

DEALING WITH FALSE TEACHERS

Titus 1:9-16

INTRODUCTION

- The mantra of many professing Christians today is, “Doctrine divides, but Christ unites.”
- They desire to avoid the doctrines of Scripture in order to maintain their “unity”
- But a unity that is not based upon truth is a false, satanic unity. (Matthew 10:34-36)
- We are commanded not only separate from all false doctrine, but to actively oppose it and those who teach it.
- We know that we have an enemy, the devil, whose aim is to destroy the work of God on earth.
- In these verses, Paul reveals both the problem of these false teachers, and the solution to them.

I. THE DOCTRINE OF THE FALSE TEACHERS (10-12,14)

A. The essence of their doctrine (10,12,14)

1. Unruly – rebellious against God’s truth and authority
2. Vain talkers – empty and unprofitable
3. Deceivers (Romans 16:17-18).
4. Of the circumcision – Jewish professors of Christianity

There were two main errors regarding the law:

- a. Legalism – justification/sanctification by works of the law
 - b. Antinomianism – believers were under no law whatsoever
- 5. Jewish fables
 - 6. Commandments of men
- B. The effect of their doctrine (11)
- 1. Subverting whole houses (cf. 2 Timothy 2:18)
 - 2. Teaching error for dishonest gain (2 Peter 2:3)

II. THE DEFILEMENT OF THE FALSE TEACHERS (15-16)

- A. To the pure all things are pure
- 1. Purity of heart and conscience comes through the blood of Christ (Hebrews 9:14; 10:22)
 - 2. In the area of diet, all foods were clean to those with a pure conscience (Matthew 15:11; Mark 7:15,19-20; Luke 11:39-41; Romans 14:14)
- B. The defiled and unbelieving
- 1. They remain defiled in their sins through unbelief
 - 2. They wilfully reject the truth (cf. Luke 22:67; 1 Timothy 6:3-5)
 - 3. Even their “righteous” acts are abominable to God (Proverbs 15:8; 28:9; Haggai 2:13-14)
- C. False professors

1. A profession of faith without a changed life is empty (James 2:17-20; 1 John 2:3-4)
2. Abominable means detestable to God
3. Disobedient – unwilling to be persuaded and obey
4. Unto every good work reprobate
5. They are worthless and of no real value to God

III. THE DEFEAT OF THE FALSE TEACHERS (9,11,13,14)

A. By sound doctrine

1. Believers must be trained in sound doctrine
2. It is essential that church leaders be thoroughly instructed in the Scriptures in order to overcome false teaching

B. By sharp rebuke

1. We are not to persecute or hate our enemies (Matthew 5:43-44)
2. We must speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15)
3. There are times when sharp, cutting rebuke is required to correct those in sin and error (Matthew 5:22; 21:12-13; 23:13-33; 2 Corinthians 11:1-4; Galatians 1:6-9; 3:1-3)

C. By refusing to hear them

1. Heresy should not be countenanced (Psalm 1:1; Proverbs 19:27)

2. Ultimately unrepentant heretics must be put out of the assembly and separated from (Titus 3:10)

CONCLUSION

1. There is a great war taking place between truth and error
2. Every Christian is to be engaged in this war for the side of truth
3. Our primary weapon in this war is the word of God
4. Am I engaged in this fight, and am I skilled in the use of the sword of the Spirit?