

# Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful



“Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.” (Proverbs 23:23).

## The Time Has Come

Second Timothy gives us a warning concerning how things will be during “the last days.” In Second Timothy 3:1, “the last days” are referred to as “perilous times.”

In that context we read...

### **Second Timothy 4:3-4,**

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

### **“Be Turned Unto Fables”**

In spite of the fact that the church at Ephesus had a godly pastor by the name of Timothy, we read that some would “be turned from the truth” unto fables. It doesn’t say they would turn, it says they would “**be** turned.”

### **“Hymenaeus And Philetus”**

We read in Second Timothy 2:18 that Hymenaeus and Philetus had infiltrated among the people with what God calls “vain babbling” and the result was they had “overthrown the faith of some.”

### **“Lovers of Pleasure More Than Lovers of God”**

We are warned that in the “last days” spiritually shallow people would be a part of local church memberships. It is because of this that we have over 90% of the people

who are members in our church doing nothing for the cause of Christ. Our churches are filled with people who have “a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.”

### **“Not Endure Sound Doctrine”**

They were “turned” from faith to fables. The word “fables” occurs five times in the New Testament.

- **First Timothy 1:4**, “Neither give heed to fables.”
- **First Timothy 4:7**, “Refuse fables.”
- **Titus 1:14**, “Not giving heed to fables.”
- **Second Peter 1:16**, “We have not followed fables.”
- **Second Timothy 4:4**,

“They shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

### **How They Were Turned**

We read they went “after their own lusts” (v.3). The Greek word translated lusts is “epithymia.” It has been translated “desire” three times. The word “epithymia” is not always used in the sense of desiring something wrong.

### **Luke 22:15, - Jesus’ Desire**

“And he said unto them, With **desire** I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer.”

### **Philippians 1:23, - Paul’s Desire**

“Having a **desire** to depart, and to be with Christ.”

### **First Thessalonians 2:17,**

“But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great **desire**.”

### **“itching Ears”**

Those who were “turned” to “fables” in the church at Ephesus were turned because their desires were more important to them than “sound doctrine.” As a result they were opened to listen to teaching that complimented their desires.

The word “ears” occurs twice in verses three and four. The Greek word is “akoe” which has been translated “hearing” ten times. It is used of Lot who, “*hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day*” (Second Peter 2:8). Lot ended up in serious trouble because his desires were more important to him than was the will of God.

### “After Their Own Desires”

#### **Second Timothy 4:3-4,**

*“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts (desires) shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”*

### “The Time Has Come”

Let not the faithful Christian be taken off guard. We are living in an age of apostasy when many will not “endure sound doctrine.” I am hearing from pastors everywhere that people who once seemed to love sound doctrine are walking away.

### Desires More Important Than God’s Will

As previously mentioned, our desires are not always bad things; however, if our desires are more important than God’s will, our desires can be wicked.

The pastor who desires a crowd in his church, or the acceptance of his friends in the ministry more than he desires the will of God, is a compromiser.

The church member who leaves a church because his personal desires are more important than sound doctrine is also a compromiser.

### “Concerning The Truth”

The word “truth” occurs eleven times in First And Second Timothy.

**First Timothy 2:4,** tells us God’s will is that “*all men be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*”

**First Timothy 2:7,** Paul said, “*I speak the truth.*”

**First Timothy 3:15,** the church is to be “*the pillar and ground of the truth.*”

**First Timothy 4:3,** refers to “*them which believe and know the truth.*”

**First Timothy 6:5,** refers to them which are “*destitute of the truth.*”

**Second Timothy 2:15,** refers to “*rightly dividing the word of truth.*”

**Second Timothy 2:18,** refers to some that “*concerning the truth have erred.*”

**Second Timothy 2:25,** refers to “*the acknowledging of the truth.*”

**Second Timothy 3:7,** tells of those who were “*Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*”

**Second Timothy 3:18,** names two men who did “*resist the truth.*”

**Second Timothy 4:4,** refers to “*turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*”

### “Buy The Truth And Sell It Not”

#### **Proverbs 23:23,**

*“Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.”*

Today, like Isaiah’s day, “*truth is fallen in the street*” (Isaiah 59:14). However, we also read in Isaiah 55:1, “*Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.*”

Truth is “*without price.*” Truth is priceless! It is impossible to determine the value of truth; however, it is being sold today for the sake of unity.

### A Bundled Package

Truth comes in a bundle that includes “*wisdom, instruction, and understanding.*” When we sell the truth, we sell the bundle.

### The Wise Man Died As A Fool

Solomon sold the truth for the “*vanities*” of the world and by his own testimony we read, “*And how dieth the wise man? as the fool*” (Ecclesiastes 2:16). When Solomon sold the truth he also sold “*wisdom, instruction, and understanding.*” and so do we.

This explains why there is so little discernment today, in our so-called fundamental **movement**.

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