

## **1 Timothy 4:1-5**

**Does the practice of self-denial- abstaining from marriage or certain foods- advance a person's spiritual life?**

# What is the appeal of these false teachers?

Appeals to pride: we want certainty of something do-able

Appeals to human pride: use as a measuring stick for others

Appeals to human pride: A Focus on restricting certain "sinful" behaviors: hides other sins!!

**Some will depart from the faith:**

**The certainty of departure- [1]**

**The signs of departure- [2-3a]**

**Preventing your own departure- [3b-5]**

# **The certainty of departure- [1]**

**Mark 13:5-6**

**Acts 20:28-29**

## **The signs of departure- [2-3]**

- 1. A demonic element- Ephesians 6:12**
- 2. "The Hypocrisy of Liars" 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (God gave them a strong delusion)**
- 3. A seared conscience**

## **The signs of departure- [2-3]**

**The very enterprise of a behavior driven, performance-oriented faith leads to judgmentalism, hypocrisy, hidden sin.**

## **Preventing your own departure [4-5]**

**Why does Paul not take the same approach as in 1 Corinthians 8:8-9 and Romans 14:13-14 and declare these issues “disputable matters”?**

- The false teachers had proven themselves liars**
- There was a demonic element operating**

## **Preventing your own departure [4-5]**

**1. Marriage and food were instituted in the beginning in Genesis for all humanity. They are part of God's common grace to all mankind. (To oppose these things is to oppose God at a basic level)**

## **Preventing your own departure [4-5]**

**2. Jesus Christ grants us the only kind of freedom that is for our complete good- the freedom to live within God's good boundaries and to accept God's good gifts- such as marriage and food. To insist on abstinence from these things goes against the gospel message.**

**James 1:17-18**