

INTRODUCTION

We have come to the place in 1 Timothy where our Lord's apostle Paul first uses the phrase "sound doctrine." Chapter 1 is all about that subject, but that term for it is not introduced until verse 10. That important term is then repeated later in the letter, and in 2 Timothy, and in Titus, all of the pastoral epistles.

As the members of the household of God, adopted by God the Father through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we are our Master's disciples, learning from Him how to conduct ourselves in that household, the church of the living God. As such, we are taught in these letters that the primary thing we are to do in God's household is to see that sound doctrine is maintained.

But what does the bible mean by "sound doctrine"? Last time we saw together from the meaning of those words that "doctrine" is simply what the church teaches and learns; doctrine is the substance of our teaching and our learning. "Sound" or "wholesome" doctrine is the doctrine that is healthy. Sound doctrine is healthy itself, being whole and uncorrupted. And sound doctrine produces spiritual health in those who teach and learn it.

Remember that we noted how in our bibles the words "sound" and "wholesome" are used to mean the same thing; and the words "doctrine" and "teaching" are used to mean the same thing. So your bible might say, "sound doctrine" or "wholesome doctrine" or "sound teaching" or "wholesome teaching." All of these combinations are used to mean the same thing.

Today we continue learning what "sound doctrine" or "wholesome teaching" is, so that we may make it a matter of primary concern in the household of God. Today's approach will be this: First, we will note what things are set down in the bible as equivalent to, the same as sound doctrine. Second, we will note something the bible sets down as the opposite of sound doctrine. Third, we will look at an example of sound doctrine.

TEXT

1 Timothy 1:10b-11

2 Timothy 4:1-4

BODY

I. By Seeing What Is Equivalent to It

A. The word

*2 Timothy 4:2-3 Preach **the word [G3056 logos]**! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. (3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;*

1. see how “the word” and “sound doctrine” are used as equivalent; they mean essentially the same thing
2. meaning the word of God; in the New Testament
 - a) frequently you read
 - (1) the word of God
 - (2) the word of the Lord
 - b) but frequently it appears as simply “the word”
 - (1) short for “the word of God”
3. including the word of God generally; whatever is in the bible
4. most specifically the gospel of repentance and forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ

B. The truth

*2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; (4) and they will turn their ears away from **the truth [G225 aletheia]**, and be turned aside to fables.*

1. truth in Paul’s letters means, essentially, that which is not a lie, not deceit
 - a) 1 Timothy 2:7 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle--I am speaking **the truth** in Christ and **not lying**--a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.
 - b) there are many examples of this in Paul’s letters
2. but the particular truth that is Paul’s main concern is the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ
 - a) 1 Timothy 2:1-6 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, (2) for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. (3) For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, (4) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of **the truth**. (5) For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, (6) who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,
 - b) again, there are many examples in Paul’s letters, that when he talks about “the truth,” he is primarily concerned with the truth of the gospel; but I offer you this one example that is handy here in 1 Timothy

II. By Seeing What Is Opposite to It

A. 2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; (4) and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to **fables [G3454 *muthos*]**.

1. we have heard this before! remember?
2. *muthos* are essentially things not known to be true because they are made up by men
3. Peter said he did not speak in fables, but in eye-witness testimony
4. sound doctrine is the opposite of myths
 - a) not made up by men
 - b) but instead
 - (1) revealed by God
 - (2) testified to by those who were eye-witnesses
 - c) therefore known to be true

III. By An Example of It

A. Luke 19:2-10 Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. (3) And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. (4) So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. (5) And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." (6) So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. (7) But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a **sinner [G268 *hamartolos*]**." (8) Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." (9) And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; (10) for the Son of Man **has come [G2064 *erchomai*]** to seek and **to save [G4982 *sozo*]** that which was lost."

B. 1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus **came [G2064 *erchomai*]** into the world **to save [G4982 *sozo*]** **sinners [G268 *hamartolos*]** ...

1. "came" and "to save" and "sinners" are the very same words, even
2. NOTE: This is a point made by John Owen right up front in *The Death of Death*

CONCLUSION

Sound doctrine, then, is what the church teaches and learns, when the doctrine is whole and uncorrupted; when it is not dubious because it is based on anything man-made, but is known to be the true gospel of Jesus Christ because it is from the bible, the word of God.

One of the brothers recently expressed what we probably all think: we love this church, and want it to be here for generations to come, all the way until the Lord comes back, teaching and learning of the grace of God, of His love for sinners, of the blood of Jesus Christ shed for our redemption. Today we have little ones we bring to the assembly with us. We teach them to sit still and listen to the word of God, the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We want it to be that when those little ones have grown old and gray, and they have their children and grandchildren next to them, the word of God, the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ, is what they will hear. How is that to be accomplished? What are we to do toward that end? When we think of how we are to conduct ourselves in the household of God, the church of the living God, we are to determine that it is a matter of first importance that we reject all corruptions in preaching and teaching, and maintain in this church sound doctrine, wholesome teaching: that which is known to be the truth because it is the word of God.

Example 1 of “Sound Doctrine”: Christ Jesus came to save sinners.

Luke 19:2-10 Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. (3) And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. (4) So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. (5) And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." (6) So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. (7) But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a **sinner [G268 hamartolos]**." (8) Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." (9) And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; (10) for the Son of Man **has come [G2064 erchomai]** to seek and **to save [G4982 sozo]** that which was lost."

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus **came [G2064 erchomai]** into the world **to save [G4982 sozo] sinners [G268 hamartolos]** ...

“came” and “to save” and “sinners” are the very same words, even

NOTE: This is a point made by John Owen right up front in *The Death of Death*

Understanding What Sound Doctrine Is, Part 2

I. By Its Equivalents

A. The word of God generally - most specifically the gospel

*2 Timothy 4:2-3 Preach **the word!** Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. (3) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;*

B. The truth

*2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; (4) and they will turn their ears away from **the truth**, and be turned aside to fables.*

C. What the Christian has been taught faithfully

*Titus 1:9 holding fast **the faithful word as he has been taught**, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict*

“Sound doctrine” is what the church teaches the disciples of Jesus Christ, on behalf of Christ, when that teaching is whole, wholesome, healthy, entire, well, not sickly, because it is the word, the truth, the faithful word as it has been taught.

II. By Who Is Instructed To Use It

A. There are five classes of preachers in the bible

Ephesians 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

1. The Lord Jesus Himself - in a class by Himself
2. The Lord's apostles
3. The prophets
4. The evangelists
5. The church elders/bishops/pastors and teachers

B. Of course those who spoke by divine inspiration used sound doctrine

1. the Lord Jesus Himself
2. His apostles
3. the prophets

C. But Paul's term “sound doctrine” is not used in reference to them.

1. As to the inspired preachers in these three classes, there is never any need to instruct them to maintain sound doctrine. It is not an issue anywhere in the NT to make sure that these maintain sound doctrine. Even in the case of Peter, it was not something he was saying, but something he was doing.

D. Paul's term “sound doctrine” is used of the two lower classes of preachers

1. Those men sent by Paul - Evangelists (2 Timothy 4:5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.)

- a) Timothy - 2 Timothy 4:2-3
- b) Titus - Titus 2:1
- 2. Regular church elders/bishops - Titus 1:9
- E. It is those lowest two classes whom the apostle tells to use “sound doctrine”
- F. So, doctrine is susceptible to being sickly doctrine because of the teachers being normal, regular, non-inspired teachers. Sound doctrine is sound when kept sound
 - 1. by the individual elders
 - 2. by the elders as a class, working together
 - 3. by the elders as chosen by the congregation
 - a) The way appointed by Christ for the calling of any person, fitted and gifted by the Holy Spirit, unto the office of bishop or elder in a church, is, that he be chosen thereunto by the common suffrage of the church itself; and solemnly set apart by fasting and prayer, with imposition of hands of the eldership of the church, if there be any before constituted therein; and of a deacon that he be chosen by the like suffrage, and set apart by prayer, and the like imposition of hands.

“Sound doctrine” is what the church teaches the disciples of Jesus Christ, on behalf of Christ, by its pastors, when that teaching is whole, wholesome, healthy, entire, well, not sickly, because it is the word, the truth, the faithful word as it has been taught.

III. By Its Use in Exhortation

A. Definition

- 1. G3870 *parakaleo* Exhortation G3874 literally “to call near”
- 2. English: To incite by words or advice; to animate or urge by arguments to a good deed or to any laudable conduct or course of action.
- 3. JRY: to urge people to do what it is right for them to do

B. Connection with “sound doctrine”

- 1. Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by **sound doctrine**, both to **exhort [G3870 parakaleo]** and convict those who contradict.
- 2. Titus 2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for **sound doctrine** . . . Titus 2:6 Likewise, **exhort [G3870 parakaleo]** the young men to be sober-minded . . . Titus 2:15 Speak these things, **exhort**, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.
- 3. 2 Timothy 4:2-3 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, **exhort [G3870 parakaleo]**, with all longsuffering and teaching. (3) For the time will come when they will not endure **sound doctrine**, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

C. Some examples of the sound doctrine by which preachers are to exhort

*Titus 2:1-15 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for **sound doctrine**: (2) that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; (3) the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not*

slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- (4) that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. (6) Likewise, **exhort [G3870 parakaleo]** the young men to be sober-minded, (7) in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, (8) sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you. (9) Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, (10) not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. (11) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, (12) teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, (13) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (14) who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. (15) Speak these things, **exhort [G3870 parakaleo]**, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

1. older men . . .
2. older women . . .
 - a) younger women . . .
3. young men . . .
4. servants . . .
5. because our great God and Savior Jesus Christ gve Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people zealous for good works

“Sound doctrine” is what the church teaches the disciples of Jesus Christ, on behalf of Christ, by its pastors, when that teaching is whole, wholesome, healthy, entire, well, not sickly, because it is the word, the truth, the faithful word as it has been taught for the church’s exhortation.

IV. By Its Use in Reproof

A. Definition G1651 *elegcho* to show fault, to convict, with connotation of shame

B. Connection with “sound doctrine”

1. 2 Timothy 4:2-3a Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. **Convince [G1651 elegcho]**, rebuke , exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. (3) For the time will come when they will not endure **sound doctrine** . . .
2. Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by **sound doctrine**, both to exhort and **convict [G1651 elegcho]** those who contradict.
3. Titus 2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine . . . Titus 2:15 Speak these things, exhort, and **rebuke [G1651 elegcho]** with all authority. Let no one despise you.

“Sound doctrine” is what the church teaches the disciples of Jesus Christ, on behalf of Christ, by its pastors, when that teaching is whole, wholesome, healthy, entire, well, not sickly, because it is the word, the truth, the faithful word as it has been taught for the church’s exhortation, and for reproof of those who would contradict.

Call to Worship: 1 Chronicles 29:11-13

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Sermon:

Benediction: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

Prelude, Dorita Piano, Camille Flute

T 710 I need The Every Hour -prelude

T 707 Pass Me Not -prelude

G 84 Irresistible Grace Dorita Piano, Camille Ukulele

T 34 All That I am I Owe To Thee Dorita Piano, Camille Flute

G 85 It Is Enough That I Am In Christ Camille Piano, Dorita Sing

T 702 Wonderful Grace Of Jesus Dorita Piano, Camille Sing. Dorita I am attaching a copy of Wonderful Grace of Jesus in the key of C, it will be easier to play instead of Db