

6/10/01

**Why Teach Only The Gospel?**

**1Tim. 1:5-7**

If you had 100 bad teachers, the importance of competence on the part of each teacher is emphasized by the fact that the average elementary teacher who retired would probably had taught approximately 1000 American citizens and the average high school teacher about 5000 persons. Examining the educational ill affects of only 100 ineffectual high school teachers who retired is illuminating, fifty thousand American citizens would not have received adequate instruction in high school. William Alexander. # **6406**

Paul the apostle had left Timothy as the watchman of Ephesus to insure that no other doctrine be taught, except for the glorious Gospel committed to his trust, even as Paul had done while being at Ephesus. 1Tim. 1:3-4

This was not simply a desire to control the area of Ephesus not or to have a heavy hand of authority over the people but to bring about the purposes of God through the gospel.

So the apostle Paul gives to young Timothy a three-fold purpose for such a charge. 1Tim. 1:5-7

- I. To manifest God's love in people's lives. Vs. 5
  - II. To mark those who missed the goal of love. Vs. 6
  - III. To mention their intentions and qualifications. Vs. 7
- I. To manifest God's love in people's lives. Vs. 5**
- A. The foundation of love is faith that is actively trusting God in obedience to the gospel, not feelings or emotions.
    - \* "Now the purpose of the commandment is love". Vs. 5a
  1. The foundation for this love to be manifested is the sphere of faith that is based on the gospel message at the end of verse four.
  2. The goal of the gospel is not to simply provide information and knowledge but that we might walk, abide and be filled with the love of God, Eph. 3:14-21. Jude 21
    - \* The word purpose "telos" means goal or aim.
  3. The demand of the gospel is obedience.
    - a. The word commandment "paraggelia" is a military term and it means to give strict orders to be obeyed.
    - b. The noun form is found in verse three "charge".

**B.** The quality of love is divine “agapee.”

1. It is given by God to every believer who will yield to it, called the fruit of the Spirit. Rom. 5:5. Gal. 5:22
2. It has unlimited potential. 1Cor. 13:4-8a
3. It is the only motive God will honor for reward at the Bema Seat of Christ. 1Cor. 4:5
  - a. Of the ten times that this form “agapee” appears in the Pastoral Epistles, seven of the ten times, faith and love appear together. 1Tim. 1:14. 2:15, 6:11, 2Tim. 1:13. 2:22. 3:10. Tit. 2:2
  - b. If I am going to yield to and manifest God's agapee love to people and the world it will be dependent on the sphere of faith which is produced by the Holy Spirit through the Gospel.
  - c. Paul tells the Galatians that faith is to be working by love. Gal. 5:6
  - d. It is not based on the physical, emotional feelings nor circumstances or situations!
    - \* Disputes and strife come from our flesh selfish love for self, not God's love!

**C.** The instrument of love is a pure heart.

1. The implied problem is that man's heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. Jer. 17:9
  - a. The word from “ek” means out of, which applies to heart, conscience and sincere faith.
  - b. The heart “kardia” is what God is after to transform man’s heart and it is used in scripture as the center of man's entire mental and moral activity, the intellect, emotions and will.
2. The quality of the heart is said to be pure “katharos” which means clean as opposed to dirty.
  - \* Later this word was used for corn that had been winnowed and cleaned from all chaff and of an army that had been purified of all cowardly and undisciplined soldiers, leaving only first class fighting men.
3. The sound command given by Paul to Timothy, “Teach no other doctrine” but the Word of God “the Gospel” only is the solution to man’s heart. Ps. 119:9-11, 1Pet. 1:22
  - a. This does not happen automatically but must be appropriated individually by faith and obedience.

- b. Only the Word of God can produce God's love and purify man's heart! Jn. 15:3, Eph. 5:26

**D.** The witness of love is a good conscience.

1. The conscience Paul is referring to is not natural moral conscience given to every man and woman to know good and evil because it can be altered, seared, and defiled. Rom. 2:14-15, 1Tim. 4:2, Tit. 1:15
2. Paul is saying that love will be manifested not only through a pure heart as the source but result in a good conscience that witnesses regarding one's diligence to live up to the knowledge of the truth one possesses.
  - a. The word good “agathos” means perfect in kind to produce pleasure, satisfaction and well-being.
  - b. The word conscience “suneidesis” means to know with, literally with knowledge.
  - c. Paul is referring to the conscience that is held captive and bound by the Word of God, reaching its fullest and truest potential.
3. This conscience is one with the heart without guilt of conviction the work of the Spirit and the Word yet perfection is never implied.

- \* Paul calls witness to his own conscience often. 1Cor. 9:1, 2Cor. 1:12, 4:2

**E.** The process of love is by sincere faith.

1. True biblical faith is not only the foundation of love as we pointed out, but it is the very ongoing process that insures the continuous purging of my heart regarding sins, attitudes and motives resulting in a good conscience.
 

\* The word sincere “anupokritos” means unpretentious, unhypocritical, genuine faith that is actively trusting and depending on God through His Word, the Holy Spirit and obedience to deny self and please God in order to do His will.
2. All three, a pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith are possible by the new divine nature of the new man in contrast to the old man under the bondage of sin and its power. 2Pet. 1:3-4
3. The order I believe is also in proper order; faith trusts God to change and purify the heart which is accompanied by a good conscience giving evidence of un-hypocritical faith by the power of agapee love.
 

\* Faith is defined and described for us in the book of Hebrews. Heb. 11:1, 6

### **Illustration**

During the Korean war, a South Korean Christian, a civilian, was arrested by the communists and ordered shot. But when the young communist leader learned that the prisoner was in charge of an orphanage caring for small children, he decided to spare him and kill his son instead. So they shot the nineteen-year-old boy in the presence of his father.

Later the fortunes of war changed, and the young communist leader was captured by the United Nations forces, tried, and condemned to death. But before the sentence could be carried out, the Christian whose boy had been killed pleaded for the life of the killer. He declared that he was young, that he really did not know what he was doing. "Give him to me", said the father, "and I'll train him."

The United Nations forces granted the request, and that father took the murderer of his boy into his own home and cared for him. The young communist became a Christian pastor.

-T. Roland Philips #1771

### **Application**

1. What is the foundation of the love I am manifesting, is it based on "faith" or "feelings"?
  - a. Faith pleases God, feelings please me.
  - b. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you, that

you also love one another. Jn. 13:34-35. 1Jn. 4:17-19

2. Am I yielding to "agapee" or mere compatible fondness and sexual attraction?
  - a. Both are legitimate but often conditional.
  - b. Neither the phileo or eros love will get you through every crisis, especially severe crisis in your life only agapee love never fails. 1Cor. 13:1-8a
3. If God's love doesn't have control of my heart, it might be because I refuse to have my heart purged from certain sins that harden my heart to God and obedience to His Word to forgive others in proportion as He forgave me. Eph. 4:30-32
4. If my conscience is not at rest in agreement with what I know about the gospel in my heart, then I am not right with God, not free nor walking in truth. Jn. 8:31-32

*The purpose of teaching the gospel was and is to manifest God's love in people's lives!*

### **II. To mark those who missed the goal of love. Vs. 6**

- A. Some had missed God's "agapee" love by deviating from a pure heart.
  1. These individuals are said to of strayed.
    - a. The word strayed "astocheo" means to deviate from or to miss.

- b. One put it this way, “To be wide of the mark or shoot past the goal by taking no pains to aim at the right path.”
  - c. Three times it appears in the New Testament. 1Tim. 6:21, 2Tim.2:18
  - d. To fables and endless geneologies. 1Tim. 1:4, 4:3, 7, 6:4, 20-21
  - e. The love the false teachers were producing was of intellect, self and of human origin.
2. The reason for straying is based on pride.
- a. Pride is at the center of an impure heart. The very first time pride is mentioned is regarding God's promise to Israel if they disobeyed and deviated from His word and is related to man's heart Lev. 26:19, 41
  - b. Pride is number one in the list of sins God hates. Prov. 6:16-19
  - c. Pride hardens our hearts to God's will manifesting our sinful nature Eph. 4:17-24
  - d. Pride is overcome only when we no longer desire to love and worship ourselves but love God with all our heart, soul and mind thereby loving others with God's love out of a pure heart. Matt. 22:37

- B. Some had missed God’s love by deviating from a good conscience.
- 1. They didn't live up to the truth they possess as God's truth for life. 1Jn. 3:18-21
  - 2. Their conscience was either excusing or accusing them. Rom. 2:14-15.
    - a. By excuses man justifies himself.
    - b. By accusations man passed the blame on someone else.
    - c. By guilt and conviction God accuses each of us!
  - 3. The ongoing presence of a bad or evil conscience which is a witness to an impure heart can lead to shipwrecked in the faith. 1Tim. 1:19
  - 4. Only the blood of Jesus can cleanse a man's conscience. Heb. 9:14, 10:2, 22
- C. Some had missed God’s love by deviating from sincere faith.
- 1. They decide to stop yielding to genuine Biblical faith that actively trusted and depended on God through His Word and Holy Spirit to obey and love. Rom.12:1-2
  - 2. They consciously pursued the works of the flesh which center on self love at the expense of others. Gal.5:16-26
  - 3. Their life is pretentious and hypocritical as the leaven of the Pharisees and

Sadducees which Jesus warned the disciples about. Matt. 16:6

**D.** Some had missed God's love and had turned to idle talk.

1. Their love for other proposed truth deviated them.
  - a. The word turned aside "ektreop" means to twist or turn out of the way
  - b. The word is a medical term used of a dislocated limb. 1Tim. 5:15, 6:20.
2. Their love was for idle talk.
  - a. The word "mataiolgia" means empty senseless speech void of Gospel truth.
  - b. The apostle mentioned some of these in verse four, "Nor giving heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. Tit. 1:10, 14

### **Illustration**

An article titled "The Art of Being a Big Shot" was written by a very prominent Christian businessman named Howard Butt. Among many other insightful things he said were these words: It is my pride that makes me independent of God. It's appealing to me to feel that I am the master of my fate, that I run my own life, call my own shots, go it alone. But that feeling is my basic dishonesty. I can't go it alone. I have to get help from other people, and I

can't ultimately rely on myself. I'm dependent on God for my next breath. It is dishonest of me to pretend that I'm anything but a man - small, weak, and limited. So, living independent of God is self-delusion. It is not just a matter of pride being an unfortunate little trait and humility being an attractive little virtue; it's my inner psychological integrity that's at stake. When I am conceited, I am lying to myself about what I am. I am pretending to be God and not man. My pride is the idolatrous worship of myself. And that is the national religion of Hell! (M. Green, Ill. for Biblical Preaching, P. 288.)

### **Application**

1. A life of a faith in God, His word and Holy Spirit is the only things that can prepare and purify man's heart and conscience. Heb.11:1, 6, Rom. 10:17
  2. A life of sincere faith is cultivated through the process of faith and obedience which will strengthen me to not exercise my own will, by choice. 2Pet. 1:5-11
  3. Many have strayed and turned to idle talk such as Mormonism, Jehovah' witnesses, legalism or extreme five-point Calvinist and their reformed theology, they are all idle talk! 1Tim. 4:1, 2Tim. 4:4
- \* We do not allow all kinds of different kinds of new teachings that come and go in the church!

*The purpose of teaching the gospel was and is to mark those who missed the goal of love!*

**III. To mention their intentions and qualifications. Vs. 7**

- A.** They intend to be law teachers, “Desiring to be teachers of the law”. Vs. 7
- 1.** They were self appointed men by their own will.
    - a.** The word desiring “thelo” means to will, to have in mind or intend, being resolved and determined.
    - b.** It is human will and self that is on the throne choosing and calling the shots for one's life not God.
  - 2.** They were self appointed doctors of the laws.
    - a.** The phrase teachers of the law “nomodidoskalos” means an interpreter of the law among the Jews, of those who went about among Christians as champions and interpreters of the Mosaic law.
    - b.** Three times it appears in the New Testament, the other two times it is translated "Doctors of the Law" in the King James Versions. Lk. 5:17, Acts 5:34

- 3.** They failed to recognize the awesome responsibility of teachers receiving greater judgment from God. Ja. 3:1  
\* Their goal was to be admired, a wrong motivating for ministry. Matt. 23:5-7
- B.** They do not possess the qualifications to be teachers of the law, “Understanding neither what they say”. Vs. 7b
- 1.** They did not know what they teach.
    - a.** The word understanding “noeo” means to perceive with the mind, think, ponder and consider.
    - b.** This was their continual state of mind.
    - c.** Paul asks Timothy to consider what he is writing to him about, using the same word. 2Tim. 2:7
  - 2.** They did not know the intent of the law, nor the nature of it.
    - a.** The Law was given to show man his sinfulness and his need of God.
    - b.** The Law was a school-master to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Gal. 3:24
  - 3.** They did not consider the consequences of what they taught by their words.
    - a.** Leading people to trust the Law for their standing before God.
    - b.** Leading people astray from Christ.

- C. They did not know themselves the things they were teaching so confidently as truth “Nor the things which they affirm”. Vs. 7b
1. The word affirm “diabedaiomai” means to stand behind things and declaring it to be so, in this case the things of the Law.
    - a. They confirm the teaching to be true when it isn’t.
    - b. They did this constantly and strongly. something strongly and confidently.
  2. Many teach error and confidently affirm it as truth because they do not understand the whole counsel of God. Acts 20:27
  3. Many teach error because of popularity and following 2Pet 2:2-3.
  4. Many teach heresy having never been called of God. Eph. 4:11, 1Tim. 6:4, 20, 2Tim. 2:23, 3:7, Tit. 1:15, 3:8-9

### **Illustration**

A plumb line can only prove that a crooked wall is crooked. No matter how you use it, a plumb line can't make a crooked wall straight. The law was God's plumb line, designed to show all people that they are crooked, or sinful. It was never intended to make us straight or righteous and, indeed, it never could. (Green pp. 212)

\* How much more teachers in the church who corrupt the gospel!

### **Application**

1. We must not be like the Athenians and the foreigners who spent their time in telling or hearing some new thing. Acts 17:21
2. We must be like the Bereans who received the word with all readiness and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Acts 17:11
3. We must be aware of the many times Jesus warned of deception as well as Paul and Peter. Matt. 24:4-5, 1Tim. 4:1-3, 2Tim. 3:1-7, 2Pet. 2:1-3

***The purpose of teaching the gospel was and is to mention their intentions and qualifications!***

### **Conclusion**

Paul gave to Timothy this three-fold purpose of his charge to not allow anyone to teach any other doctrine except the Gospel.

- I. To manifest God's love in people’s lives!
- II. To mark those who missed the goal of love!
- III. To mention their intentions and qualifications!