

Fraudulent Faith

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Timothy 4:1-5.

B. This passage is likely not talking about any one great departure like the departure of the man of sin II Thessalonians.

C. This is something that is going to go on in succeeding seasons of time.

D. There will be seasons of deceit.

II. With the coming of the Nineteenth Century, there came a flood of deceit.

III. The central focus of all error is to present a different Jesus.

A. Even the unseen forces know that Jesus is central.

B. Therefore, the enemies of God attack Jesus.

IV. The ultimate origin of these distortions is evil spirits. (Ephesians 6)

A. They have access to the inner thoughts and feelings of men.

B. All the thoughts that cross our mind are not necessarily coming from us.

V. Ultimately, these thoughts come through human beings manifesting themselves as dealing in pretensions and as having a seared conscience.

A. These religions are often characterized as being overly ascetic.

1. At the heart of asceticism is that some work would please God.

2. There is a difference between self-denial and denying self.

3. Faith is what makes us wholly acceptable to God.

4. We do not belong to ourselves as believers—this denies the insistent claim of the flesh that we are our own and can do whatever we want.

5. Thanksgiving is a proper recognition that everything that comes, comes from God and is for proper enjoyment not extreme denial.

Application questions:

1. Why is it important to recognize the true source of deceit?

2. How would you respond to religious claims that are overly ascetic?

3. What are examples of modern movements filled with deceit? What is the truth they distort? Explain.
