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Paul's warning:

Acts 20:28-30 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock....I know that after my departure *savage wolves will come* in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, *speaking perverse things*, to draw away the disciples after them."

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I Timothy 4:1 "in later times"

II Timothy 3:1,5,13-14

"But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come, for men will be lovers of self holding a form of godliness, although they have denied its power....But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. *You, however, continue in the things you have learned....*"

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I Timothy 4:1 "depart from the faith" =

"These are professing or nominal Christians who associate with those who truly believe the gospel, but defect after believing lies and deception, thus revealing their true nature as unconverted."

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Matthew 12:30 “He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.”

The origin of all false teaching =
Satan!

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I Timothy 4:1-3 The Character of False Teachers:

- Deceitful = they can fool you! v.1
- Hypocritical = will pretend to be spiritual, godly but apply a different standard for themselves. v.2
- Liars = will twist the truth to fit their own agenda. v.2
- Hardened, insensitive conscience = will blatantly ignore clear teaching of scripture and justify it. v.2
- Will exercise unbiblical control over others: forbidding to marry, giving food restrictions, etc. v.3

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Why their teaching is wrong:

I Timothy 4:3-4: “...forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared....For everything created by God is good....”

We can ask ourselves:

- ✓ “Did God create it for our good?”
- ✓ “Are we able to gratefully share this with others?”
- ✓ “Is it sanctified by the Word of God and prayer?” = does it violate scripture?

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Titus 1:15 “To the pure, all things are pure; but *to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.*”

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Colossians 2:20-23 “If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, *why...do you submit yourself to decrees, such as ‘Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!’...in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?* These are matters which have...the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, *but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.*”

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I Timothy 4:7-8 = Contrast of godly discipline and worldly discipline:

- Your purpose in discipline should be godliness = does it have eternal value?
- Bodily discipline is of little profit, but it DOES have some profit = bodily discipline has profit for this life: for a little while.
- “Godliness is profitable for all things...for the present life and also for the life to come!”
- *How much time do you spend on maintaining your physical body in comparison to how much time you spend on growing your spiritual life?*

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II Corinthians 4:18

“...we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; *for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*”

[see also II Cor 5:1-11; Heb 11:1]

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I Timothy 4:12

“Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.”

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I Tim 3:15 the context of Paul's instruction

"...I write so that you will know *how one ought to conduct himself* in the household of God, which is the church...."

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I Timothy 4:13-16 Practical Instructions:

- V.13 Public reading of scripture: both OT scriptures and the apostles' letters (cp. I Pet 3:15-16)
- V.13 Exhortation = application of the truths of scripture
- V.13 Teaching = systematic instruction from God's Word
- V.14 Don't neglect your own spiritual life
- V.14 Don't forget Who called you

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I Timothy 4:13-16 Practical Instructions:

- V.15 "Be absorbed in them"

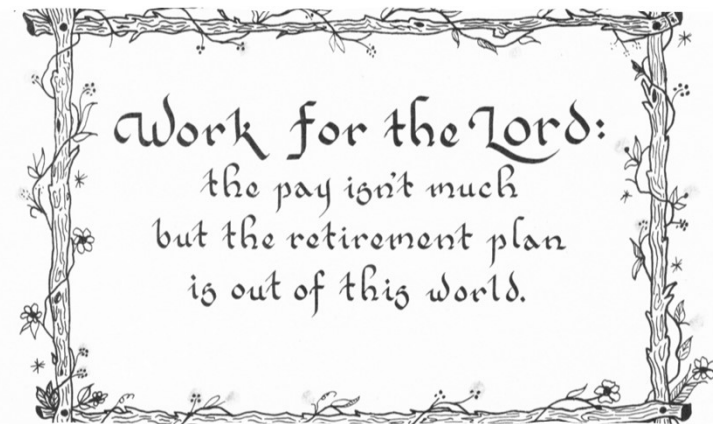
ESV "Practice these things, immerse yourself in them..."

The result = others will see your spiritual growth.

V.16 Persevere in these things = the ministry is hard work, but the rewards are great!

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I Timothy 4:13-16 Practical Instructions:

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ESV “Practice these things, immerse yourself in them...”

The result = others will see your spiritual growth.

V.16 Persevere in these things = the ministry is hard work, but the rewards are great!

- V.16 Remember your “why” (your motivation) = salvation both for yourself and for those who hear.

“People are the only ‘things’ in this world that you can take to heaven with you.”

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