

## Giving Heed To Doctrines of Devils

**Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils. (1 Timothy 4:1)**

*Giving heed to doctrines of devils*—literally, of, or concerning, *demons*—a term often applied by Greek writers to those who were canonized or deified after their death, or who were accounted agents or mediators between gods and men. (1 Tim. iv. 3.)

This same word was used by the Athenians, (Acts xvii. 18,) when they accused Paul of being a setter up of strange gods or demons—because he preached unto them Jesus, who had been raised from the dead.— *But in his estate*, (or in the stead of God,) shall he honour *the God of forces*, or, as rendered in the margin, *God's protectors*, divine guardians, or tutelary saints. (Dan. xi. 38.)

The corruption of the pure worship of God, the introduction of demonolatry into the Christian Church, and the trusting to other intercessors than the one only Mediator, seem here evidently referred to.

It is not needful to ask what church, as well as the Grecian, has *given heed to doctrines* concerning departed mortals, such as were believed on by heathens: or who have canonized dead men, worshipped them in *the stead* of God, believe on them as *strong protectors*, address them as intercessors, worship at their shrines, *regard their glory*, and *honor them with gold, silver, and precious stones and pleasant things*. (Dan. xi. 38.)

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