

20th of September 2015

Many will not endure sound doctrine (Doctrine Pt 3)

Introduction

This is the third study on the word “doctrine” in the Holy Scriptures.

Previous study.

(1) Good doctrine is from the law, and (2) sound doctrine is what Paul taught the church which he received from the Lord, and (3) we are able to exhort and convince the gainsayers by sound doctrine.

Three points are established from the Scriptures for this study.

(1) We are to preach the word, reprove, rebuke with all longsuffering and doctrine, and (2) the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, and (3) some shall depart from the faith by giving heed to doctrines of devils.

Our three points in more detail.

1. We are to preach the word, reprove, rebuke with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Supporting Verses.

2Tim 4:2 “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

Context and meaning of our verse.

* In this letter Paul “the apostle of the Gentiles” (Rom.11: 13) is writing to his son in the faith Timothy, and reminds him that “from a child thou hast known the holy scripture” (2Tim.3: 15), and “all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (verse 16 & 17). Then in chapter 4 verse 1, Paul writes: “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ”. Hence he commands Timothy, before the Lord Jesus “who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom”.

* What does Paul command Timothy to do? Our verse says “Preach the word...reprove, rebuke with all longsuffering and doctrine.” What authority is Paul charging Timothy to use when he preaches, reproves, and rebukes? The verse says: “Preach the word”, with doctrine which is derived from the holy scriptures that he knew “from a child”.

Scriptural examples.

* The gospel of Christ crucified that Paul preached is according to the scriptures (1Cor.15: 3 & 4).

Application of our verse today.

* Each of our points in this teaching are from the letters of Paul that he wrote to the Gentile church, and so this point and each that follows is doctrinally applicable to the church today.

Illustration.

* On Friday night there were two believers handing out tracts and one preacher preaching the gospel of Christ, and a young woman vehemently told the two believers that what was being preached was nonsense. And rather than reasoning or preaching Christ from the scriptures to the woman, they argued with her. Voices became raised and the woman left, perhaps feeling like she had victory in the discussion. The preacher offered counsel to his brethren encouraging them to ask questions as Christ did, and then waiting patiently for opportunities to preach the gospel.

Learning from our Illustration.

* Our flesh is always willing to engage in discussions that turn into arguments, especially where there is a crowd. Voices are often raised and longsuffering and sound doctrine get forgotten. But whether we are called to preach to the heathen, or reprove, rebuke and exhort the gainsayers (Tit. 1: 9), we are to do so with all longsuffering and doctrine, which in the context of Paul’s letters to the Gentiles, and as identified in our previous study, refers to “my doctrine” (2Tim.3: 10).

Challenge & or encouragement.

* If you are preaching, or exhorting a brother and you deviate from the scriptures, from Paul's doctrine that Christ gave to him for the church age (like preaching the gospel of the kingdom that Jesus preached – Matt.4: 23), and you get angry with your audience for not heeding the warning, then you are **not** preaching sound doctrine, and you are **not** doing so with "all longsuffering".

* Be encouraged to pray for the preachers to have meekness, lowliness, and longsuffering as they go out into our towns and cities to preach, that as they engage with the heathen or gainsayers, that they would "preach the word...reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and doctrine".

2. The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine.

Supporting verse.

2Tim 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;"

Context and meaning of our verse.

* The context of our verse is the same as our first point as this verse follows our previous. So as part of Paul's commandment to "preach the word...to reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine", he then foretells of a time when they (the church) will not "endure sound doctrine". i.e. "my doctrine" (2Tim.3: 10). He then goes on to say what the church will desire, "after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears" (verse 3) "And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (verse 4).

Other scriptural support.

1Tim.3: 1, 4: 1 & Tit.2: 1

Illustration.

* When I attended the Presbyterian church I was blind to Rome and her wiles, blind to the confusion that existed in main-stream churches regarding the scriptures, and equally blind to see that I was engulfed in such overwhelming deception orchestrated by the adversary. I sung in the choir, read my Good News bible, walked out of the church doors and was no different to the average heathen in the street. After I left the Presbyterian church and came to the knowledge of the Authorised Bible, the Lord opened my eyes to see examples of main-streams churches that call ungodly ministers to their pulpit. One such example is St Lukes Presbyterian church where the congregation "heap to themselves" an Anglican Archdeacon who put up billboards denying the scriptures.

Learning from our Illustration.

* Such examples demonstrate that we are in the time foretold by Paul where "they will not endure sound doctrine", "my doctrine", but after their own lusts they heap to themselves teachers, who turn away their ears from the truth, unto fables. The Church of England's 39 Articles identify Rome's Eucharist as "**repugnant to the plain words of Scripture**" yet there are people in churches who do not endure sound doctrine but heap to themselves teachers having itching ears.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* Beware of any who seek to turn you away from the doctrines of Paul to any other doctrine, who seek to establish another authority, other than the scriptures, whether that be Rome, a "progressive" minister, or a lone pastor claiming to have the truth in multiple authorities. Every authority that is **not** the holy scriptures is **not** sound doctrine. Let us remember that the scriptures foretell of the time that we are in today, where the church "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."

3. Some shall depart from the faith by giving heed to doctrines of devils.

Supporting Verse.

1Tim.4: 1 "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".

Context and meaning of our verse.

* Chapter 3 Paul is writing to Timothy about the job description for a bishop (verse 2–7) and a deacon (8–13), so that they may “know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, the pillar and ground of the truth.” From here Paul speaks about the great controversy which is the mystery of godliness – “God manifest in the flesh” (verse 16). Then we have chapter 4, and our verse 1 “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.” Hence this verse follows on well from our previous point, which also foretold of a future time when “they will not endure sound doctrine” (2Tim.4: 3). So, from our verse in 1Timothy we see that some shall “depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils”

Other scriptural support.

* Prov.12: 26, Mk.13: 22, Eph.4:14 and 2Tim.3: 13 & 14.

Scriptural examples.

* Ezekiel identifies false prophets who seduce the children of Israel by their “vanity and lying divination” (Ez.13: 3, 7) and “see vanity, and that divine lies” (verse 8).

Illustration.

* When your best mate from 20 years ago encourages you to go to an RCIA course for adults (non-Roman Catholics) because he is doing the course and expects one day he will become a Roman Catholic, then you begin to ask yourself why? Well, that is what happened to me back in January this year. My best mate from 20 years ago told me not to send him the NZP anymore because he was thinking of becoming a Catholic and did not like the way the publication criticised the Pope, who was so loving. WOW! I sought to warn him from the scripture about Rome and her doctrines of devils, but nevertheless, come Easter 2015, he emailed me to let me know that he had been baptised into the church of Rome, which for him was no different to the Presbyterian church.

Learning from our Illustration.

* “Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils”. That is exactly what happened to my best mate. Whether he wants to believe it or not, he gave “heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils”. Whatever his spirit was attuned to, it was **not** the Holy Spirit of God, but a spirit that seduced him to believe doctrines of devils. And we know that because scripture says: “believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1Jn.4: 1). What is our authority for “trying the spirits”? It is not by another man’s spirit, but we try the spirits according to the scriptures of truth. If the doctrine “errs not knowing the scripture” (Matt.22: 29), then it is NOT the Holy Spirit that revealed it to the person.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* Be ye encouraged to believe God, and discern the Holy Spirit by proving whether the spirit be of God or not. If a pastor gives you a psalm or a doctrine and says that “the Holy Spirit said”, or a Roman Catholic priest speaks in love, and uses Christian words like “Jesus Christ”, the “holy Spirit”, and “virgin birth”, then prove to yourself whether they be of God or not. Sit down with the scriptures in one hand, and their doctrines in another, and try the spirits, whether they be of God or not.

* If they are contrary to the scripture then they are commandments of men (Col.2:22), and the spirit in them has been seduced by the god of this world.

* Do **not** be deceived by Rome and her words of love, tolerance, and mercy, just because she uses Christian words. If you believe her, or any other false teacher you will be deceived by seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Not because I say so, with all the zeal I can muster, but because her doctrines “err not knowing the scriptures” Their “false teachers...privily...bring in damnable heresies” (2Pet.2: 1). And if you follow them, you will “depart from the faith”, as my mate of 20 years ago did, by giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.

Summary of our three points.

(1) We are to preach the word, reprove, rebuke with all longsuffering and doctrine, and (2) the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, and (3) some shall depart from the faith by giving heed to doctrines of devils.