

Fighting Against Falsehood

2 Timothy 2:14-19

The fight against falsehood (for the truth) is a battle against those without and those within. While persecution from without will be painful (enduring hardship as a soldier and prisoner), the polarization from within may be more painful. The former is called apologetics. The latter is called polemics.

- I. Falsehood ruins the _____ (14b)
- II. Falsehood shames the _____ (15)
- III. Falsehood corrupts the _____ (16)
- IV. Falsehood spreads like a _____ (17a)
- V. Falsehood overthrows the _____ (17b-18)
- VI. The foundation of God is _____ (19)
 - A. God knows who are _____ (19a-b)
 - B. Man knows who are _____ (19c)

Is Truth Relative? A Dialogue Between Philosophers

Protagoras: Truth is relative. It is only a matter of opinion.

Socrates: You mean that truth is mere subjective opinion?

Protagoras: Exactly. What is true for you is true for you, and what is true for me, is true for me. Truth is subjective.

Socrates: Do you really mean that? That my opinion is true by virtue of its being my opinion?

Protagoras: Indeed I do.

Socrates: My opinion is: Truth is absolute, not opinion, and that you, Mr. Protagoras, are absolutely in error. Since this is my opinion, then you must grant that it is true according to your philosophy.

Protagoras: You are quite correct, Socrates.

Greek philosophers typically viewed the soul as immortal and the body as its temporal prison. The idea of a physical resurrection of the body, both Christ's and the Christian's, was therefore foreign and difficult for them to grasp. Hence there was a natural tendency toward heresies which rejected bodily resurrection (1 Cor. 15; Acts 17:32). (This was a component of gnosticism in the early church). The heresy of Philetus and Hymenaeus probably involved the idea that resurrection was a purely spiritual affair which occurred at conversion or baptism. But bodily resurrection is the keystone of Christian doctrine as Paul showed (1 Cor 15). Without it, the entire edifice of the gospel collapses. Little wonder then that Paul said that these two false teachers destroyed the faith of some (cf. 1 Tim 1:19). - A. Duane Liptin