

1 Timothy 5:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For some are already turned aside after Satan.

Analysis

For some are already turned aside after Satan (ἥδη γάρ τινες ἐξετράπησαν ὀπίσω τοῦ Σατανᾶ, ἐδὲ γαρ τινες exetrapēsan opisō tou Satana)—'for some have already turned away to follow Satan.' *Ektrepō* means to turn away, deviate, go astray. *Opisō* means 'after, behind'—following Satan rather than Christ.

This sobering statement explains Paul's urgency: some young widows have already fallen into the patterns he warned against (idleness, gossip, sensuality) and thereby fallen under Satan's influence. They've abandoned their devotion to Christ for destructive lifestyles.

The verse underscores the seriousness of the issue. This isn't hypothetical concern but observed reality in the Ephesian church. Young widows who pledged devotion to Christ but then pursued sensual pleasure, gossip, and idleness have effectively aligned with Satan's purposes rather than God's. Paul's preventive counsel (remarriage for younger widows, strict enrollment criteria for older widows) protects against such spiritual disaster.

Historical Context

Some young widows in Ephesus apparently broke vows of devotion to church service, fell into immoral behavior, and perhaps even joined false teachers (2 Timothy 3:6 mentions false teachers infiltrating households and 'leading captive silly women'). Their defection damaged both their own souls and the church's witness. Paul's strict guidelines prevent such tragedies.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does idleness and self-indulgence constitute 'following Satan'?
2. What warning does this verse give about the danger of unfulfilled vows or commitments?
3. How can churches help prevent believers from 'turning aside' to follow destructive paths?

Interlinear Text

ἡδη	γάρ	τινες	ἐξετράπησαν	όπίσω	τοῦ	Σατανᾶ
already	For	some	are	after	G3588	Satan
G2235	G1063	G5100	G1624	G3694		G4567

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 2:2 (Parallel theme): And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

1 John 2:19 (Parallel theme): They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

1 Timothy 1:20 (Parallel theme): Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

2 Timothy 4:10 (Parallel theme): For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

