

# BUT YOU BE SOBER

2 Timothy 4:5



# THE WARNING GIVEN

- Paul warns against myths in all three letters (1 Tim. 1:4; 4:7; 2 Tim. 4:4; Titus 1:14; cf. 2 Pet. 1:16).
- Twice he tells Timothy to avoid “worldly and empty chatter” (1 Tim. 1:6; 6:20; 2 Tim. 2:16).
- Paul warns against being deceived at least eight times, other writers add at least another six instances.
- Paul says being led away is a result of childishness (Eph. 4:14).
- Jesus also warns us to be shrewd (Matt. 10:16).



# NOT EASILY SWAYED

- Don't be led by impulse (2 Tim. 3:6; Eph. 4:14; 1 Cor. 14:20).
- We must avoid confidence where it is not founded (1 Tim. 1:4; 6:4; 2 Tim. 2:23; Titus 3:9).
- It takes care to watch out for confirmation bias (2 Tim. 4:3-4).
- But avoiding conclusions is also a form of folly (2 Tim. 3:7).



# SOME CONSEQUENCES

- We are left more open to cleverly presented false doctrine.
- Myths lead to ungodliness.
- We fail to recognize false sincerity (Lk. 3:7-8; Heb. 5:14).
- We make the gospel look silly.

