

Beliefs That Matter Introduction

Eph 4:14

Text: Eph 4:14

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That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Introduction:

Why is it so important to have a clear understanding of the Scripture? Why should we be concerned with our beliefs?

Read Ephesians 4:14

The word tossed means to fluctuate. We live in a day of fluctuation. Morals fluctuate, the market fluctuates, standards fluctuate, as well as churches and Christians fluctuate.

At times many Christians' relationship with the Lord is not what it should be. With the right understanding of "Beliefs That Matter" a great deal of the fluctuation would be eliminated and we would see a stability that leads to maturing.

That is why Paul encouraged Timothy to study the scripture.

Read 2 Tim 2:15

Notice the things that Paul encouraged Timothy to do:

1. Be Strong (2:1)
2. Study (2:15)
3. Shun (2:16-18)
4. Separate (2:22)
5. Seize (2:22)

Paul followed that instruction in chapters 3 and 4 with reasons for studying the scripture.

Why do we need to be settled on the Beliefs That Matter?

Note:

1. Perilous times (3:1)

Reduction of strength, difficult, dangerous, fierce.

2. Selfish, Self Centered Society (3:2-4)

Notice the byproducts of loving self.

2a. Covetous - fond of money

2b. Boasters - braggart

- 2c. Proud - appearing above others, haughty
- 2d. Blasphemers
- 2e. Disobedient - Unpersuadeable
- 2f. Unthankful - thankless, ungrateful
- 2g. Unholy - wicked
- 2h. Without natural affection - hard hearted toward kindred
- 2i. Truce breakers
- 2j. False accusers - slanderer
- 2k. Incontinent - without self-control
- 2l. Fierce - savage
- 2m. Despiser - hostile to virtue
- 2n. Traitor - betrayer, surrendering to the enemy
- 2o. Heady - rash
- 2p. High-minded - to inflate with self conceit, be lifted up with pride

2q. Lovers of pleasure - fond of the sensual,
more than love God

2r. Having a form - appearance similar to
godliness and holiness, but refuse the
real

3. Rebellion & Resistance to the Truth (3:8)

4. Persecution (3:12)

5. Evil men & Seducers (3:13)

6. Deception (3:13)

7. Intolerance of Sound Doctrine (4:3-4)

Beliefs that matter are very important.

May God help us not only to know the things that
matter most, but also to love them, stand for them,
and live by them.