

## **MY GENERATION (part-six of a six-part study)**

My goal in this study of 2 Timothy 4:1-5 has been simple and straightforward; with the hope that many within my generation of fellow Evangelicals will gain a measure of insight into the spiritually downward spiral in which they have been trapped and victimized. I speak as one who was influenced by it, and by the grace of God, escaped from it. My rescue from this deception occurred one day, with a sudden realization of the manipulative tactics practiced by a particularly persuasive Evangelical pied piper. I'm convinced it was nothing short of divine intervention. My immediate response? I stopped drinking his Kool Aid! From that day to this present moment, I have not listened to or read a single word of his propaganda. Not long after, God impressed upon me the need for developing a deeper and more thorough study of His Word. Amazingly, in no time at all, the Great Commission regained its rightful place as my number one ministerial priority, with everything else a distant second, without the slightest deviation from that commitment since.

From my personal experience, I can tell you with the utmost confidence, that escaping from the spiritually downward spiral of 2 Timothy 4:3-4, involves three steps, consisting of **reflection/rejection/replacement**. First, engage in some serious personal *reflection* as to where you are as a Christian. What is your attitude toward sound doctrine? Are you willing to consider the possibility that you have been caught up in an incredibly popular trend that is bringing you spiritually downward? Even though you may be in the middle of it, there is a way out of it. And the way out demands *rejection* of the indoctrination. Here's how. Simply stop drinking their Kool Aid, with its poisonous effect on your spiritual well-being. Third, begin the *replacement* of that ear-tickling, man-made propaganda, by returning to a study of God's Word like never before. Use trustworthy resources which will supplement your efforts at learning and living sound doctrine. Sounds simple. But it's not easy. Swimming upstream never is. But if Paul did it and expected his disciple Timothy to do it, why should we expect anything less from ourselves? I will close with Paul's encouragement given in Colossians 2:6-10, which serves as a practical corollary to what we have learned from 2 Timothy 4:1-5.

**“Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.”**