

Edgemont Bible Church
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2 Timothy 2:8-13

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Intro: Jesus says in Jo 17:17 speaking of the Father “Thy word is truth;” He also claims to be the truth in Jo 14:6 and that the Holy Spirit is “the Spirit of truth” in Jo 14:17. Yet, He calls Satan the father of lies in Jo 8:44. He also warns us of false teachers that would be coming - Mt 24:24 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. In this section, Paul gives 6 reasons for avoiding and opposing all false teaching

V. The Danger of False Teaching

A. Warn the People about False Teaching - vs 14a

1. Paul’s letter is meant to motivate Timothy to keep a firm grasp on truth and to pass it on to others who would do the same
2. Remind them of these things,
 - a. a present tense imperative meaning to continue to remind
 - b. them refers to the whole congregation
 - c. these things in context is 2Ti 2:2 the things that Timothy heard from Paul among many witnesses that he should commit to faithful men who would be able to teach others also.
 - d. Peter says in 2Pe 1:12-15 For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.
3. charging them before the Lord
 - a. **diamarturomai** - to attest or protest earnestly, to charge, testify (unto), witness.
 - b. before the Lord
 - i. everything is in the presence of the Lord
 - ii. The idea is calling their attention to and being consciously and continually aware of the presence of the Lord
 - c. not to strive about words to no profit,
 - i. **logomacheo** - to be disputatious (on trifles):--strive about words.
 - ii. Carries the idea of waging a war of words

B. False Teaching Ruins the Hearers - vs 14b

1. The first and most obvious harm of false teaching
2. to the ruin of the hearers.
 - a. **katastrophe** - an overturn ("catastrophe"), demolition; apostasy, overthrow, subverting.
 - i. where we get catastrophe
 - ii. Has the connotation of being spiritually ruined
 - b. Paul is talking or people that purposely subvert truth by replacing it with falsehood
 - i. Only other use in NT - 2Pe 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.
 - ii. But it is to their own harm - 2Pe 3:16 which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

C. False Teaching Brings Shame on the Teachers - vs 15

1. The second warning about false teaching uses contrast to teach

2. Contrary to them, You - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God,
 - a. **spoudazo** - to use speed, to make effort, be prompt or earnest--do (give) diligence, be diligent (forward), endeavor, labor, study.
 - i. carries the idea of having zealous persistence to accomplish a particular objective
 - ii. This is why Paul says - 1Ti 5:17 Let the elders .. be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.
 - b. **paristemi** - lit. to stand beside - the idea of standing before God to be inspected in order to be approved
 - c. **dokimos** - acceptable, approved, tried - refers to favorable passing careful scrutiny
3. a worker who does not need to be ashamed,
 - a. 1Jo 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.
 - b. the clear indication is that false teachers should and will be ashamed
 - c. shame - a painful emotion caused by consciousness of guilt, shortcoming, or impropriety
 - d. Php 3:18-19 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that **they are the enemies of the cross of Christ**: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and **whose glory is in their shame**--who set their mind on earthly things. - Jude 1:12-13
4. rightly dividing the word of truth.
 - a. **orthotomeo** - to make a straight cut, to dissect (expound) correctly (the divine message)--rightly divide.
 - b. word of truth
 - i. refers specifically to the gospel
 - Eph 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,
 - Col 1:5 because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,
 - ii. b/c the Bible is God's inerrant, authoritative, sufficient, and sole source of God's divine revelation, all of it needs to be handled, taught accurately

D. False Teaching Leads to Ungodliness - vs 16

1. the third danger of false teaching
2. But shun profane and idle babblings,
 - a. But indicates a contrast to handling accurately the word of truth
 - i. Tit 3:9 ¶ But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.
 - ii. 1Ti 6:20b avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge--
 - b. words of worldly human opinion are no more than evil chatter
 - c. Paul is speaking of heresy that perverts divine truth
 - d. b/c heresies will increase to more ungodliness.
 - i. when heresy is unopposed - 2Pe 2:2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.
 - ii. False teaching provides no defense against sin and no strength to do right

E. False Teaching Spreads Rapidly - vs 17a

1. And their message will spread
 - a. **nome** - pasture, (the act) feeding (spreading of a gangrene), or (the food) pasturage.
 - b. spreads quickly b/c the human heart is more receptive to false teaching than truth

2. like cancer.
 - a. **gaggraina** - an ulcer ("gangrene");--canker.
 - b. where we get gangrene
 - c. Used of cancer also
3. One of the reasons why the Bible as well as many good teachers spend so much time teaching against false teachings
 - a. Jude 1:23 but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.
 - b. 1Jo 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.
 - c. 1Jo 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
 - d. Jas 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
 - e. 1Jo 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
 - f. 1Jo 4:5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them.

F. False Teaching Upsets the Faith of Some - vs 17b-18

1. Hymenaeus

- a. Denounced in 1Ti 1:20 of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.
- b. Apparently had persisted in his error after church discipline and Philetus became his cohort replacing Alexander

2. who have strayed concerning the truth,

- a. They were apostates
 - i. Heb 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.
 - ii. they had Heb 10:29 ... trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?
 - iii. Jesus speaking of Judas - Mt 26:24 ... It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."

b. Their heresy

- i. saying that the resurrection is already past;
- ii. Multiple possibilities of what this may be, what we know is that it was wrong - Ro 6:1-11; 1Co 15:12
- iii. Whatever it was, it was a direct assault on one of the most important truths to our present salvation as well as our future - 1 Co 15:13-15, 17

c. The sad truth about false teaching (heresy)

- i. they overthrow the faith of some.
 - **anatrepo** - to overturn;--overthrow, subvert.
 - real faith cannot be overthrown b/c it is that which God produces in us - Ro 10:17; Eph 2:8
- ii. Keeping them out of the Kingdom
 - God is the one who keeps our salvation safe

- 1Pe 1:5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

G. False Teaching Characterizes Those Who Do Not Belong to the Lord - vs 19

1. Nevertheless - making his point by contrast
2. the solid foundation of God stands
 - a. unlike those who trust in false teaching or satanic scheme of religion
 - b. in context the solid foundation would be the Church
 - i. 1Ti 3:15...the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth
 - ii. Mt 16:18 and on this *rock* I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
3. having this seal:
 - a. **sphragis** - a signet (as fencing in or protecting from misappropriation); the stamp impressed (as a mark of privacy, ownership, or genuineness), seal.
 - i. Those without the seal will be tormented by demonic locusts - Re 9:4 They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.
 - ii. The Antichrist will put his mark of ownership on his also - Re 13:16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads,
 - b. God's seal of ownership is on the Church in two ways
 - i. "The Lord knows those who are His,"
 - source of quotation unknown
 - some think from Nu 16:5 and he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, "Tomorrow morning the LORD will show who is His and who is holy, and will cause him to come near to Him. That one whom He chooses He will cause to come near to Him.
 - Jesus says - Joh 10:27-29 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.
 - 2Th 2:13 because God from the beginning chose you for salvation
 - ii. "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."
 - again from Nu 16:26 And he spoke to the congregation, saying, "Depart now from the tents of these wicked men! Touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins."
 - Both an exhortation and an affirmation
 - E. 1Co 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
 - E 1Pe 1:15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,
 - A 2Th 2:13 ... through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,
 - A Php 1:6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Application: False teaching ruins the hearers, will bring shame on its teachers; leads to ungodliness; spreads rapidly; upsets the faith of some; and characterizes those who do not belong to the Lord. The next time you hear your Pastors teach against a particular heresy, instead of getting upset, consider, what is the truth, what does God say, how will this heresy hurt others.