

## Does it Work?

1 Tim. 4:1-5

*The Book of 1 Timothy*

**Theme:** Departure from the truth of the gospel happens when one embraces the deception that the law really can transform our lives if only we do \_\_\_\_\_.

### Introduction:

The church is the pillar and support of the truth and our common confession is *JESUS!* Without compromise we boast in the finished work of Jesus and confess that “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners (1:15),” that God “desires all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (2:4),” that Jesus is the only “mediator between God and men (2:5),” that Jesus “gave Himself as a ransom for all (2:6),” and that this mystery of godliness is on full display through His incarnation, sinless life, substitutionary death, glorious resurrection, and ascension into glory (3:14-16)!

Although the church is the pillar and support of the truth, if this truth is not prized, protected, and promoted the church is in danger. Our text this morning warns that some will reject the faith and embrace the error of the enemy by attempting to leverage the law to manufacture spiritual growth and godliness. All such efforts produce a counterfeit fruit that leave one empty rather than satisfied.

### Outline:

- I. **Departure from the Common Confession to Corrupt Teaching (4:1-2)**
  - A. **Rejection of the Faith/Gospel (3:14-16)**
  - B. **Description of this departure from the faith in First Timothy**
  
- II. **Devotion to Corrupt Teaching Leads to Counterfeit Conduct (4:1-3)**
  - A. **Exposed:** The Source of their Error
  - B. **Exposed:** The Searing of their Conscience
  - C. **Exposed:** The Specifics of their Teaching
    - 1) Forbidding of Marriage/Sex
    - 2) Forbidding of Food/Drink
  
- III. **Deliverance from Bondage that Leads to Joy (4:3-4)**

### Conclusion:

Well, *does it work?* Can the law really transform us into the godly, obedient people we want to become? Does embracing a man-centered approach to cleaning ourselves up really produce the lasting results we long for? Does rest and joy permeate such pursuits?

**Does it work?** Is Jesus really enough to not only save, but sanctify? Can we trust that God will finish what He started in us? Does trusting the finished work of Christ really produce peace, joy, and rest in this life? Is grace really able to keep changing and transforming us more into the image of Christ?