

Series: Sound Doctrine

TEACH NO OTHER DOCTRINE

1 TIMOTHY 1

Text: 1 Timothy 1:3

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³ *As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,*

Introduction:

Some may ask, “Does it really matter what we believe?”

Sadly today doctrine has fallen on hard times.

Many feel as if doctrine is not relevant, but we should never forget what the Bible says of itself:

2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

Doctrine is not only relevant, but it is also practical.

Doctrine is the basis for a Christ honoring lifestyle.

Doctrine serves as the foundation for the Christian life and the motivation for Christian activity.

Only by knowing the truth and being grounded in sound doctrine can we know false teaching and will not be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine.

Remember doctrine:

1. It gives substance to our faith
2. It stabilizes us during times of testing
3. It enables us to handle the Bible accurately
4. It equips us to detect and confront error
5. It makes us confident in our daily walk
6. It filters out fears and superstitions

Notice as we consider Paul's instruction to Timothy that No Other Doctrine Be Taught.

Timothy is about to assume authority as he becomes the undershepherd in the church at Ephesus.

This is going to be a crucial responsibility.

He will face dangers and difficulties that are both moral and spiritual.

At the opening of this epistle, Paul is forewarning him.

To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

Paul, would encourage him as he takes up his new task.

Paul is aware of the problems he faces.

Paul is advising him in the position he is taking.

Paul would guide him along the way.

This chapter could be studied along these lines:

- His Introduction of Himself, vss. 1-2
- His Indoctrination of Timothy, vss. 3-5
- His Indictment of Evil Doers, vss. 6-10
- His Inspiring Testimony, vss. 11-17

- His Important Warning, vss. 18-20

In this epistle, Paul is emphasizing sound doctrine.

He would have the church at Ephesus to be sound in doctrine.

Sound doctrine makes strong pulpits, and strong pulpits help make strong believers.

Weak churches are usually weak doctrinally.

The Bible is a book of doctrine.

It speaks about:

- Good doctrine
- Vain doctrine
- Doctrine of men
- Doctrine of demons
- Doctrine of Pharisees
- Divers' doctrines
- Doctrine according to godliness

- The apostles' doctrine.

We have false doctrines advancing because sound doctrine is not emphasized sufficiently.

We will see how "sound doctrine" is set forth in First Timothy.

Paul tells Timothy to be:

1. Particular About Doctrine

1 Timothy 1:3

³ As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

What teachers teach is what people believe.

- Teachers have a great Responsibility

What is it? To teach and to be sure it is "truth."

- Teachers have a great Necessity

They need to know the truth, 2 Timothy 2:15.

- Teachers have an unusual Priority

To make known the content of Scripture.

2. Protest Against False Doctrine

1 Timothy 1:3

³ As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

Warn people against "things contrary to sound doctrine."

- We should recognize false doctrine.
- We should reprove false teachers.
- We should resign from them.
- We should receive them not, 2 John 10.

3. Purpose of Sound Doctrine, (4:6)

1 Timothy 4:6

⁶ If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

- Preaching sound doctrine edifies the saints.
- Preaching sound doctrine gives endorsement to the teachers, 4:6.
- Preaching sound doctrine enlightens the saints.

4. Prominence of Sound Doctrine

1 Timothy 4:3

³ Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

Doctrine was not to be neglected.

Doctrine was to be preached.

5. Pay Attention to Sound Doctrine

1 Timothy 4:16

¹⁶ Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

6. Persevere in "the Doctrine

1 Timothy 5:17

¹⁷ Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

The word "labour" here means "to work at it."

Spend time studying it.

- He was to study sound doctrine.
- He was to stress sound doctrine.
- He was to stand for sound doctrine.
- He was to support sound doctrine.

7. See the Purity of Sound Doctrine

1 Timothy 6:3

³ If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

Sound doctrine leads to sound living, which is godliness.

In the church at Ephesus where Timothy would minister, certain people were spreading teaching of their own that were far from the truth of Scripture.

There are always people, and some weak saints, who will listen to these smooth talkers, without checking up on what they say to see if it is scriptural.

Timothy is to watch carefully and to teach wholesome Christian truth.

Now let us look at the Paul's instructions that will direct this young preacher,

Timothy, in what is likely his first pastorate.

It will help us in our study of verses 3 to 20 if we divide this portion into three divisions related to this young man's ministry:

Demands for the Ministry, 3-11.

Dedication to the Ministry, 12-17

Direction in the Ministry, 18-20

1. DEMANDS FOR THE MINISTRY (VSS. 3-11)

1 Timothy 1:3-11

³ As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, ⁴ Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do. ⁵ Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: ⁶ From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; ⁷ Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. ⁸ But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; ⁹ Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, ¹⁰ For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; ¹¹ According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

Let us look at the material dealt with in these verses:

A. The Outbreak of Heresy at Ephesus, vss. 3-4

Evidently false teachers had crept in among the believers there and were spreading false doctrines.

Paul warned them of this when he was having a farewell meeting with the elders.

Note: Acts 20:28-31

Acts 20:28-31

²⁸ Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

Paul called the false teachers "wolves."

He said they would not spare the flock.

The church at Ephesus was started by Paul.

It was helped by John (Acts 19) and Apollos, Priscilla and Aquilla.

Paul visited there on his first missionary journey and on his third one.

This church had a lot of privileges. It had good teachers visit it.

- The Ephesian Church had a duty to expose these false teachers and stand for sound doctrine.

1 Timothy 1:3

³ As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

Other doctrines were being projected; but true doctrine must be proclaimed.

Christian duty must be practiced.

Every phase of error must be renounced and rejected in its totality.

- The Ephesian Church's danger was they were given over to the worship of the goddess Diana.

False teaching was rampant, being propagated by "some."

Timothy is to speak out against anything that is contrary to sound doctrine.

No doubt these were Judaizing teachers who claimed to know all about the law, yet were ignorant of its real meaning.

Paul referred to their false teaching as "fables and endless genealogies."

Timothy would come face to face with these errors.

Note not only the Outbreak of Heresy but also:

B. The Outcome of Sound Doctrine (vs. 5)

1 Timothy 1:5

⁵ Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

Paul has just warned about "certain persons" who were "off-target" in their doctrine.

They were misleading their hearers with teaching false doctrine.

They led people into vain discussions.

Satan loves to sidetrack people this way.

In this way he makes sure the truth never reaches those who need it.

Now Timothy is to charge the false teachers.

The word "commandment" here means charge.

Timothy's charge is made up of "sound doctrine."

The outcome of sound doctrine is:

Love—a Divine love shed in the heart by the Holy Spirit.

That love is expressed and evidenced in—

1. Unfeigned Faith.

That means that it is not a mere lip faith.

It is the genuine confidence of the heart in truth.

It will also be expressed and evidenced in:

2. Unblemished Conscience, "Good conscience."

This is a conscience with all guilt removed and all is right.

A good conscience is one that is well enlightened by the Word of God.

It will also be expressed and evidenced in:

3. Undefined Heart, "Pure heart."

The motives at the center of the life are clean or pure.

There is nothing false about personal desires and ambitions.

A pure heart has been made pure by the purifying power of the Word of

A pure heart does not house unworthy motives. We will briefly consider one final thought

C. The Outlook of False Teaching (vss. 6-10)

What are some of the results of False Teaching?

Note:

- The Wrong Doctrine, vss. 6-9a

1 Timothy 1:6-9

⁶ From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; ⁷ Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. ⁸ But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; ⁹ Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane,

for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

All this false teaching is described as “vain jangling” or empty arguments or vain clatter.”

They had been teaching some "other doctrine."

This "other doctrine" had to do with the "law."

They talked about the law but they understood not its content or its purpose.

Their lives did not, in their actions, correspond to any kind of sincerity that was related to truth.

They claimed to be teachers of the law, with a measure of pride and a lot of conceit, but they knew not the law nor the gospel, verses 6 and 7.

Paul sets forth the purpose of the law in verse 8.

He says "the law is good" when it is used in its rightful place.

The law has a purpose (when used lawfully) designed by God.

It convicts of sin in the unconverted.

Close:

We must be grounded in sound doctrine if our lives are going to be honoring and pleasing to the Lord.

Soundness in doctrine is a life or death matter.