

God's

A Verse By Verse Study of First & Second Timothy

Church Manual

First Timothy Chapter Four

Timothy was commanded to keep the fact of the apostasy before the congregation so that they could guard against the false doctrines and the false philosophies that flood the church when apostasy prevails.

Timothy was commanded to warn about the characteristics of apostasy and the apostates who promoted it. As the pastor, he was to guard against being influenced by the promoters of error and publicly expose those who erred. He also had the responsibility to teach the church members about that which is profitable.

Verse 1 - *“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, (Body of truth) giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;”*

A close study of the Bible phrases, “the latter day, latter days, latter years, latter time,” and “latter times” appear to represent the period beginning with the rebirth of Israel through to the Millennium. The Scriptures give us very explicit events that will happen during this specific time.

“SOME SHALL DEPART”

One of the major rules of Bible study is to always keep the interpretation of Scripture within its context. Paul's purpose in writing to the pastor in Ephesus was that he might “...know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” (First Timothy 3:15)

According to Strong's Concordance the word “depart” here not only means “to remove” it also carries the idea of “instigating to revolt.” As

previously mentioned, the words “the faith” here have to do with the system by which we do the work of the Lord in the dispensation of the local church.

When Paul said, “...in the latter times some shall depart from the faith,” it seems probable he was referring to the departure from God's system of the local church to the thousands of para-church ministries that have helped to usher in the apostasy of our day.

WHEN GOD “SOMES” IT UP

- “Some” ...were teaching false doctrine. (First Timothy 1:3)
- “Some” ...turned aside unto vain jangling. (First Timothy 1:6)
- “Some” ...made shipwreck. (First Timothy 1:19)
- “Some” ...departed from the faith. (First Timothy 4:1)
- “Some” ...turned aside after Satan. (First Timothy 5:15)
- “Some” ...sinned openly. (First Timothy 5:24)
- “Some” ...sinned secretly. (First Timothy 5:24)
- “Some” ...coveted after money. (First Timothy 6:10)
- “Some” ...erred concerning the faith. (Second Timothy 5:24)
- “Some” ...had their faith overthrown. (Second Timothy 2:18)
- “Some” ...were vessels to honour. (Second Timothy 2:20)
- “Some” ...were vessels to dishonour. (Second Timothy 2:20)

Let us never forget to appreciate those who are “vessels to honour,” however, when God “somes” it up we see the majority of people are not going to listen to a pastor who preaches the Word in this age of apostasy.

WHERE WILL THEY GO?

Verse three tells us, “...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.”

They will not accept “sound doctrine.” Sound doctrine is doctrine without mixture. This verse speaks of their “lusts.” The word simply means their desires. The majority of church members in our fundamental Baptist churches





“desire” to be a member of the church and do nothing.

It is a fact that less than ten percent of the members in fundamental churches do all the work.

Some pastors will allow those who “desire” to have no commitment to the work of the Lord to join the local church and feel quite comfortable calling themselves fundamentalists as long as they keep putting their money on the plate each week. **It is any wonder we lose so many young people in our churches.**

If the pastor deals with the problem of complacency, most complacent members will leave the church. We read, “They will heap to themselves teachers.” The word “heap” refers to accumulating a large number. The word “teacher” here does not mean to preach demanding a decision. The verse goes on to say they will heap these teachers to themselves because they have “itching ears.” These people go from church to church and from seminar to seminar seeking to hear only those things they desire to hear and will not listen to what they do not want to hear.

THEY COME AND THEY GO

If everyone who has come to FHBC, which I have pastored for the past fifteen years, were still with us, we would have well over 300 in attendance today. Most of them loved the preaching, the singing, the KJV, the respect our young people have, the spirit of the meetings, and even the pastor. “...But they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.” (First John 2:19) Not one person who has left over the years has come with a viable Scripture to support their reason for leaving. **Not one!**



JESUS HAD A SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY

- **Matthew 4:25** “...great **multitudes** of people.”
- **Matthew 8:1** - “Great **multitudes** followed him.”
- **Matthew 12:15** - “Great **multitudes** followed...”
- **Matthew 13:2** - “Great **multitudes** gathered...”

- **Matthew 15:30** - “Great **multitudes** came unto him.”
- **Matthew 19:2** - “Great **multitudes** came...”
- **Luke 5:15** - “Great **multitudes** came together to hear.”
- **Luke 12:1** - “...an innumerable **multitude**...”

THE DAMAGE ONE SERMON CAN DO!

John chapter six begins with “And a great multitude followed him.” (Verse 2) Jesus traveled on to Capernaum and we read. “They also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus.” In verse twenty-eight they asked, “What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?” Jesus preached a sermon about what it really meant to follow Him and in verse four we read they, “...murmured at him.”

They did not want the truth, they wanted someone to approve their version of doing the “works of God.” In verse sixty-six we read, “From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.” Jesus did not dilute the truth to keep the crowd coming to hear Him. **The ministry of the Lord was no less successful after they left.**

THE TRUTH ABOUT PARA-CHURCH MINISTRIES

It has only been in recent years that we have forsaken God’s local church and organized a flood of ministries outside of the local church. If the “latter time” in verse one begins at the time of Israel’s rebirth as a nation in 1948, it coincides with the beginning of our days of apostasy.

Before that, for nearly 2000 years, we were content to do things God’s way “...in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” (First Timothy 3:15) Not long after the rebirth of Israel in 1948, we began to be flooded with ministries outside of the authority of the local church.

“It has only been in recent years that we have forsaken God’s local church and organized a flood of ministries outside of the local church.”



“THE HOUSE OF GOD”

In First Timothy 3:15 Paul referred to “the house of God, which is the church.” It is very obvious that he was not referring to some invisible, universal thing that we have manufactured in recent years.

He was talking about the local church, which is the only kind of church mentioned in the Word of God for our present dispensation.

1. **Paul was writing to a pastor.** There are no universal church pastors in the Word of God.
2. **Paul talked about the “office of a bishop.”** (pastor) There is no office for any para-church ministries. They are all free to “do that which is right in their own eyes” because they have no instructions in the Word of God concerning how to run their ministries.
3. **The pastor is to have his family in subjection because,** “...if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?” (Ch.3:5) It is impossible for a pastor to take care of a universal church.
4. **Instructions are given for deacons.** (Ch.3:12,13) There are no deacons in the man-made invisible, so-called universal church, and there are no deacons in Bible colleges or religious newspapers, and the scores of other para-church ministries organized outside of the the local church.



5. **Paul said he was coming to the local church in the town of Ephesus so that they could learn how they should** “behave...in the house of God, which is

the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

In recent years we have started colleges, newspapers, radio programs, television programs, mission boards, seminars, and now multiple thousands of websites all involved in the responsibilities God gave to the local church, and only the local church!

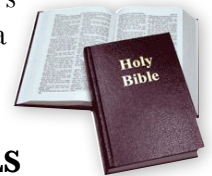
ABSOLUTELY NO INSTRUCTIONS

There are absolutely no instructions in the New Testament concerning how **any** ministry outside of the local church should operate. **No instructions! None!**

We have pushed the local church almost out of sight, and the apostasy has flooded in through the thousands upon thousands of para-church ministry of our day. Not all para-church ministries are apostate. Some have a very solid doctrine, however, there is no such thing as a para-church ministry that is founded on the Word of God.

ARE FRIENDSHIPS MORE IMPORTANT?

Why are fundamental leaders so silent on this important issue? Are relationships with our friends more important than Christ? Twice in one verse, Jesus said those who consider earthly relationships more important than Him are “not worthy” of Him. (Matthew 10:37) No Christian who holds earthly friendships above the truth of God’s Word is fit to be regarded as a follower of Christ. I didn’t say that, Jesus said it!



A WORD ABOUT DEVILS

Verse one mentions, “...doctrines of devils.” If you ask anyone who has studied the Bible how many devils there are, they will tell you there is only one devil. It is noteworthy that the word “devils” appears **forty-eight times** in the King James Version of the Bible.

I believe that God had His hand on the translation of the King James Bible insofar as it is was translated word for word the way He wanted it translated. Nothing is more disgusting to me than footnotes in the Scofield Bible that suggest a verse he could not understand is, “...not in the better manuscripts.”



If we believe God had His hand on the translation of the King James Version, it is reasonable to ask why is the term “devils” used forty-eight times?

The Jews used the term “devils” in the same sense that we would use the word “demons” today. We read in Matthew 10:1 that Christ gave His twelve disciples “...power against unclean spirits, to cast them out.” The phrase “unclean spirits” is found ten times in the New Testament, and the phrase “evil spirits” is found four times. In Matthew 12:24 we read, “But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.”

In our age we would say a person is “demon” possessed; however, the word demon or demons is not found one time in the Bible while the phrase “...possessed with devils” is found four times. The word devils as used in the New Testament denoted demons in the Jewish sense, and therefore it is rendered devils.

Verses 1,2 - “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies (false doctrine) in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.”

CHURCH MEMBERS LISTENING TO WRONG DOCTRINE

Paul warned Timothy that the reason “...some shall depart from **the faith**...”(meaning **the system of belief** - i.e. the local church. It is impossible to depart from the faith in the sense of our salvation.) happens is because pastors allow people to be “speaking lies” in the local church. Church members in Ephesus were “giving heed” to the false teachers who were supported by “seducing spirits.” This was happening in the church.

FALSE TEACHERS IN THE CHURCHES

- **Matthew 7:15** - “...false prophets...in sheep's clothing”
- **Second Peter 2:1** - “...false prophets...among the people.”
- **Second Peter 2:1** - “...false teachers among you.”

We are commanded by God to “...believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God.” (First John 4:1)

THE PROBLEMS AT EPHEBUS

Verse 3-5 - “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. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving; For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.”

These verses are dealing with a particular problem that existed in the local church at Ephesus: the problem that followed Paul from one local church to another and had to do with Jews who constantly worked to bring the Christians back under the law. They were good at “forbidding” and “commanding”; however, Paul said they were “speaking lies in hypocrisy.”

Verse 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.”

“THESE THINGS”

In First Timothy 4:6 Paul spoke of promoters of apostasy and seducing spirits, and commanded the pastor to “...put the brethren in remembrance of these things.” In verse eleven he again said, “these things command and teach.” Again, in verse fifteen he commanded the pastor to “Meditate upon these things...”

In the Book of First Timothy Paul said,

- **First Timothy 5:7** - “...these things give in charge...”
- **First Timothy 5:21** - “...observe these things...”
- **First Timothy 6:2** - “These things teach and exhort.”
- **First Timothy 6:11** - “...flee these things...”

BEGINNING AND ENDING REMEMBERING THESE THINGS

It is noteworthy that Paul begins his instructions to the pastor saying, “...put the brethren in remembrance of these things,” (First Timothy 4:6) and he ends his instructions saying, “Of these things put them in remembrance.” (Second Timothy 2:14)

GOD’S LOCAL CHURCH MANUAL DOES NOT FOCUS ON GETTING LARGE CROWDS

Today’s promoters of apostasy, and some fundamentalist would have us believe success is found in having large crowds come to hear us preach. Nothing could be further from the truth. The so called mega churches represent only one percent of the people who will be in church next Sunday.



That means 99% of the people attending a church next Sunday will be in small churches. A large number of people sitting in a meeting may be a gauge of success for man; however, as God looks at a mega church, He knows how many “goats” there are sitting among the “sheep.”

WHAT DO GOATS EAT?

I recently read there are thirty-two noxious plants found in the state of Montana, and goats eat all thirty-two of them. Goats are effective in controlling weeds because they eat the weeds and leave the grass. Sheep will only eat weeds if that is all that is available. To keep goats coming to these so called successful mega churches, they will need a diet that will satisfy them. **Therefore, the sheep will have to learn to be satisfied with the weeds.**



The watchword for the mega church might be found in Job 31:40 that says, “Let thistles grow instead of wheat, and cockle (weeds) instead of barley.”

The Bible does not say if pastors get great crowds, they would be good ministers. The Bible says, “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.” (First Timothy 4:6)

BACK TO THE BIBLE

God’s church manual does not major on numerical growth. **It focuses far more on spiritual growth, spiritual health, and spiritual strength.** It is God’s will that the pastor see that the people are “...nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine.” (First Timothy 4:6) Proper nourishment comes only as a result of a proper diet.

In Psalm 119:141 we read the Psalmist wrote, “I am small and despised: yet do not I forget thy precepts.” It is great to have a multitude in church; however, a crowd has never been God’s gauge for success. Proverbs 15:16 says, “Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.”

Proverbs 16:8 says, “Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.”

A SUCCESSFUL CHURCH CANNOT BE DETERMINED BY SIZE

A church that has hundreds of people sitting in a room getting their weekly religious fix while remaining spiritual pygmies is not a successful church in God’s eyes. God wants people sitting in church who are capable of “*Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.*” (Titus 1:9) God wants pastors to teach the people in his care so that they may become “*faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*” (Second Timothy 2:2)

THE SEVEN PASTORS OF THE REVELATION

The pastor that received the sharpest rebuke of the seven pastors of the Book of Revelation was the pastor of the church of the Laodiceans. We read in Revelation 3:17, that group was “...rich, and increased with goods.” The one pastor of the seven that received no rebuke from the Saviour was the church at Philadelphia. The Lord highly commended him. In Revelation 3:8 God said to the pastor, “I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for **thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.**”

The pastor at Laodicea had gathered a crowd, but where was Christ? He said, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” (Revelation 3:20)

The door of today’s so-called mega churches is open to a mixture of sheep and goats but closed to the Saviour. If we continue letting the goats feel at home in our fundamental churches we will also find the Lord outside inviting individuals to “...sup with Him.”

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SWELLING AND GROWTH



You can smack your thumb with a hammer and you will have swelling; however, swelling and growth are two



very different things. There is much swelling in the ranks of today’s fundamentalism that may be impressing people, but it is not impressing God.

In my lifetime I have watched many of our fundamental churches take the same road as the church at Ephesus took. Below is more information concerning the survey we previously referred to that was taken among “*Young Fundamentalists*.”

ARE WE GOING TO KEEP PRETENDING THERE IS NO PROBLEM?

Forty-nine percent of these “*fundamentalists*” who took the survey admitted having drunk alcoholic drinks. (Only nine percent of these “*fundamentalists*” said they no longer drink.)



Seventy-five percent of these professing “*fundamentalists*” do not believe drinking alcoholic beverages is biblically wrong. When I left the evangelical crowd and lined up with the fundamentalists, the evangelicals were not that far gone.

WE ARE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE

Ten percent of today’s “*fundamentalists*” in the survey felt that women could be pastors or deacons. Sixty-two percent of these professing “*fundamentalists*” believe fundamentalists have majored on the minors. Forty-eight percent of the so-called “*fundamentalists*” polled said fundamentalists should not preach standards. Thirteen percent of these “*fundamentalists*” did not believe Hell was a literal place.

Gone are the days when we could point our fingers at the evangelicals because they were not fundamentalists. First Peter 4:17 says, “*For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God...*”



Verse 7 - “*But refuse profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.*”

“Silence Isn’t Always Golden Sometimes It’s Just Plain Yellow”

UNITY IS ALWAYS THE BYPRODUCT OF AGREEMENT

Verse seven starts with the command to refuse something. One of the pastor’s main responsibilities in the ministry includes choosing and refusing things. **The word refuse means** “...to express oneself as unwilling to accept or comply with something.” When Moses did that everyone knew where he stood. If you want to be everyone’s friend you better get out of the ministry. The pastor has the responsibility to “*express*” what is acceptable to God and what is not acceptable. **Silence always gives consent.**

The faithful pastor must never seek for unity at the expense of truth. Amos 3:3 says, “*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*” Notice it does not say how shall two walk together except they agree. It says, “*be agreed.*” Someone has to change his position.

Silence in the face of false doctrine gives consent, it says, “*I agree.*” To refuse something is to openly decline to accept another’s offer. Moses was offered the kingdom of Egypt; however, “*By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused...*” (Hebrews 11:24)

We are commanded to *preserve* Scriptural unity; however, we are never commanded to compromise to *create* it. Bible unity demands the refusal of error in doctrine and in deed. **Unity that is built on truth demands division from error.**

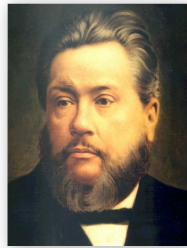
Titus 1:9-11 speaks of how we are to handle those who are promoters of false doctrine. It says, “*For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers...Whose mouths must be stopped...teaching things which they ought not.*”



THERE IS MORE TO BEING A PASTOR THAN PREACHING THREE TIMES A WEEK

The pastor who will stand true to God’s Word in this age of apostasy must be willing to stand for the truth at any cost. The truth of Scripture must be more important than the opinions of the pastor’s friends or church members. The pastor must be more concerned about truth than unity of the brethren. The pastor who stands true in our day of apostasy will lose church members; and he will lose the friendship of other pastors.

In 1888 Charles Spurgeon took a strong stand against compromise. He said, “*These who are for peace at any price, who persuade themselves that there is very little wrong...Numbers of good brethren in different ways remain in fellowship with those who are undermining the Gospel; and they talk of their conduct as though it were a*



Charles Spurgeon

loving course which the Lord will approve of in the day of His appearing. We cannot understand them. Complicity with error will take from the best of men the power to enter any successful protest against it. Cost what it may, to separate ourselves from those who separate themselves from the truth of God is not alone our liberty, but our duty.”

Let us again listen to Spurgeon when he said, “*Complicity with error will take from the best of men the power to enter any successful protest against it.”*

WHAT ABOUT THE HERESY THAT PROMOTES THAT REPENTANCE IS NOT NECESSARY FOR SALVATION?

Jesus said in Luke 13:3, “...*except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*” We read in Second Corinthians 7:9, “*For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation.*”

Acts 17:30 says, “*God...commandeth all men every where to repent.*” Repentance has to do with godly sorrow not just a change of mind. The sinner needs to realize he has offended a thrice-holy God and repent of his sin. As mentioned in our introduction, if the “*evangelicals*” had dumped the doctrine of repentance, fundamentalist would have come out against them from coast to coast. When it is our own (Dr. Jack Hyles) said those who hold to the doctrine of repentance are the enemies of soul winning and the editor of one of our fundamental

Christian newspapers (Curtis Hudson of The Sword of The Lord) supported him, most fundamentalists did not seem to care.

ARE RELATIONSHIPS MORE IMPORTANT THAN TRUTH?

The *evangelical* leaders of the sixties considered their relationships with each other more important than standing for the truth. To rock the boat would be to lose friends.

Today many fundamental leaders have degraded to the same position. If we believe the doctrine of repentance concerning salvation is being an enemy to soul winning, it means Jesus and all the great men of God who preached for the last 2000 years were wrong, and only Hyles and Hudson got it right.

THE NEW PLAN

“*Let’s not worry about doctrine. We must win the world to Jesus.*”



Truth Error

DUMPING THE REFERENCE TO REPENTANCE

Why is it that in the 1989 Revised - **Sword of the Lord Hymnbook** - “*Soul-Stirring Songs & Hymns*” that the words to “*The Old Account Was Settled*” are different from the original 1972 edition?

ACCORDING TO BIBLE DOCTRINE

In the first edition the words of the last verse read, “*Oh sinner, seek the Lord, repent of all your sins, For thus He has commanded if you would enter in.*”

FALSE DOCTRINE

In the revised edition the words have been changed to read, “*O sinner, trust the Lord, be cleansed of all your sin, For thus He hath provided for you to enter in.*”

The first edition was Scriptural. Acts 17:30 very plainly says God “...commandeth all men every where to repent.”

The second edition is not only false doctrine it is a “*damnable heresy,*” and somebody connected with the Sword of The Lord changed it on purpose.

- **Why** was it changed from repenting to trusting?



- **Why** are the so-called fundamentalists of our day not concerned about it?
- **Why** is there not an outcry about it?

Is it because, like the evangelical before us, our relationships with our friends are more important than preserving the truth?

SINK THE BOAT!

Today if one says anything about the issue he is considered divisive. One fundamental leader recently said to me, “If you write anything about this you are going to rock the boat.” The truth is we need to do more than rock the boat concerning this false doctrine. We need to sink the boat that says repentance is not necessary for salvation.

GIPSY SMITH KNEW THE TRUTH

Gipsy Smith was used of God to win multitudes of people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. In his message entitled “**Repent Ye**” he said, “*Repentance is the most neglected doctrine in the New Testament and the most unpopular. People do not like to be called to repentance and you do not often hear it preached. And yet the Bible is a handbook of repentance. It enforces it, commands it, and so demands it that no substitute can be accepted for it.*”



Gipsy Smith

He continued, “*Over sixty times the Scriptures enforce it, and all the Epistles are written to show men how to repent.*” He said, “*I am afraid that in our zeal to get people into the kingdom or the Church we have lowered the standard. I am afraid that in our zeal to get people into what we call the Church we have been more anxious about heads than hearts. In order to capture, we have compromised and lost. We have been more concerned about filling our Church registers than we have about the kingdom. Jesus said, ‘Repent.’ John preached repentance. He came to preach it. It had the first place in his sermons. It was first and last with John, ‘Repent, repent!’*”

You say it is too startling, sensational, vulgar; but remember, it was God's vulgarity ‘Repent.’ No man who preaches as John did will be popular. They put John in prison for preaching repentance.”

CALVINISM AND REPENTANCE ARE MAJOR ISSUES!

Why are so-called “*fundamentalists*” sticking their heads in the sand acting like the subject of Calvinism and Repentance are not major issues?

Again let us listen to the words of Spurgeon who said, “*We cannot understand them. Complicity with error will take from the best of men the power to enter any successful protest against it. Cost what it may, to separate ourselves from those who separate themselves from the truth of God is not alone our liberty, but our duty.*”

(Note: For those who would consider us inconsistent quoting Spurgeon when he is considered a Calvinist, it is very obvious he did not believe all that Calvinists believe. He was criticized by Calvinists and even labeled Armenian for his sermon entitled, “*Compel Them to Come In.*” Spurgeon said to his critics, “*My Master set His seal on that message. I never preached a sermon by which so many souls were won to God...If it be thought an evil thing to bid sinners to lay hold of eternal life, I will be more evil in this respect and herein imitate my Lord and His apostles.*” (See our article available free on our website - “**Calvinism - None Dare Call It Heresy**” to see at least fifteen messages proving that Spurgeon did not believe in Calvin’s Calvinism.)

Jude 1:3 says, “*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*”

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DOCTRINE OF SEPARATION?

How is that today's fundamental leaders will separate from those who have weak standards of music and yet look the other way when heresy is preached?

How is it if a Christian leader has hair touching his ears or his collar we will have no fellowship with him, however, if he cuts his hair the way we think he should, it is right to fellowship with him even though he promotes the damnable heresy that repentance is not necessary for salvation?

Verse 8 - “*For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*”

“How is that today's fundamental leaders will separate from those who have weak standards of music and yet look the other way when heresy is preached?”



THE PHYSICAL AND THE SPIRITUAL

Many of the new converts in the church at Ephesus gave great attention to bodily training. Even today the remains of the stadium can be seen where the athletes displayed their skill for the Grecian Games. No doubt Timothy would have his problems with new converts having the pull of the old life in this area. Today we also have the world pulling the new converts back into the desires of the old way.

Calvary was more than a ticket to Heaven.

It offers the privilege of a life of “...joy unspeakable and full of glory” (First Peter 1:8) while living here on earth. Verse eight says, “...godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”

Verse 9 - “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation.”

Paul used the same phrase in First Timothy 1:15 “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” The focus in First Timothy is always on Christ. He is mentioned by one name or another over sixty times in only six chapters.

Verse 10 - “For therefore (that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners) we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.”

When we read the word “believe” in the Bible, we make a mistake if we always assume it has something to do with being saved. When the Bible talks about someone believing something we must always keep it within its context.

JARIUS’S DAUGHTER - When Jarius’s daughter was raised to life, they were not talking about salvation. In Mark 5:36 we read “...Jesus...saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only **believe**.”

A BLIND MAN - When the blind man received his sight, they were not talking about salvation. (Matthew 9:28) “...**Believe** ye that I am able to do this?”

A DEMON POSSESSED CHILD - When the demon possessed child was delivered, they were not talking about salvation. Mark 9:23 says, “...If thou canst **believe**, all things are possible to him that believeth.”

THE NOBLEMAN’S SON - When the nobleman’s son was healed they were not talking about salvation. John 4:50 says “...Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man **believed** the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.”

Nothing is recorded in these verses about people believing in the sense of being saved. To force that into these verses would be to take them out of their context.

THOSE WHO BELIEVED WHAT?

In verse ten when Paul referred to “...those that believe,” he was referring to the message he had for the Christians at Ephesus. Then, like our age of apostasy, many believers did not believe everything the pastor preached in spite of the fact it was supported by the Scriptures.

We are living in an age when many who call themselves fundamental Christians act like God is operating a cafeteria-style religion where they can take what they like and leave what they don’t like.

Verse 10 - “For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.”

There are several applications we can make concerning this verse. First, we must never have our own interpretation of what Bible words mean. When we see the word saved it is not always talking about being saved so as to go to Heaven. Second Samuel 22:3 says, “...thou savest me from violence.” Second Kings 13:5 speaks of being saved from, “... the Syrians.” Jeremiah 14:8 refers to being saved “...in time of trouble.”

COMMANDING AND TEACHING

Verse 11 - “These things command and teach.”

The Bible says in Second Timothy 4:3 “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;” In our age of fundamental Baptist apostasy, people leave preachers that preach about Bible commands and flock to the teachers who make no demands.



MAN HATES LAW ENFORCERS

When apostasy reigns in the world, as it does today, people have no respect for those who enforce the law. They have little problem with those who make the laws. For the most part they do not even know who made them; however, they despise the one who enforces the law. They continually badmouth police officers; and then when they need help, they call on them for help.

The same thing is true in our churches.

People do not have a problem with the fact that God has standards in the Bible. Their problem rests with the pastor who dares to attempt to enforce those standards in the local church.



In John 15:14 Jesus said, “*Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.*” Christians gather in a worship service and sing, “*What a Friend We Have In Jesus.*” They even add their hearty amen to James 4:7 that says, “*Submit yourselves therefore to God.*” Everything is fine until the pastor attempts to enforce God’s law. The religious hypocrites did not hate Jesus for healing their sick. They hated Him because He expected them to obey the truth presented in the Scriptures.

SUBMITTING TO THE LAW ENFORCER

To the pastor, the Bible says in verse eleven, “*These things command.*” In Hebrews 13:17, the One who made the laws says the church member is to submit to the law enforcer. The Book God wrote with all His Laws says, “*Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*”

A large percentage of fundamental Independent Baptist church members have little or no respect for God’s law enforcers.

Verse 12 - “*Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*”

To despise his youth would be to look down on him with contempt because he is young.

In Titus 2:15 we read, “*These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.*”

In this portion there is no reference to Titus being young. In spite of the lack of respect, the pastor is commanded to “*...be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*”

Verse 13 - “*Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*”

LEARNING FROM GOD’S CHURCH MANUAL

I remember hearing Jerry Falwell say he was not going to major on doctrine anymore because it was too divisive. You don’t have to be too bright to see where that decision took his church. It will do the same for you if you disobey verse thirteen because you want to buddy-up with some friends who promote error.

The pastor who wants to lead God’s people according to Scripture will need to learn how to do it. The only completely reliable source of instruction for God’s church is found in God’s Book. The Bible is the only Book that will enable the pastor to faithfully be teaching God’s people God’s will, and God’s way of doing His will.

Paul commended those in Acts 17:11 who, “*...sought the scriptures daily, whether those things (that Paul said) were so.*” If they searched the Scriptures to see if Paul was telling the truth, **how much more should you search the Scriptures to see if the material you are reading now is scriptural?**

The Holy Spirit is always in total harmony with the Word of God. Jesus said in John 16:13, “*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.*”

In our age of fundamental apostasy, many local churches are thriving numerically, on half-truths. Unfortunately numerical growth can give people a false impression of success. We may impress ourselves, however, the half-truth Baptist pastor is not impressing God.



Verse 14 - “Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.”

In Paul’s day it was common to lay hands on someone when imparting a blessing, or in setting apart to any office. (See Mt. 19:15; Mr. 6:5; Lu. 4:40; 13:13; Le. 8:14; Num. 27:23; Acts 28:8; 6:6; 8:17; 13:3.) Timothy was set apart to the office of the pastor by the presbytery, which means an assembly of aged men who were a council of pastors.

We read in Acts 13:2-3, “As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.”

Verse 15 - “Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.” To meditate means to “revolve in the mind.” Paul said to “Meditate upon these things.”

WHAT THINGS?

The phrase “these things” is found in First Timothy eight times.

- **In Chapter 3:14**, “...these things” deal with the qualifications for deacons.
- **In Chapter 4:6**, “...these things” deal with seducing spirits and Christians forsaking the local church as they follow false teachings.
- **In Chapter 4:11**, “...these things” deal with Christians who will determine to follow the Word of God in an age of apostasy suffering reproach.
- **In Chapter 4:15** “...these things” deal with people despising the pastor, and how he should handle it.
- **In Chapter 5:7**, “...these things” deal with instructions concerning family situations.
- **In Chapter 5:21**, “...these things” deal with more the pastor’s finances and rebuking sinners.
- **In Chapter 6:2**, “...these things” deal with instructions concerning leading and following.
- **In Chapter 6:11**, “...these things” deal with loving money.

LEARNING THE TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Today’s modern church manuals have little in common with God’s church manual as found in First Timothy. We have adapted a business mentality and have learned the tricks of the trade

in building and organizing while ignoring the basic commands in God’s Church Manual. We have managed to build large well-organized groups of people. We have even convinced ourselves that we are successful.

WHERE IS THE LORD?

With all the activities in the average church service it is difficult to hear the Lord saying, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” (Revelation 3:20) Having a large well-organized crowd sitting in a service going through an “order of service” while Christ is standing outside knocking at the door is far from success.



God is not the Author of confusion. Organization is very important to God, however, it is possible to have so much order in the service the Holy Spirit can’t get involved because He is not welcome to mess up our “Order of Service.”

Verse 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.”

PAUL WAS TALKING TO THE PASTOR!

In Acts 20:28 it was to the leadership in this church that Paul said, “Take heed therefore unto yourselves...” They failed to listen to his warning. Now again, Paul tells the pastor to “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them.”

- **In First Timothy 2:15** Paul commanded the pastor to “...continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.”
- **In First Timothy 4:16** he commanded the pastor to “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them.”
- **In Second Timothy 3:14** he commanded the pastor to “...continue thou in the things which thou hast learned....”
- **In Second Timothy 4:16** Paul said the pastor must take heed to himself and continue in doctrine because “...in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”

Again, it is very important when studying Scripture that we do not jump to preconceived definitions of Bible words. The word “saved” in the Bible is not always talking about going to Heaven.

If every Christian had this figured out, it would be the end of Calvinism and many other “isms.”

SAVE THYSELF?

Acts 2:40 when Peter said, “...Save yourselves from this untoward generation.” It had nothing to do with the salvation of the soul.

When Jeremiah 30:7 speaks of the tribulation, it says Israel, “...shall be saved out of it.”

Concerning the birth of Christ, Luke said in 1:71-73, “That we (Israel) should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us.”

Below is a list of only a few of the places in Scripture where being saved has nothing to do with going to Heaven.

- **Numbers 10:9** - “...*saved* from your enemies.”
- **Second Samuel 22:4** - “...*saved* from mine enemies.”
- **Psalms 18:3** - “...*saved* from mine enemies.”
- **Psalms 44:7** - “...*thou hast saved* us from our enemies.”
- **First Samuel 4:3** - “...*Save* us out of the hand of our enemies.”
- **First Samuel 7:8** - “... *Save* us out of the hand of the Philistines.”
- **First Chronicles 16:35** - “*Save* us...from the heathen.”
- **Psalms 106:47** - “*Save* us...from among the heathen.”
- **Second Samuel 19:9** - “...*saved* us out of the hand of our enemies.”
- **Nehemiah 9:27** - “...*saved* out of the hand of their enemies.”

FALLING INTO THE SWAMP OF APOSTASY

The book of Jude deals with living in the age of apostasy. In Jude 1:24 he said, “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.”

Jude was not talking about losing our salvation. He was talking about falling into the swamp of apostasy that is flooding into our churches today.

In First Timothy 4:16 when Paul told the pastor to take heed to himself and continue in the doctrine that he would “...*both save* thyself, and them that hear thee,” he was talking about being saved from the apostasy that prevailed in Ephesus.

Pastors must also take heed today, as the enemy comes in to our churches like a flood, that he and the people God will hold him responsible for do not fall into today’s fundamental cesspool of apostasy.

How do we keep the flood of apostasy from flowing into our churches? Verse eleven says, “*command and teach...these things*” Verse thirteen says we are to, “...*give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*” Verse fifteen says, “*Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.*” Verse sixteen warns, “*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.*”



“For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God...”

(First Peter 4:17)

Next Article - REBUKE - REBUKE NOT?

First Timothy 5:1

“*Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father...*”

First Timothy 5:1

“*Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.*”

Second Timothy 4:2

“...*reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*”

Titus 1:13

“...*rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith.*”

Titus 2:15

“...*rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.*”

Does First Timothy 5:1 mean if the troublemakers were older than Timothy they were not to be rebuked?

We will see it does not mean that.

Local Church Ministries

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