

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SONOMA

Exalting Jesus through the preaching of His Word

Sundays at 10:30 AM · 542 First St E, Sonoma, CA

Why Some Depart from the Faith

1 TIMOTHY 4:1-5

A grateful heart, anchored to Scripture, does not wander.

1 Know its _____ (v. 1)

- The Spirit warns us _____ — clearly and on purpose — so we are never caught off guard when someone walks away.
- "The faith" here means the _____ truth we confess — sound doctrine — not the loss of a believer's salvation (1 John 2:19).
- Behind every departure is an unseen, _____ influence — the enemy's lies dressed up as truth.
- **So be watchful.** The devil prowls like a roaring lion (1 Pet 5:8). Test what you watch, hear, and believe.

2 Discern its _____ (vv. 2-3a)

- **a. Masked** _____ — false teachers wear a costume of holiness, wolves in sheep's clothing. The dangerous ones keep you at arm's length.
- **b. A Seared** _____ — a heart burned past feeling that no longer feels conviction. Watch how a person answers correction from God's Word.
- **c. Stricter than** _____ — man-made rules that forbid good gifts, like marriage and food (see Col 2:16-23).

3 Hold fast to its _____ (vv. 3b-5)

- Paul answers false rules not with a stricter fence, but by pointing back to God's good _____ — everything He made is "very good" (Gen 1:31).
- Nothing is to be rejected if it is received with _____ (v. 4). The false teacher says "Reject it"; the believer says "Thank You."
- Test any teaching by its fruit: does it lead you to _____, or to pride? A grateful heart, anchored to Scripture, does not wander.

CONCLUSION — Held by His Grip

- True believers never finally fall away. "They will never perish — ever; and no one will snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:28; see also John 6:37-39).
- Your safety does not rest in the strength of your grip on God, but in the almighty strength of **His grip on you.**

TAKE IT HOME

- **Wounded or disillusioned?** Do not judge Christ by the failures of flawed people.
- **Anxious believer:** Your safety is His grip, not yours.
- **Every believer:** Remain vigilant yet sleep on the pillow of God's sovereign security
- **Outside of Christ?** He bore our punishment and rose again — turn from sin and trust Him, and you will never be cast out.