

SAINTS OF STEEL

1 Timothy 4:1-8

Radically Ordinary

# 1 Timothy 4

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. <sup>2</sup> Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. <sup>3</sup> They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. <sup>4</sup> For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, <sup>5</sup> because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

# 1 Timothy 4

<sup>6</sup> If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. <sup>7</sup> Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. <sup>8</sup> For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

# The Arena

- Why is it so difficult for us to become the people that God calls us to be?
  - A. Because godliness is a mystery to the natural man. (1 Tim 3:16)
  - B. Because of deception which is authored by Satan
    - 1. The deception of society
      - “the whole world is under the control of the evil one.” 1 John 5:19

# The Arena

B. Because of the deception which is authored by Satan

1. The deception of society
2. Spiritual deception (takes place even in the church) (Acts 20:29-31)

<sup>29</sup> I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. <sup>30</sup> Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

# The Arena

B. Because of the deception which is authored by Satan

1. The deception of society
2. Spiritual deception (takes place even in the church) (Acts 20:29-31)
3. How to distinguish truth from deception

# James 3

<sup>13</sup> Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. <sup>15</sup> Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

<sup>17</sup> But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup> Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

# The Catalyst

## A. How did this deception enter the church?

1. The work of deceiving spirits & demons
2. The influence of individuals who had been deceived

## B. What was being taught

1. Then – asceticism
2. Now:
  - Narcissism
  - Rationalism
  - Pragmatism

# The Arena

- C. How to combat this present darkness
  1. The importance of thanksgiving
  2. The necessity of the Word
  3. The work of prayer

# So What

- How can you be sure that you aren't a prime candidate for deception?
- What are the greatest benefits that you have in and through Christ?
- What disciplines do you need to pursue so that you can be spiritually fit?