



Most detested characteristic of Christianity by the world,

and by Jesus and his Apostles! Jesus and the Apostles were more concerned about religious distortions of the Gospel than pagan immorality for one simple reason

Christ died for the sins of the world but not for the unbelief of the world.

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How to avoid spiritual shipwreck

1 Timothy 4

"1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith,

Face the truth courageously.

paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, *Watch your diet carefully.*

2 by means of the **hypocrisy** of **liars** seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,"

Follow Christ with consistency.
(Avoid HYPOCRISY)

1 Timothy 4

"6 In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. 7 But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; 8 for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 9 It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. 10 For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers."

Side issues

1 Timothy 4:7

"But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women."

"Old wives tales"

"If you cross your eyes for too long, they will get stuck that way."

"The "five-second rule"."



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Side issues

1 Timothy 4:10 (2:6)

"who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers."

2 Peter 2:1

"But false prophets also arose among the people, ... even **denying the Master who bought them**, bringing swift destruction upon themselves."

1 John 2:2

"and he himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, **but** also for those of the whole world."

Atonement was provided for all but procured through faith.



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Keys to avoiding hypocrisy:

- 1. Nurture your soul with health food.
- Spiritual fast food that can kill your appetite -Social praise, material security, creature comfort, YOUR dreams.

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 Test - How can you know if you are eating healthy "soul food"?

Anger & Anxiety - How do you feel when your expectations are (or may be) taken away?

Anger & Anxiety - are not the problem, they often just expose the problem: misplaced faith and hope from "worldly fables".

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1 Timothy 4

"7 . . . On the other hand, **discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness**; 8 for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 9 It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance."

- 2. Discipline yourself to "bear God's image".
- "Discipline" needs an objective reading the Bible starts with an objective, like:
 - What did this mean to the early ch.
- What does this teach me, now?
- Precondition our responses to life?

1 Timothy 4

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- Test How can you know if godliness is your real purpose?

Sacrifice - For what do you make the greatest sacrifices of your time, talent, treasure?

1 Timothy 4

"10 For it is for this we **labor and strive**, because we have **fixed our hope on the living God**, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers."

3. Hope for God's kingdom in HIS time.

Romans 8

"23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves **groan** within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. 24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it."

1 Timothy 4

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- Why does God ask you to be thankful FOR even evil circumstances? (Eph.5:20)
 He wants you to develop and demonstrate forgiving grace, and heavenly hope (the Word and Way of the Cross).
- Paul's "thorn in the flesh" (2 Cor.12)
- Paul's "wretched man" (Rom.7:24)
- Paul's "groaning with nature" (Rom.8:23)
- Paul's "flesh wars against spirit" (Gal.5:17)

1 Timothy 4

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 Test - How can you know that your hope is not placed in this world's circumstances?

Your response to both good and bad circumstances will tell you where your hope resides.

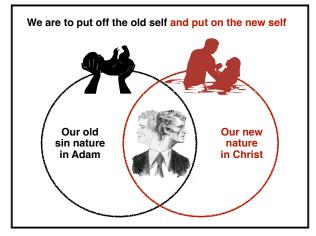
Peace & love or anger & anxiety.

We are too often trusting God to change our circumstances

while He is trusting us to bear witness to this world in how we respond to circumstances.

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Ephesians 4

"22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self,** which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and **put on the new self,** which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."



We all CHOOSE to be hypocritical (inauthentic) either to our OLD SIN NATURE or to our NEW SELF IN CHRIST.

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