

Teach No Other Doctrine

First Timothy 1:3 – 7

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~ All Christians fall into sin at some point in their life. And when we turn back to the Lord, things don't always go as well as expected. Many times, reaping what we have sown is a harrowing realization. Frankly, that quandary is likely the leading thought of those contemplating suicide. When it happens, many people sometimes see taking their own lives as the only solution. Those unlearned in Scripture may erroneously conclude that is what God desires for them to do. Well, if that were the only way out, or if God ever wanted us to execute ourselves for some sin, then, candidly, I would recommend it. However, I don't recommend suicide, because the only thing suicide accomplishes is ensuring that our problems remain eternally unresolved. See, most people who say they want to die don't really want to die; they just don't want to live the way they are living. That despondent, conflicted, unaware thinking is always a consequence of our sins.

Friends, God loves us – and He will forgive us – but there is an inescapable price we will pay for our sins in this life. We cannot be born again twice spiritually any more than we can be born again twice physically. Saying, “... *I wish I had never been born*” can easily apply to both spiritual and physical births. When we call on the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, He means business with us – even if we don't mean business with Him. When sin creeps back into our lives after salvation, or we do not deal with the flesh, then our lives do not get better – they get worse – *MUCH* worse – because God will judge it. The father did not go to the far country and retrieve the prodigal son; no, the son had to get up out of the pig pen and go home. So, those of you who erroneously believe you have reached sinless perfection in this life are the ones who desperately need to go to the Lord, confess those sins you are trying to hide, believe God – Who says you are a sinner – and get it all straightened out – immediately.

In our last two reports, we gave an introduction to this Pastoral Epistle, and we saw the greeting Paul wrote in his letter to Timothy. If you have not

read those last two reports, I suggest you go back and do so now. In these two letters to Timothy, and one to Titus, we are going to find expressions Paul does not use elsewhere in his writings. Paul spoke to those who were close to him in a way that he did not speak publicly. It would have been lovely for all of us to have been able to travel with Paul as he opened his heart and mind to us. Of course, that's not possible – but – these letters can take us very close to that experience. See, while Paul may be long gone, the Spirit of God is speaking to me as I write to you today – which means the Holy Spirit is speaking directly to both of us in His Word through this so-called Spiritual Safari.

Everything we think, say, do or even think about doing in the church today *MUST* be done in the Name of Christ Jesus, and at His command, for His glory. Christ is the head of the church. That's what makes Him the Lord. Jesus said, *“you call Me Lord, Lord, but do not that which I command.”* Well, the reality of modern day Christianity is that most self-professing believers call Jesus Lord and King all day long, but they have no intention whatsoever of obeying His Voice. That leads to Christian Tragedies of the worst kind, my beloved. Lip service – and claiming “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus” – while recklessly and irresponsibly misquoting the Bible won't get you anywhere in this life. I know people who are as busy as termites in the church; and they have about the same effect.

Inevitably, there comes a day in the lives of the make-believer when the stormy winds start to blow, the structural integrity of that which they label “faith” is tested, and they fall apart – becoming spiritually shipwrecked on the lost isle of hopelessness. Many people are going to come into the presence of the Lord one day to give an account of their lives, and they'll cite every good thing they ever did, and Jesus will say to them, *“I don't know you.”* Men and women are doing many things in His Name today in a way that He never commanded them to do. They never sought His will, and they don't care one whit about obeying Him. Well, friends, this safari is going to get so personal now that most of you might just want to stop reading and turn away....

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,

~ Paul gives a warning about spreading unsound doctrine. You are never going to think wrong and act right; because that would be impossible. When someone misuses and abuses the Bible for their own personal religious philosophy, it doesn't mean they are saved; it reveals they are unlearned – it displays to every reasonable, thinking person that they have no earthly idea what they are talking about. Those who persist in that conduct, as a result of never really studying the Word of God properly, correctly and completely, *ALWAYS* have a wrong creed and behavior.

When a Christian rebukes another's Scriptural perspective, and they become defensive and offended, it's because they are teaching some other doctrine – other than the sound doctrine of the apostles. There is only one Gospel, my friends; and the same is true of doctrine. Anyone who believes our teaching from Holy Writ concerning the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus is not going to oppose us. They're going to help. That's how we know who the enemy is.

On the Day of Pentecost, the early church “... *continued in the apostles doctrine.*” Further, they continued in fellowship, prayers and in the breaking of bread at the Lord's Supper. Those are the four fingerprints of the visible church today. A church is not a church of Christ Jesus if they do not teach the apostles doctrine. Now, I recognize that our interpretations of certain Scriptural truths may vary slightly but, if we are meeting around the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, His death on the cross for our sins, and His bodily resurrection from the dead for our justification, then we are not going to differ on most other tenets of truth. When there is severe disagreement, those people are not in fellowship in the mind of Christ. Of course, it would be nice if everyone believed exactly as I do – but I realize they don't. Either way, there are certain basic truths in understanding the Word of God – particularly the plenary, verbal inspiration, and inerrancy of Scripture, and the deity of Christ Jesus – that cannot be compromised.

One thing this epistle to Timothy is going to reveal in no uncertain terms is that the apostle Paul had an exalted view of the Lord Jesus Christ. I've heard some people say Paul never taught the deity of the Lord; but, of all things, that's the *ONE* thing Paul unmistakably taught. Paul's setting forth the sovereignty and deity of Jesus Christ is as clear as the noonday sun. Those who deny that truth don't understand what the Bible teaches. When Paul said, in verse two, "*.... grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord*" – he certainly placed Christ right next to God our Father. We'll see that principle stated again and again in these Pastoral Epistles. So, the teaching of the church has to be right – or it is not of Christ....

4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

~ So, Paul left Timothy in Ephesus, which was the heartland of the mystery religions in the day in which we are studying. Ephesus had temples to Hadrian, Trajan, Diana of the Ephesians – and everyone else they could dream-up to worship. It was all built on Greek mythology. Paul says to ignore all false teachings. When Paul says, "*.... endless genealogies....*" it likely refers to Philo of Alexandria, who was a Hellenistic Jewish philosopher in the Roman province of Egypt. Philo took the entire Old Testament and spiritualized the whole thing. That's where the myth viewpoint of Genesis was first introduced. Interestingly, old line seminaries once taught that, also. The uneducated, modern-day atheist clings to this philosophy because, of course, it is self-serving to say Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob never really lived but were all merely allegories and analogies. What the uneducated atheist ignores is the overwhelming accumulation of archeology and other evidence that irrefutably prove them wrong. The learned atheists will never even broach calling Genesis a myth.

All of that leads to treating the church as a continuation of Judaism; and they cite one genealogy after another in an attempt to sustain heresy. They are utterly ignorant of dispensation. The Greeks, at the time in which we are studying, were also teaching what is known as the demiurge – which is Gnosticism that is antagonistic to all things spiritual – and it represents the eons that showed up in the first heresy of the early church. Gnosticism

teaches emanations that originate from a divine center; by which a creature created another creature that created another creature – and so on. Somewhere in that line they stick Jesus in as one of them. It's very popular because it allows them to relegate Jesus to a good little Sunday school boy Who may or may not have been sinless and perfect. Those self-professing believers who erroneously think they are now somehow sinlessly perfect will always fall for that trick of Satan; and believe me, those people will chase endless rabbits of theology until they have no earthy idea what point they are even trying to make. They have no interest in edifying anyone in Godly matters of faith.

A fruitless liberal church that produces mass unbelief has also produced a hard-core group of heartless individuals that have zero faith; who reject the Word of God as inerrant and inspired. It's almost unbelievable what we see and hear from people professing to love God. If that which is taught in a church does not produce love out of pure hearts then, my friends, you are in a church of Satan. A pure heart is in direct contrast to our old nature, which we all have, but, when we believe, we are made righteous and become able to manifest the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Two things that simply cannot be missing from the True and Living church are (1) faith in the Word of God and (2) love. There are churches you had better be careful about attending. If you have not prayed that the Lord will lead you to the proper place of worship – the place where He wants you to be – then, rest assured, you're in the wrong church.

Love is not something we simply mouth while trying to make everyone agree with us about everything. No, love is a genuine concern for others; and an exhortation in love is probably not going to seem very lovely to the one receiving said exhortation! Mainly, a concern for others means we aren't going to gossip about them or hurt them with lies. I know of one church that attempted to wreck the ministry of a pastor. They did everything they could think of to hurt that man. Well, the one thing they couldn't truthfully say – and, interestingly, never did say – is that this man didn't teach the Word of God. Those hateful liars are the people that incessantly talk about love, too. They'll butter you up, and pat you on the back – but it means nothing. They teach their error, and they do it with great assurance. They pay no attention whatsoever to the Word of God.

There's no worse hypocrisy than that. Love must be manifest and faith *MUST* be lived out; so Paul is laying it all on the line now....

5 Now the end of the commandment is love 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 ~

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