

Great Expectations
1 Timothy 4:1-5
Ecclesia, 10
Timm Sasser

This passage contains both a warning for what we could become if we are not careful, and an encouragement for how we are to view God's provision in our lives.

Instructions to Timothy warning against false teaching.

-Requires...sensitivity to the voice of the Spirit of God

"...the Spirit clearly says..." 4.1a

...discernment to recognize truth from falsehood

"...deceiving spirits...things taught by demons...hypocritical liars..." 4.1b-2

-Resists turning the intention of God into an institution

"...forbid people to marry..." 4.3

"...order them to abstain from certain foods..." 4.3

*Represents the teaching of Asceticism**

-Recognizes the truth of the goodness of God's creation.

"...God created to be received with thanksgiving..." 4.3b

"...everything God created is good and nothing is to be rejected..." 4.4

-Experienced in the context of worshipping and honoring God through all we say and do.

"...consecrated by the word of God and prayer." 4.5

Quotes:

"We are what we see reflected in the eyes of our Heavenly Father. It is when we try to manufacture His approval of us through well-intentioned programs or clever spiritual gimmicks that we take our eyes off of Him and place them somewhere...less. The experienced benefit in the short run might well pay dividends, but the lasting result is so much less than what God intended. What we settle for is temporary and unsatisfactory; what He wants to give us is Himself."

"The Christian life is in danger of being reduced to either a pep rally for Jesus or an irritating set of restrictions." Larry Crabb, *Encouragement: The Key to Caring*

*probably!