

WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL

Fundamentals of the Faith

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LESSON #10 — THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUND DOCTRINE (PART 2)

Then still in the book of 2 Timothy, let's look in the 4 chapter, verses 1 through 4, 2 Timothy 4, 1 through 4. "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and doctrine. 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; and they will turn their ears from the truth, and be turned aside to fables." God gives a command through His Apostle, Paul, to Timothy, and all others who would preach and teach God's Word. He says, "I charge you." And he's again, charging us before God and before the Lord Jesus Christ. And he brings to our mind in verse 1, the judgment day. That's how serious this matter is. Paul brings all those things to our mind. You're going to be judged on the basis of what you do in response to this charge. What does he tell us to do? Preach the Word. The Word what? The Word of God. Don't preach the philosophies of men, the doctrines of men, the commandments of men. Preach the Word. And be prepared to do that, when it's convenient to you and to others, and when it's not convenient. In season, out of season. God wants us to convince, use the word to convince people of what is right, and what is wrong. He wants us to reprove, to encourage people, to correct those things that are wrong. And he wants us to exhort using the Word of God, and to do that with patience, longsuffering, in dealing with those whom we teach.

But notice in verse 3: God predicted, and it came true, and is still being coming true today. He said that time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine. Does doctrine make any difference? Is doctrine important to God? He says the times coming when they won't endure it. But after their own lusts, after their own desires that are evil, they're going to bring to themselves teachers, because they have itching ears, they want to have their ears tickled. They want to hear those things that are pleasant, and not hear those things that are hard from God's Word. They're going to bring teachers in who will do that, who will please them by not preaching the truth, by not preaching sound doctrine. And those people who follow them are going to turn their ears away from hearing the truth, and turn aside to fables, to fairy tales, to things which aren't true, which aren't according to the Word of God. So we need to preach the Word, not deviate from it in one way or the other. No matter what anyone says. We have to stick with the sound doctrine of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Then in the book of Titus, in Titus chapter 1, beginning with verse 9, and going through verse 14. Titus chapter 1, verses 9 through 14. Here, God, through the Apostle Paul, addresses elders, overseers, bishops, pastors, those have met the qualifications that God states in the Bible in 1 Timothy chapter 3, and Titus chapter 1. Here's what he begins with, speaking of elders, "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. For there are many insubordinate,

both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert [or overthrow] whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain. One of them, a prophet of their own, said, 'Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.' This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth."

Now, God's instructions to elders are very serious, and sober us, as we'd read those instructions. He wants elders to hold fast to the faithful Word. Not the doctrines and commandments of men. Not the philosophies of men, but to the faithful Word. And He wants elders to be those who are taught and can cling to that Word, and will not deviate from it, and who will use sound doctrine. The doctrine of Christ revealed in the New Testament of Christ. Who will use that sound doctrine to exhort and convict those who contradict the sound doctrine. And He says that there are many who are insubordinate, that is, they're disobedient. They're rebellious. They don't want to stick with the Word of God. They want to deviate from it. He said, "Their mouths must be stopped by using the Word of God. Because if they're not stopped, they overthrow whole households by teaching that which they ought not to teach, and their motive is dishonest gain." So elders must be able and willing to convict those who contradict the Word of God by using the sound doctrine to stop the mouths of those who are teaching that which is false.

And He says in verse 13, "Rebuke them sharply." Not to be hurtful to them, not to be unkind to them. That's not the reason. The reason is that they may be sound in the faith. Our purpose is not to destroy them. But our purpose is to help them be sound in the faith, and avoid turning from the Word of God, to the doctrines and the commandments of men. So here the instructions are to elders, to cling tightly to the faithful Word of God. Don't deviate from it.

Also in the book of Titus, in Titus, chapter 2, verse 1, here we read, "But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine." That's a command from God. That's not an option that God has left to us: we can choose to do it or don't do it. That's a command. And God says in this command, "You speak the things that are proper for sound doctrine." That which is sound. But what does "sound" mean? We've seen that word several times in these verses. Well, according to W.E. Vine, and his Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, the word translated "sound" means "healthy." Healthy, obviously, as opposed to that which is sick. And he says, that it means "wholesome." So when God says "sound doctrine," He says healthy, wholesome doctrine that is opposed to that which is false, sick, deadly. Thayer, says in his great Greek-English Lexicon of New Testament words, that the word translated "sound" means "true and incorrupt doctrine, free from error." So when God says to use sound doctrine, and stick to sound doctrine, He's saying, "You teach healthy, wholesome, true, incorrupt, the doctrine of Christ revealed in the New Testament of Christ."

Then another passage on this subject in the book of 1 Peter. 1 Peter, chapter 4, verse 11. 1 Peter, chapter 4, verse 11. "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion for ever and ever. Amen." So God commands us, "Speak as the oracles of God." But what does that mean? What does the word translated "oracles" mean? It means "divine responses, utterances, words." So

when God says, "Speak as the oracles of God," He's saying, "You speak the Word of God." Don't add to it. Don't take away from it. That's some of the things that God says on this subject of sound doctrine in His Word.

I'd like to just take a few minutes to go back and briefly review now, what God has said, on this subject in the Scriptures, that we have studied. First of all, we began with 1 Timothy 1, verse 3, God says, "Teach no other doctrine."

Then next, we studied about the two ways in Matthew 7:13-15. Jesus described the first way as broad, and that there were many in that broad way. And that that broad way leads to destruction. We obviously don't want to be in that broad way. Then a second way that He described was the narrow way. The narrow way in which few are walking, and the narrow way which leads to life. And at the end of that context, our next point is, that Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they're ravening wolves." Then we looked at the statement, "Lord, Lord," and found out that that is not enough. This is found in Matthew 7:21-23. In this context, our next point is, that Jesus said, "Many will come in that day. And they're gonna say, 'Lord, Lord, and didn't we work mighty miracles in your name?'" But the next point is Jesus' response. Jesus will say, "Depart from Me, I never knew you, you workers of iniquity, or lawlessness."

Then we studied on the point of the doctrines and commandments of men (Matthew 15, verses 8 and 9). And we saw that those doctrines and commandments make our worship vain, of no value.

Then, the next point we said that God said in 2 Timothy 1, verse 13, hold fast to the pattern of sound words. Then in 2 Timothy 2, verse 15 — study to show yourself approved unto God. And he said, there were several points involved in showing ourselves approved under God. One is, be a worker, worker in the Word of God, studying it, applying it, teaching it to others, so that we cannot be ashamed, because we rightly divide the truth. We handle properly, the truth of God's Word.

Then we moved on to the thought, "Preach the Word" (2 Timothy 4, verses 1 through 4). And God warned that the time would come when they will not endure sound doctrine. That time has been since the beginning of the first century, and has continued to this day. And he said that these people would after their own lusts, heap to themselves, false teachers, and they will turn their ears from the truth, to fables.

Next, we looked at some instructions for elders, given by God in Titus chapter 1, verses 9 through 14. God says several things to elders. First, hold fast to the faithful word. Second, use the sound doctrine to convict those who exhort, who contradict, exhorting and convicting them. Third, their mouths must be stopped, because they teach those things that they ought not to teach, and overthrow others when they do it. Fourthly, he said, "Rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith." And fifth, that they may not heed the commandments of men who turn from the truth.

And then we looked at Titus chapter 2, verse 1, where God tells us, "Speak the things that are proper for sound doctrine." And finally, we looked at the thought: speak as the oracles of God, speak the Word of God (1 Peter, chapter 4, verse 1). There we have some things that God says on this subject of sound doctrine. And I hope this helps to set the tone for the rest of our

study on this subject. That we may learn the importance of sound doctrine, in God's eyes, and in God's mind.

The next point we want to study is: What is sound doctrine? What is sound doctrine? We've made mentioned of it. We've talked about the definition of the word "sound." But we'd like to go to one passage of scripture: 1 Timothy, chapter 1, verses 10 and 11, to see, what does God define as sound doctrine? 1 Timothy 1, verse 10, and verse 11. He said, "For fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed of God which was committed to my trust." Here he lists some sins, some violations of the Word of God. And he said, "Any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel." So when we want to know what is sound doctrine, we go to the glorious gospel of Christ, the New Testament of our Lord and Savior, which we've been studying on during these classes.