

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

Turning Away From The Truth

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

(Second Timothy 4:4)

Article 2



Paul's Final Message

In Second Timothy 4:6, Paul the apostle wrote, “...*the time of my departure is at hand.*” Paul had one final message to give and **under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit**, Paul wrote his final message to Timothy, who was the pastor of the church at Ephesus, and interestingly enough, when he wrote, he named the men who were influencing people with unsound doctrine. He said that they “*overthrow the faith of some.*” He said they “*resist the truth.*” Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit Paul openly exposed *Hymenaeus, Alexander, Hermogenes, Philetus, Jannes, Jambres, and Demas.*

Under The Inspiration of The Holy Spirit

John Named Diotrefes

“Diotrefes, who loveth to have the preeminence” (Third John 1:9).

Jude Named Cain, Balaam, and, Core

“Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.” (Jude 1:11).

Also

Jesus Named Jezebel

“I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants” (Revelation 2:20).

God's Charge To The Pastor

Second Timothy 4:1-4,

“I charge thee (**pastor**) therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 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.”

Do It “Speedily”

Ecclesiastes 8:11,

“Because sentence (**punishment assigned when found guilty of a particular offense**) against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.”

The Hebrew word translated “*sentence*” in the verse above is “*pithgam.*” It is translated as the kings “*decree*” in Esther 1:20. A decree is “*an official order issued by a legal authority.*” What Hymenaeus, Alexander, Hermogenes, Philetus, Jannes, Jambres, Demas, Diotrefes, Cain, Balaam, Core, and Jezebel were doing was evil. Exposing them was inspired of God.

Paul's final message before departing this world was to openly expose those who were going to “*overthrow the faith of some.*” Paul wrote to the pastor at the church at Ephesus, and he said, “*I charge thee...*” Now, that's very serious. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul wrote to the pastor saying, “*I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge...*” What is He going to judge? God will judge concerning how we as pastors handle our responsibilities.

The Herald

The word “*preach*” means “*to herald.*” When a herald came into town, he said, “*Hear ye, hear ye. Thus saith the king.*” He didn't water-down the message because some people might not like him. He said what the King told him to say. He didn't leave anything out of the message because some people might leave town and they would lose some tax money, like compromising preachers do today because they might lose some tithe money. He preached what he was told to preach knowing if he didn't he would face the judgment of the king. Our King has commanded His pastors to expose any, and all, who promote unsound doctrine. He didn't say we would not need to expose them if they called themselves fundamentalists or if they were one of our friends in the ministry.



“Be Instant”

Pastors are commanded to “*be instant.*” According to Vine's Expository Dictionary, “*instant*” means “*to stand by.*” Stand by the Word—“*Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season...*” Standing by the Word is out of season these days; however, we will “*preach the Word!*” We will preach “*all the counsel of God*” (Acts 20:27), or we will compromise. There is no middle ground!

Sound Doctrine Is God's Way of Weeding Out The Insincere

It might seem counter-productive for us to “*reprove, rebuke, and exhort with doctrine*” since the time has come “*when they will not endure sound doctrine*” and “*they will heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears*”; however, we should praise the Lord when the insincere leave.

We know the insincere will, “*...turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*” When pastors “*...reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine*” those who will not “*endure sound doctrine*” will leave seeking someone who will tickle their ears with what they want to hear. Praise the Lord when those kind leave. That means they will no longer be around to influence the sincere Christians in God's local church.

The dictionary says “*influence*” is “*the capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone.*”

“That The Truth Might Continue”

Paul was concerned about the church at Galatia, that they would continue in the truth. He said in Galatians 2:5, “*...that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.*” Unfortunately, Christians there did not continue. Why? Because of the false brethren in verse four who they allowed in the assembly. He said in Galatians 3:1, “*O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth...?*” To “*bewitch*” is to gain control over someone. Who has done this? Galatians 2:4 tells us it was the “*false brethren.*” In Galatians 5:7, Paul asked, “*...who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?*” Who hindered them? False brethren influenced them.

“So Soon Removed”

Paul said in Galatians 1:6, “*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel.*” Again, Paul said, “*...there be some that trouble you...*”

“Let Him Be Accursed”

In verse eight he said, “*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*” In case some might be a little slow, he said it again in verse nine, “*As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*” The word “*accursed*” is a translation of the word “*anathema,*” and it was an Old Testament type of what we call church discipline today. Those who were promoting things against the Word of God were to be exposed; their names were to be posted in the Temple in a conspicuous place—usually on the pillars—to let everyone know who was guilty of unsound doctrine. Again, Paul asked, “*...who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth...?*” (Galatians 3:1); “*...who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth...?*” (Galatians 5:7).

It Was Peter!

In Galatians 2:11, Paul said, “*...I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.*” Galatians 2:13 tells us about Peter's influence. It says, “*And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him.*” Paul continued that even “*Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.*”

Peter was influencing people by promoting unsound doctrine. Peter was a good man, he was a great man, but he was going astray here, and when he went astray, **how did Paul handle it?**

First of all, he did handle it. Keep in mind that Peter was Paul's very good friend in the ministry. We are told in Galatians 1:18, that Paul "*...went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.*" When nobody would have anything to do with Paul, Peter took him in. They were very good friends. However, if Paul was going to be loyal to the Word of God, he would need to publicly rebuke Peter, friend or no friend.

A Very Uncomfortable Church Service

It was a very uncomfortable church service that day when Paul openly rebuked Peter. Galatians 2:14 says, "*But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all...*" This wasn't something that was done behind the scenes. Paul openly rebuked Peter because "*he was to be blamed.*" Peter had influenced other Jews. He had caused Barnabas to be "*carried away.*" To carry is "*to move (someone or something) from one place to another.*"

A Very Uncomfortable Responsibility

We need to face the fact that we are living in an age of apostasy, and Second Peter 2:1 says, "*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought (redeemed) them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*"

We are warned here twice that false teachers are going to be "*among the people*", and they're going to bring in a "*damnable heresy.*" The "*damnable heresy*" being promoted today that repentance is not necessary for salvation has been flooding into our churches in recent years. It is called a "*damnable heresy*" because if you believe it, you will be damned to Hell for eternity.

Introduced By Fundamentalists

This "*damnable heresy*" was introduced by leaders in our so-called fundamental Baptist movement by the name of Jack Hyles, who at the time was the pastor of the very influential First Baptist Church, Hammond Indiana, and Curtis Hutson, who at the time was the editor of the very influential Sword of The Lord newspaper.

Christians Promoting Heresy

Paul said these damnable heresies would be taught by those who deny the Lord that "*bought them.*" That word "*bought*" has been translated "*redeemed*" three times. Hyles and Hutson who were fundamental independent Baptist Christian leaders introduced a "*damnable heresy*" that influenced their listeners to "*turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables*" (Second Timothy 4:4). They said people do not need to repent in order to be saved. The Bible says God, "*commandeth all men every where to repent*" (Acts 17:30). **We have no choice but to choose.** Believe Hyles and Hutson or believe Christ.

Influencing Many

Second Peter 2:2 tells us that, "*And many shall follow their pernicious*"—or destructive—"*ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*"

Not only do those who promote this heresy go the way of destruction, they also speak evil against those who are presenting the truth. We are reliving the days of Jeremiah where he said in Jeremiah 9:3 that God's people were not "*valiant for the truth*"; verse five says they would not speak the truth, and in Jeremiah's day we read that, "*truth is perished*" (Jeremiah 7:28).

First Timothy 6:5 tells us that God's people will again be "*destitute of the truth.*" Second Timothy 2:18 says, "*Who concerning the truth have erred...*"; and as we have read, Second Timothy 4:4 we are told, "*And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*"

Is There Anything More Important Than The Truth?

The fact is, whatever we believe will dictate our behavior. If we believe unsound doctrine, it will be impossible to live our lives according to the truth.

We read in First Timothy 2:4 that God "*would have all men to be saved and come unto the knowledge of the truth.*" The dictionary says the definition of "*believe*" is "*the acceptance of something as being true.*" "*Behavior,*" according to the dictionary, is "*to conduct oneself in accordance with the accepted norms of a group.*" Obviously, the accepted norms of a group and the truth of the Word of God are not always the same.



"Silence gives consent. He who refrains from defending the right is himself an accomplice in wrong."

C. H. SPURGEON

Facing The Facts

When Paul wrote to Timothy, he went straight to the problem. In First Timothy 1:3, he said, "...that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine."

Paul's final message was to the pastor. He warned the pastor to put a stop to those who were influencing church members with unsound doctrine.



“Who Did Hinder You?”

In Galatians 5:7, Paul said, "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?" Who did that? Who influenced them? Second Timothy 4:4 refers to those who would "be turned to fables"; they would "be turned" from the truth by the influence of the teachers of unsound doctrine. As previously mentioned in this case it was Peter who was turning them from "the truth."

Hebrews 12:13, refers to those who would be "turned out of the way." Second Peter 3:17 warns us, "...beware lest ye also, be led away..." Colossians 1:23 warns, "...be not moved away from the hope of the gospel..." Don't let anybody move you away from the truth. In the age of Israel's apostasy Malachi 3:8 talks about those who "caused many to stumble."

“Have I Become Your Enemy?”

Paul was not well received in Galatia after reproving Peter. Paul said, "Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16).

International Influences



Unlike at the beginning of our local church age, today we have influences from around the world that can "overthrow the faith of some." As pastors we need to take our God-given responsibility to be sure those promoting unsound doctrine do not influence the people in our churches by creeping in unawares using today's technology to do it. We are living in the age of apostasy when what was prophesied 2000 years ago is coming true. We have our so-called fundamental movement that is plagued with men teaching the damnable heresy that repentance is not necessary for salvation.

We have seen that Paul the apostle's final message was to named some men who were promoting unsound doctrine. His message for the pastor was, and is, *We better let our people know who they are or our people are going to be influenced by them. We better let them know who they are.*

Responses Today

When Hyles, and Hutson promoted their damnable heresy, we noticed two responses by our so-called fundamental leaders. One, the majority supported Hyles and Hutson, and second, those who disagreed, for-the-most-part, remained silent. As a result, thousand of people who have prayed a little prayer less repentance are going to burn in Hell for eternity. That's what Jesus said, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). I will repeat that in case you didn't get it the first time. **Because preachers refuse to expose the damnable heresy** promoted by Hyles and Hutson, thousands of people who have prayed a little forgiveness prayer less repentance will burn in Hell for eternity.

Silence always gives consent. To remain silent is to promote apostasy. All that is necessary for apostasy to triumph in our churches is for preachers to refuse to face the facts. Most so-called fundamental leaders of our day not only refuse to warn God's people concerning this heresy, and those who promote it, they openly support the heresy, and those who promote it.

Exposing Error



"Objection is often raised even by some sound in the faith-regarding the exposure of error as being entirely negative and of no real edification. Of late, the hue and cry has been against any and all negative teaching.

We are called upon to '**contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints,**' The choice is not left with us. Any error, or any truth-and-error mixture, calls for definite exposure and repudiation. **To condone such is to be unfaithful to God and His Word and treacherous to imperiled souls for whom Christ died."**



"Thy Word Is Truth" (John 17:17)