

## INTRODUCTION

Philippians 2:5-11 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, (6) who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, (7) but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. (9) Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, (10) that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, (11) and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

That is a sample of the apostolic doctrine of Jesus Christ, which is perfect, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The church must not tolerate any teaching different from the wholesome, sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the pattern of sound words that His apostles taught us. Men who try to do so must be charged not to other-teach, nor to give heed to myths and endless genealogies, or any other kind of doctrine that is just made up by men.

So we studied last time. Today we see what we could expect in our lives, in the church, were we to allow other-teaching, were we to fail in stopping men from giving heed to invented doctrines.

The bible tells us that Man-made doctrines, other-teaching, giving heed to myths and genealogies, produces or promotes or delivers something, and fails to promote or produce something else.

If we allow men to give heed to man-made stories and doctrines, see what that DOES give us, and what that does NOT give us.

## TEXT

1 Timothy 1:3-4

## BODY

- I. Doctrine Other Than the Apostolic Doctrine DOES Produce
  - A. disputes, speculations, questions, doubts
    1. *zeteseis* or *ekzeteseis* literally searching or seeking out
  - B. two types
    1. disputes between different opinions, both impossible to know and of no importance
    2. disputes between the myths and the truth
      - a) at least in this one of the parties is right
      - b) but it is still a shame to have to be in such a dispute
  - C. example
    1. Acts 15:1-2
    2. Acts 15:3-7
  - D. APPLICATION
    1. let us devote ourselves to the apostles' doctrine, and be ruled by it, that disputes, speculations, questions, doubts, be minimized;
    2. 1 Corinthians 14:37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord.
    3. the church, primarily by its pastors, is told here to avoid disputes by charging men not to other-teach, not to give heed to myths and endless genealogies
  
- II. Doctrine Other Than the Apostolic Doctrine Does NOT Produce
  - A. God's plan being administered in a stewardship, which dispenses the nourishing word for the edifying of the saints in faith
  - B. *oikonomia*
    1. house + rule or management
    2. Observe that this is terminology related to a household: 1 Timothy 3:15 but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the **house G3624 oikos** of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.
  - C. *oikonomos*
    1. Luke 12:42 And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise **steward [ESV manager; G3623 oikonomos]**, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season?"
    2. that person is a household manager or steward; what he is doing is household management or stewardship; the main feature of what he is doing is providing the food for everyone in the household
  - D. "economy"
    1. a system in which available resources are developed and distributed and consumed
    2. careful management of resources to meet needs without waste

- E. What needs to be distributed in the household of God, so each may be built up and so that the whole may be built up? our spiritual food, the Word of God
1. MILK for the immature 1 Peter 2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,
  2. SOLID FOOD or STRONG MEAT for the mature Hebrews 5:12-14 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. (13) For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. (14) But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
  3. see examples of milk: Hebrews 6:1-2 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, (2) of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.
  4. see example of solid food or strong meat: Hebrews 5:9-12 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, (10) called by God as High Priest "ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK," (11) of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. (12) For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.
- F. "which is in faith" or "that is by faith"
1. everything about salvation and life in Christ is about faith
  2. but getting people to observe expired ordinances or to listen to cleverly-devised stories is not about faith
  3. true edification, real building up in Christ is done by feeding people what is true and spiritual and of Jesus Christ, and urging them to believe that truth
- G. APPLICATION
1. take note that here what is positive is achieved by the church doing something negative; if you want building up in the faith by the right teaching of the bible, the church has to be active in prohibiting men from giving heed to man-made doctrines, to cleverly-devised stories
  2. for the church to be relatively free of disputes and controversies, that in peace it could be built up in the faith, Timothy had to be there charging certain men who wanted to be teachers not to teach other doctrine, nor give heed to inventions of men

## CONCLUSION

Let us, then, have the apostolic doctrine, the true gospel, the truth, the pattern of sound words laid down by our Lord's apostles and entrusted to faithful men who are able to teach others. And let us devote ourselves to that doctrine, that we may know Christ more and more, that we may obey Him more and more, and that we may shine the light for others more and more brightly.

1 Corinthians 3:2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able;

1 Peter 2:2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

1 Timothy 1:3-7

NKJV As I urged you when I went into Macedonia--remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, (4) nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. (5) Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, (6) from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, (7) desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

ESV As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine, (4) nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith. (5) The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. (6) Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, (7) desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

**4c**

**NKJV rather than godly edification which is in faith**

**ESV rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith**

Tyndale, Geneva, KJV: godly edyfyinge

RV, ASV: a dispensation of God

RSV: the divine training  
NASB: the administration of God  
NIV: God's work  
HCSB, CSB: God's plan

*oikonomia*

RWP: dispensation

Thayer: the management of a household or of household affairs

Strong: administration of a household or estate

from G3623 *oikonomos* = G3624 *oikos* + G3551 *nomos* = house  
distributor/manager/overseer/treasurer/steward

Luke 12:42 And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise **steward [ESV manager; G3623 *oikonomos*]**, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season?

JRY: this is not what happens when men other-teach and give heed to myths and endless genealogies

JRY:

The English word "economy" does help explain this in a sense

-a system by which resources are distributed to everyone, so everyone gets a share of food and other necessities

Observe that this is terminology related to a household.

1 Timothy 3:15 but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the **house G3624 *oikos*** of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

4b

TR: zeteseis G2212

Strong: a searching, that is, a dispute

Thayer: a questioning, debate; a matter of controversy

WH: ekzeteseis

RWP: "seekings out"

NKJV: which cause disputes

RSV, ESV: which promote speculations

NASB: which give rise to mere speculation

KJV: which minister questions

Tyndale: which brede doutes

Geneva: which breed questions

JRY:

It is characteristic of fables/myths and endless genealogies that they

1. do cause disputation/speculation
2. do not cause edification/stewardship (in the sense of dispensing for building up)

see prime example Acts 15:1-2

another example: Gal 4:9-11

**verse 4** which is in faith

Poole, Gill: the doctrine of faith

Fairbairn:

that has its sphere therein

or stands vitally related to that humble, confiding principle in the soul

Calvin: consists in faith

Spurgeon:

You see, the apostle, in his day, had to contend against those who ran away from the simplicity of the gospel into all manner of fables and inventions. Such, in our day, are the doctrine of evolution, the doctrine of the universal fatherhood of God, the doctrine of post-mortem salvation, the doctrine of the final restitution of all men, and all sorts of fables and falsehoods which men have invented.

Trapp:

It is but laborious loss of time to search into those things, whereof we can neither have proof nor profit; the gains will not pay for the pains, the task is not worthy the toil. Toilsome toys they are, hard to come by, but of no use or worth; like an olive or date stone, hard to crack the one, or cleave the other; but nothing, or nothing worth aught, when cracked or cloven, within either.

Calvin:

He judges of doctrine by the fruit; for every thing that does not edify ought to be rejected, although it has no other fault; and everything that is of no avail but for raising contentions, ought to be doubly condemned. And such are all the subtle questions on which ambitious men exercise their faculties. Let us, therefore, remember, that all doctrines must be tried by this rule, that those which contribute to edification may be approved, and that those which give ground for unprofitable disputes may be rejected as unworthy of the Church of God.

Call to Worship: Psalm 150:6

Scripture Reading: Genesis 39:1-6a

Sermon: "What Other-Teaching Promotes, and What It Doesn't Promote" 1 Timothy 1:3-4

Benediction: 2 Peter 3:18

G 205- All Creatures of Our God, Anna Piano, Camille Ukulele

T 9 Psalm 150, Camille Piano, Anna Clarinet or sing.

G 203 Abiding Faith, Anna Piano, Camille Sing

G 181 Unchanging Righteousness, Anna Piano, Camille Flute