
As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine. (1 Timothy 1:2)

I. A Real and Present Danger (vv.3-7)

- a. The Church always faces the challenge of being corrupted by false teaching, whether it is intentional or unintentional.
- b. At the time of Paul's writing there was a "body of doctrine" which was an agreed standard by which all teaching could be tested and judged. It was the teaching of Christ and of His apostles.
- c. The apostles were directed by Christ to safeguard the doctrine of Jesus Christ, it appears that Paul is delegating that responsibility to Timothy among the saints at Ephesus.
- d. In the original Greek text there are 32 references to *doctrine, teach, teacher, teaches, and teaching* in the three Pastoral Epistles.
- e. Paul reminds Timothy of his assignment to protect the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to speak against heresies. We all need encouragement in ministry to stand for the truth.
- f. Timothy was easily discouraged and apparently had physical problems. Also, some church members were not giving him the proper respect as God's servant. (1 Tim 5:23)
- g. *Charge* means to give a strict order from a superior office. Our order from Christ is to love. (v.5)
- h. When false teaching comes into a church, the first activity to drop off is loving one another. The second is usually evangelism, which is precisely what had happened at Ephesus.
- i. Wherever there are spiritual opportunities, there will be satanic obstacles.

II. Wolves Among the Flock (vv.8-11)

- a. False teachers that Paul is referring to played up the law and played down the good news. Paul reaffirmed that the law is good as long as it is used correctly (v.8).
- b. The reason for this false doctrine was a misuse of the O.T. Law. These "teachers" were leading believers out of the liberty of grace into the bondage of religious legalism.
 1. The focus was on outward cleanliness/rituals without have a real change of heart.
 2. The Law is to expose, restrain and convict the "lawless." (v.9)
 3. The Law cannot save sinners, it can only reveal their need for a Savior. (Gal 2:21;3:21-29)
- c. The servant of God must stay on the job being both alert and discerning, because false teachers are busy trying to lead them away from the flock. Separation will open you up to speculation.
- d. False teachers *promote speculations* – this goes beyond asking questions about the Word (4).
- e. *Swerving*, meaning one who misses aim both spiritually and doctrinally. (v.6)
- f. All biblical teaching must reinforce that mankind in need of a Savior, that Jesus (the Messiah) came to redeem mankind as **the** Son of God (fully human/fully God), that He died a real death, that He was raised from the dead, that He lives and that He will return. All other doctrines flow through these basic truths.

III. Thoughts and Considerations

- a. Unfortunately, in many churches today the pulpit and choir are places of entertainment and not for spiritual enrichment.
- b. There are songs that teach no doctrine or even false doctrine. A singer has no more right to sing a lie than a teacher to teach a lie.
- c. Biblical teaching is critical to the stability, function, and mission of the Church.
- d. Truth must reign in the house of God and in our hearts. If the truth is not in our hearts how can it reign in His house?
- e. Let us take seriously the reading of God's Word. Let us take seriously the role of a discipleship.