

1 Tim. 4:1-11

APOSTASY: Its meaning;

1. Basically means to stand. Stand for something.
2. Abandonment of what was once voluntarily professed.
3. Total desertion of principles of faith. Teaching something else.

A PREDICTED APOSTASY IN THE CHURCH. 1 Tim. 4:1,2

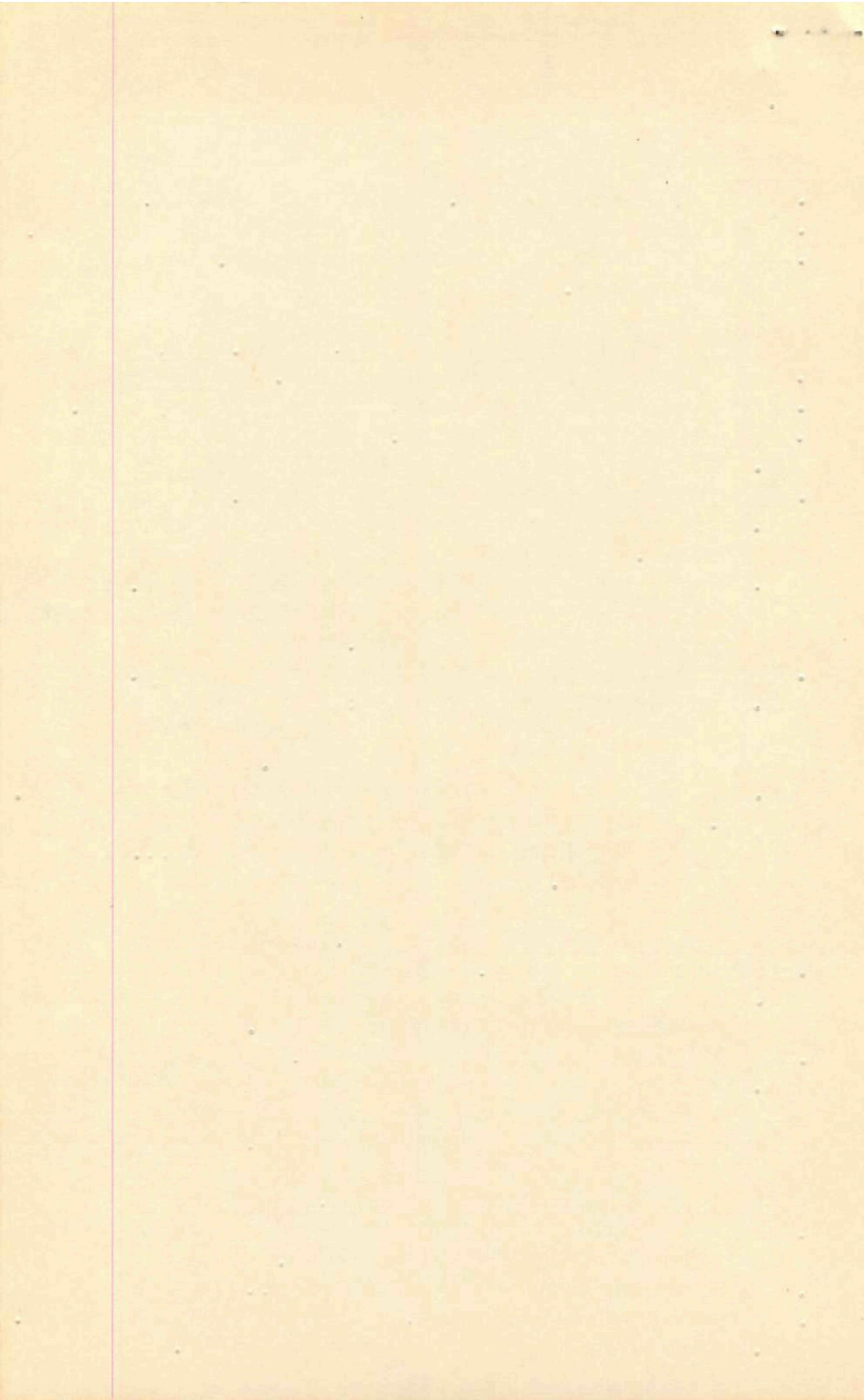
1. This prediction by the Holy Spirit. Not by man
2. The time of its appearance: Later (Latter) days.
3. The extent of the apostasy.
  1. Some shall depart from the faith: Not all
4. The reason or process of the apostasy.
  1. "Giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." Verse 1
  2. Man does not stand isolated in this world. If he is not influenced by the Holy Spirit, he is influenced by the spirits of delusion.
5. Consider the character of the false teachers. Verse 2
  1. Speaking lies in hypocrisy: They assumed a mask of holiness they didn't have..
  2. Having their conscience seared as with a hot iron.
    1. Through transgression they had lost the true distinctions between right and wrong...truth and error.

THE FEATURES OF THE APOSTASY 1 Tim. 4:3-5

1. "Forbidding to marry." Verse 3
  1. Hence the celibacy of the clergy in the Catholic church and other religious orders.
2. "Commanding to abstain from meats." Verse 3
  1. "For every creature of God is good and nothing to be refused, if received with thanksgiving, for it is sanctified by the word of God!" Verse 4, 5

THE DUTIES OF THE MINISTER OF CHRIST. Verses 6, 7

1. He must be always teaching the word of God by setting forth these truths to the brethren.
2. The minister must be always learning. Verse 6
3. He must be always working toward a profitable result.
  1. Exercises thyself rather unto godliness. verse 6



THE REASONS FOR RIGHT ENDURANCE SUMMED UP. Verses 8-11

1. "Godliness is profitable unto all things." Verse 8
  1. "It has promise of the life that now is."
  2. "It has promise of the life to come." Verse 8
  
2. Apostolic endurance. "We suffer reproach." Verse 10
  1. There was the conscious loss of all that the world holds dear.
  2. We suffer all this "because we trust in the living God." Verse 10
  
3. "Let no man despise thy youth." Verse 12
  1. "These things **c**ommand and teach." Verse 11
  2. No sane man will be found to despise youth in itself.
  3. Men dislike mere word-herosim.
  4. Be thou an example: See verse 12

