

No Other Doctrine
Series: Doctrine and the Reformation
Reading **1 Timothy 1:1-7** April 30th 2017

We want to look today at the importance of doctrine. Doctrine is too often viewed as a bad thing. We hear that doctrine divides. True, it divides between true and false, between real and pretend. Notice that if we are genuinely searching for truth, we will be drawing together as we look at doctrine. I think that is what Paul meant when he commanded us to endeavor to “keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3). He wasn’t talking about skipping controversial subjects, but bringing every thought captive to the Word of God. Seeking God with all that is in us and the unity that is found “in Him.” Today we are going to just look at this section in Timothy as Paul instructs his son in the faith.

- History / Context
 - Timothy was probably led to the Lord on Paul’s second missionary journey at Lystra. He came from a godly household and would continue on with the apostle Paul throughout his journey, staying with him in Jerusalem and Rome through his 1st imprisonment and then continuing on into the 3rd missionary journey. He has probably had 5 years with the apostle and has shared in the suffering of the Gospel, even being imprisoned for a time. It is on Paul’s third journey that he leaves Timothy at Ephesus.
 - Paul knew Timothy. From childhood to adulthood, as a son and as fellow believer. He chose him for a hard task. To keep a church on track in the Lord.
 - **Revelation 2:1-7** tells us that for the most part He was successful.
 - **Revelation 2:1-3** ¹ “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: ² I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; ³ and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary.”
 - Notice verse 2? I know... you cannot bear those who are evil and have tested those who say they are apostles and are not... (teach no other doctrine.)
 - **Revelation 2:4** “Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.”
 - Yet it wasn’t perfect. Here is where 40+ years later the church would be falling short. At its love for Christ.
 - So let’s look at this direction to Timothy. It is importance for us to hear today as well. We are in a day and age where we need to look to the Word, to find the doctrine that God gives us and to stand for it, or we will find ourselves being under the judgment of God.
- 1 Timothy 1:3 “As I urged you when I went into Macedonia-- remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine,”
 - Paul is very specific about what Timothy is to do-- No beating around the bush, no this isn’t real important... This is life and death.
 - **Matthew 7:13-15** ¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. ¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.”
 - All promise life, but the easy and broad way leads to destruction. And it is followed by many.
 - This is easy to explain away that it is Hinduism and Buddhism and Islam... false religions... BUT not VS. 15
 - **Matthew 7:15** “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves.”
 - Notice that it is to the Church that this is written. They come to us in Sheep’s Clothing. It is something that you should be afraid of, should contend for.

- **Matthew 7:14** “Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”
 - Narrow / Difficult (To press like with grapes...) – We will have the useless part compressed out of us.
 - **Romans 8:29** “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”
 - **Romans 12:2** “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
 - We are to be transformed How? By the renewing of you mind. By the study of truth.
 - **John 17:17** “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”
 - Few – Why few?? Hard, difficult... People want easy and won’t yield to this way without God working on them.
 - This is why it is so much easier for someone to come when He acknowledges His sin. Without a sense of our being lost, how far short we come, we will cling to our righteousness and say I am not that bad. God surely doesn’t require me to go through that door.... Why if I enter in there, there won’t be anything left....
 - The correct walk with God is going to be based on a correct understanding of God’s Word. It is not going to be easy, but to take commitment, and perseverance. This is why Timothy was left.
 - Paul had preached the correct gospel – **Acts 20:26-27** ^{“26} Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. ²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”
 - **Acts 20:28-29** ^{“28} Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.”
 - Again we see that Paul knows that the wolves will come!! Same warning.
- Paul had not only visited with them, and warned them, but had sent them a letter. Ephesians!
 - This is one of the greatest explanations of our salvation in the Word of God.
 - Ephesians 1 In Christ 14 times. Our salvation in theory
 - **(Eph 1:3)** “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places in Christ*,”
 - **(Eph 1:4-8)** ^{“4} just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,”
 - ^{“5} having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,”
 - ^{“6} to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.”
 - ^{“7} In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”
 - ^{“8} which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,”
 - Ephesian 2 our salvation in practice.
 - **(Eph 2:1-10)** ^{“1} And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins,”
 - ^{“2} in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,”

- “³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”
- “⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,”
- “⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),”
- “⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,”
- “⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”
- “⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,”
- “⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.”
- “¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”
- Ephesian 3 salvation for the Gentiles
 - **Ephesians 3:1** “¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles,”
 - “² if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,”
 - “³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,”
 - “⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),”
 - “⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:”
 - “⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,”
- Ephesians 4 therefore walk worthy
 - **Ephesians 4:1** “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,”
- Ephesian 5 walk like Christ
 - **Ephesians 5:1-2** “¹ Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”
 - “² And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”
- Ephesian 6 walk in obedience and submission
- Now He leaves Timothy! Why? The church was in danger of false doctrine.
 - Genealogies, fables, endless disputes – Why? The disputes weren’t based on God’s Word.
 - **2 Co 1:13** “For we are not writing any other things to you than what you read or understand. Now I trust you will understand, even to the end.”
 - When we base our lives on God’s word, it is simple, and difficult. It doesn’t promise success, but suffering, it isn’t inclusive but exclusive. It isn’t easy but hard.

How are we doing? Have we set our hearts to find the truth of God’s Word? Are we set to follow it? I pray you have.

(2Co 13:14) “¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.”