

1828 - 1 Tim 1:3-7 ONLY ONE TRUTH

PRELIMS. Last week we saw Timothy's background – no Arnold Schwarzenegger! Ill-health, timid, mixed home! Encouraging for us for **we too** can be used as he was! This book covers such subjects as How to preserve true doctrine; How to worship; Qualifications for office; Social responsibilities; Dangers of materialism. Paul exercising his authority as an apostle sends his lovely greeting.

STAYING 'PUT'

One of the effects of the Fall of mankind is our inability to 'be **content/satisfied** with what we have and with our **situation**. We become easily **unsettled**, we want a **change**, our unwillingness to **stick it out!** Our **mutability** contrasts with God *with whom there is **no variation** or shadow due to change* [Jam 1:17]. The least little **difficulty** and we want to move out! We get **wearied** of the same problems/same situation/same people! Change of job!

Even **ministers** want a change of **congregation!** I've seen it often! (Not to speak of congregations wanting a change of minister!) This is common and 'natural'! But wrong! God **usually** wants us to 'stay put' – when He does want us to change, the 'heavens move'! Even with the change conversion brings, God's command is *in whatever condition each was called, there let him **remain** with God* [1Cor 7:24] Changing is very often a '**cop out**' of **responsibility!** A tremendous blessing in sticking at a thing and overcoming problems!

I don't know did Tim **ask** to be moved but he **had already** been told by Paul, to stay *As I **urged** you when I was going to Macedonia* [3] – Paul obviously finds occasion to **repeat it *remain at Ephesus*** - you must stay there! Now Paul as an **apostle** had authority. In Apostolic times the Church was governed by Apostles! End of story! Now with the full canon there are **three main forms** of '**church government**' **Presbyterianism/Episcopacy/Independency!** Each has **strengths**, and each has **weaknesses!** Explain each of them!!

COUNTERING HERETICS

The **purpose** of Tim staying on was because of **error** in the

teaching! Teaching is most definitely part of the work of the Church!) *Charge certain persons **not** to teach **any different doctrine*** [3]) There **are** counterfeit gospels – things **like** the gospel but **not** the gospel! Satan ‘**encourages**’ things ‘like’ the gospel to be taught in the **churches!** Just as today, in these early days there were **in** the Church false teachers who taught error! ‘They **must be stopped**’!
Note: it is the **people** who must be stopped *Charge certain persons...*

APP Important! One of the **main** duties of the ministry is to **protect** true doctrine! Problem! Not many people see the **need!** Not many people, even in the Church, are concerned about **accurate** teaching! As long as there is **love** and **forgiveness** nothing else seems really important! The **need** for **instruction in the faith** does not seem necessary! Most people today want a ministry that makes them **feel good**, and gives them **joy**. They do **not want** to hear about **duty** and **obligation** and **obedience!** Sadly they don’t see the need for that!

True doctrine **prevents** a lot of Church **problems!** Many problems are **caused** by nothing less than a lack of sound teaching, or inaccurate teaching, or most of all, **no teaching!** Remember this is the Church where Paul said ***fierce wolves** will come in among you, **not sparing the flock*** [Acts 20:29] Fierce wolves! That’s what Paul calls **heretics!** Wrong doctrine is very serious - much more so than many people today think! Paul says to Tim ‘You **must** stay in Eph ***that you may charge certain persons **not to teach** any different doc..***

How did such teachers get ‘**authority**’ to teach in a NT church? What qualifications did they have? Did Paul not take **precautions** to **avoid** this happening? Yes, I’m sure he did. But Satan is very clever!
Ans: These teachers were **gifted speakers**, they could **catch** your attention, and **hold** it, use **humour** and had **rhetorical** skills, and could **articulate** and express in a fascinating way! Paul **did predict** this would happen. Before he left them, he said *from among your own selves will arise men **SPEAKING twisted things**, to draw away the disciples **after them(selves)*** [Acts 20:29cf] There is the **clue** to false teachers! They draw people after **themselves** not after Christ! The gospel is **Christ-centred** not minister-centred! Beware of those who do not preach Christ as the **centre** of their ministry!

If a preacher **appears** confident, has a **good image**, then he will likely persuade many people. Paul said they make **confident assertions** [7c] Paul did **not appear** confident, the **opposite** - *his bodily presence is weak* but the **truth** he proclaimed had **power!**

People love to hear something **different** or something **new** – now that is **Pagan!** Paul at Athens! *all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new* [Acts 17:21] The Galatians were **quickly** led **quickly deserting** him who called [them] *in the grace of Christ and [were] turning to a different gospel* [Gal 1:6]. Some have a **mind-set** that **loves change**, in fact Paul in his 2nd letter told Tim *For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions* [2Tim 4:3] **APP** Xnity **attracts** people who like being **intellectually stimulated!** Pedersen of Navigators ‘friend’!

Thus the **myths** (*myths* μυθος!) and the *genealogies* went down well! But these things **promote speculations!** **APP** We live in a **post-modern** world where **speculations** are almost accepted as truth! If it is **possible**, then it is **likely true!** There can be several truths today!! Stott= ‘No subjective truth, never mind universal or eternal truth!’ Tolerate everything – except those who insist there is only one truth!

Churches get a lot of enquiries from those who are **desiring to be teachers of the law** [7] to be a minister – but **not** a pastor. People **love telling other people** what to believe, but can’t to be bothered with their troubles! You cannot separate true doctrine from a caring heart. People who **only** want to teach will **cause disputes!** Those convicted of their **own opinions** will be **trouble-makers!**

The PURPOSE of PREACHING

The purpose is to **build up** the people of God! That is what preaching is supposed to do! The word for **stewardship** [4] means **house construction!** But it is house construction **from God** [4]! It is building up God’s house **by faith** in God. It is teaching people about God! One of the greatest problem in the Church today is **ignorance** concerning God! If we really knew and understood God, we would

not be in such a poor spiritual state today. **APP** If I am not building **you** up in in the knowledge of God, in holiness, in Godliness, **strengthening your faith in God**, making you more and more like Jesus, then **I am failing** in my ministry – **or else** you are **disobedient** to what I have urged on you about God! You see, *God gave... pastors (me!)... to equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ* [Eph4:12] The ministry is for the **building-up** of believers - to strengthen them for service to God!

The *aim of our charge is love* [5] Pure good love! Now everyone knows that Xnity is about – love! You hear it regularly. But its **God's love!** It is **not** love as conceived and lived out in '**Hollywood**'! Or in Jonathan Ross or 'Loose Women'! God's love is **different** from most folk's **idea of love**. Eg parents think giving their child everything it wants, is being loving! To deny the child what it wants is considered being **unkind/unloving!** *Love **must** come out of a heart that has been **purified** from error, *a pure heart* [8] True love does not come out of a corrupt heart! Only a *good tree* can bring forth *good fruit* !

Also the charge must come *from a good conscience*[8] All men have a conscience but it is **distorted** by nature as a 'compass needle' or 'rifle sights' giving the **wrong information!** We need a conscience that is controlled and regulated by God! Our consciences must be **educated by God** - else it will be regulated by **secular values!**

Also the charge must be *from a sincere faith* [8] Greek for 'sincere' is **irrevocable** - as Paul said about Tim himself *I am reminded of your sincere faith that is in you* [2T1:5] **Irrevocable!** Cannot be reversed! There is **only** one **true** and real and sincere faith - That is the true faith! Because it is founded on the **Rock** Christ Jesus!

Preaching is **not** to make us **speculate** but rather to give us a **positive** outlook and hope *Christ our hope* [1]. Not meant to create a **vivid** imagination - of heaven where we **all** lie on couches with angels dropping grapes into our mouths, but of a **realism** which **equips** us for the realities of life on earth - and provides a godliness *also for the life to come* [1Tim4:8]! Faraday on deathbed 'I am not **speculating** – and resting on **certainties!** **APP** Are you?