

GRACE AT MEALS

In our lesson context (1 Tim.4:1-5), Paul warns Timothy about apostate teachings regarding New Covenant **marriage and meals**.

(1 Tim.4:3) “Men who **forbid marriage** and advocate **abstaining from foods** which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.”

We will study three aspects of the importance of acknowledging Thanksgiving Grace at Meals.

(1 Tim.4:3b) “foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.”

1. Before Adam’s sin, meals were on basis of grace without adversity of work or diet attached to them.

- **Day 3** (Gen.1:9-11) - Meals consisted of organic vegetables and fruit given by God’s grace.
- **Day 6** (Gen.1:24-31) - This was the diet of the Antediluvian world (Adam to Noah) (Gen.9, 16-17).
 - (Gen.1:29) “Then God said, ‘Behold, **I have given you** every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; **it shall be food for you.**”

2. In the Postdiluvian world [after the Noachic Flood] (Gen.6-9), God changed man’s diet to include meats.

(Gen.9:3-4) “Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant. Only do not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.” (Lev.17:10-13; Heb.9:22)

This doctrinal principle was placed in the final draft of doctrine from the Jerusalem Church Conference (Acts 15:19-21).

(Acts 15:28-29) “For it seems good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials (4 things): that you abstain **from things sacrificed to idols** and **from blood** and **from things strangled** and **from fornication**: If you keep yourselves free from these things, you will do well. Farewell.” (Heb.9:8; 10:19-20)

Later Paul will explain how to apply the **law of expediency** with these four things to New Covenant, Gentile believers in (1 Cor.8-10).

(Col.2:16-17) “Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festive or a new moon or a Sabbath day – things which are mere shadow of what is to come; but **the substance belongs to Christ.**” (Heb.8:5-7; 10:1)

3. In (1 Tim.4:4), Paul issued three important reasons for New Covenant Grace at Meals.

- “Everything created by God **is good** (kalos/ LXX of creation/ Gen.1/ except Day Two)”
- “And **nothing is to be rejected** (apobletos) [to throw away or refuse]”
- “Being **received with** (meta+gen. of accompaniment) **gratitude** (eucharistia) [thanksgiving].”

Law of Expediency: (1 Cor.10:31-33) “**Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.** Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, **so that they may be saved.**”

**Paul encourages us to sit at this year’s Thanksgiving Meal
with an Attitude of Gratitude
(1 Tim.4:4-5)**