

STAYING CENTERED WHEN EVERYONE ELSE FALLS AWAY

1 Timothy 4:1-16

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Introduction: How do we stay centered on Jesus when people around us are falling away and even deconstructing their faith? This is not just a 21st century problem. It was a problem already prevalent in Paul's day. And from the perspective of history, we know the deconstruction phenomenon has taken place from time-to-time and from place-to-place since then. If we're not prepared for it when it happens, it has the potential to be very upsetting. So, what's the right response? Not gloominess but grit...not discouragement but determination! After Paul informs Timothy that the body of Christ is designed to be a pillar of truth (3:15), he advises him that being a pillar of truth will not be easy (4:1-16). We will experience pushback. Specifically, Paul prophesies that in the later days – the time between Jesus' resurrection and return – people will fall away from their faith. So, he urges courage, both for Timothy and for us! When people around us are falling away, what should we do...get dragged down into pessimism...change our beliefs? Paul's words to Timothy are a model for how any follower of Jesus might respond to toxic cultures of false teaching in any age.

1. **The Gritty Reality**

1 Timothy 4:1-5

2. **Personal Disciplines**

1 Timothy 4:6-10

3. Corporate Disciplines

1 Timothy 4:11-16

4. Main Idea

5. Takeaways