in the Church (3:14-16)**

**B. The Offense of the Church (4:1)**

**II. The Public Charge (2:1-6:10)**

**B. The Offense of the Church (4:7-11)**

**\*Review of Garden Gnosticism**: the Unknown god is an impersonal idea/soul which manifests to creation with chain of aeons, from spirit to flesh, which aeons in turn help deity locked in body move up pleroma through many reincarnations. Since flesh is evil, ***hedonism*** does not affect it whereas ***stoicism*** avoids anything fleshly. Christ was either a phantom (**Docetism**) or a mere human empowered by higher power (**Adoptionism**).

\*Bad karma (Jn. 9:4); anti-resurrection (I Cor. 15:12; II Tim. 2:18); Gnostic Christ (I Jn. 2:22; 4:3).

**PREMISE: Timothy was to continue to warn about Garden Gnosticism and replace with Christian Gospel.**

**I. The Exhortation (v. 7a)**

A. The **Prohibition** (*paraitou* present imperative > continue to refuse)

B. The **Perversion**

1. Profane > see 1:9

2. Old Wives’ Fables (*muthoi* > 1:4; II Tim. 4:4; Tit. 1:14) > Gnostic myths

**II. The Exercise (vv. 7b-8a) >** *gumnazo* (4x)> present imperative (Heb. 5:14; 12:11; II Pet. 2:14); *gumnasia* (1x) > gymnasium

A. The **Edifying Exercise** (v. 7b) > godliness (I Tim. 2:2; 3:16; 4:8; 6:3, 5, 6, 11; II Tim. 3:5)

B. The **External Exercise** > (*Paul* ***did not*** *tell Timothy to jump on Peloton at Planet Fitness!*)

1. Its **Examination** (v. 8a) > little profit > not Gnosticism but Christian Gnosticism > see next!

2. Its **Example** > **I Cor. 7:5 (Christian “Gnosticism”** > marital celibacy and fasting [from meats]): “Abstinence from meats and marriage, and the like, though they pass for acts of mortification and self-denial” (M. Henry).

**III. The Explanation (vv. 8b-11)**

A. The **Profitability** > (*ophelimus* [4x]) > II Tim. 3:16; Tit. 3:8

B. The **Promise** > promise of salvation through Christ the *pleroma* (cf. Col. 2:8-10)

C. The **Preaching** (vv. 9-11) > acceptation (I Tim. 1:15)

1. The **Message** > *“faithful and worthy”*

2. The **Motivation** > labour (*kopiao* [cf. I Tim. 5:17]) and suffer reproach (we suffer = Timothy)

3. The **Ministry** > Christ not Gnosticism (present imperatives) > keep commanding and keep teaching.

a. Saviour-hood of Christ (I Tim. 1:1; 2:3; II Tim. 1:10)

b. Specialty of Christ (*malista* [12x]) > His redemption is sufficient for all and efficient for believers > II Tim. 2:10; I Jn. 2:2.

**CONCLUSION: As saved sinners the Lord want us to enjoy all his gifts and only slightly practice “gnosticism.”**