

November 2011

Dear friend

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons (1 Tim 4:1)

We live in a time when we are seeing many young people who grew up in church falling away from the faith. I am not just referring to the fact that they are dropping out of church, although that is certainly a grave concern. Rather, many are questioning and deciding not to believe in the God whom they have been taught to worship since childhood.

Just the other day, a university student asked me how I know that the God we worship is not just something that Christians had created as a psychological crutch; and he is not the only one asking such a question. In fact, a very common question today among our youth is, "How do I know that God is even real when I don't feel that He is real to me?" For many young people, if something is not real to them, then it is necessarily not real at all.

Today, we are not only going out to the world to share the gospel to those who are non-Christians, we have also been going into Christian communities to share the significance of the gospel to many who profess to be followers of Jesus. While the church is commanded to go into and impact the world, the reality is the world has crept into and influenced the church.

Sharing the significance of the gospel to church youth is as (if not more) challenging as sharing the gospel to unchurched ones. The young people who grew up in church are so familiar with bible stories that they assume that they have understood them all. There is also growing cynicism among some of these youth. They have 'tried' the Christian faith but it doesn't seem to 'work' for them. As part of our ministry to youth, this group is also among the spectrum that we are reaching for Jesus. Pray for us as we continue to lead them to a true appreciation of and right response to the gospel.

Time passes so quickly. We are soon coming to the end of 2011. It is that time of the year again when I make an appeal to you to prayerfully consider giving to the staff 13th-month salary. With the economy forecast for next year being not very optimistic, the staff will certainly find the bonus useful. For some, this amount is what they will set aside as savings for the whole year, while for others, it will be timely help to meet unforeseen expenses.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for praying and standing with us through 2011. May the new year bring new opportunities to lead many more youth to the Lord.

All Glory to God Alone



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1 *Tim 4:2*
by means of the hypocrisy of liars
seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron

False teaching (*hypocritical liars*) and immoral living (*branded conscience*) go together. Paul, in his letter to Timothy, saw wrong thinking and wrong living as inseparable.

Now, it is not difficult to see that wrong thinking would necessarily result in wrong living. When we have wrong ideas about someone or something, we tend to respond wrongly and badly to that person or thing.

But, the converse is also true. Wrong living does result in wrong thinking. When we have adopted a questionable lifestyle, we tend to want to justify it with reasoning, sometimes even taking the bible out of context to prove our point.

Buying into a wrong way of thinking and living is a key reason why many fall away from their faith. Hence, Paul instructed Timothy and the church at Ephesus to be "nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine" and to "discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness". It is when we grow in truth and godliness that we can think and live rightly. We can, then, be more sensitive to what would cause us to fall away from the faith—namely, false teaching and immoral living.