

Hold Fast to Sound Words

- We are responsible for living according to the word of God
- It must be our guide, because its words are God's words to us
- We've already discussed (in this series) our commitment to Him
- It must be a total commitment, nothing held back
- And we only know what that commitment looks like, when we know the Bible
- But it is easy to say and to think we know the Bible and have some gaps - or some errors - or some confusions
- The Bible is clear that people can have wrong conclusions about big issues
- Often, these are related to life and death, heaven and hell
- And there is belief that true understanding has been found, but it has not
- Let's read a few examples...

Matthew 7:21-23

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

- There are some that will enter into the kingdom of heaven and some that will not
- And not everyone who says they will, who thinks they will, actually does enter
- There are some that think they are doing the will of the Father, but they are not
- They are doing, but doing for the wrong reasons, doing with the wrong motives, doing incorrectly
- Those that come to Jesus here do not appear to be lying
- They would not lie to the King of kings on this day of judgement
- They really have prophesied in His name
- That is, they have declared something, not always just future events, but anything known by divine revelation
- These may have been speaking, declaring truth
- And or held an office in which they were responsible for declaring the truth
- They believe they have cast out demons
- And they have done, in His name, many wonderful works
- These are many "powerful things," things meant to be showing God's power
- They are not people simply living for themselves
- They believe that are pleasing God and serving God

- And they believe these things they have done will grant them access to His kingdom
- But Jesus simply says I never knew you
- And tells them to depart
- Classifying all those things they have done, though they believed they were for Him, iniquity

- Jesus is making it clear that some will get it all wrong
- They will live their entire lives, believing it is right, but realize (before Him) that it is not
- They have lived by a certain doctrine, one that may have been organized and popular and well respected, but it was not "sound doctrine"
- To be sound is to be free from any mixture of error
- Teaching that is right and true and from God

- There are other categories of confusion explained in scripture and rebuked
- We find one in Galatians 1:6-9, when Paul says...

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

- Not only are there some that explicitly and deliberately teach that which is not true
- There are those that knew, who have heard and embraced the truth, which will buy it
- They will need to be rebuked by someone continuing in the truth
- And will need to be brought back to the right way, the true way of Christ
- In this case, there were those teaching obedience to Old Testament law in addition to grace
- This is not the gospel
- It is a gospel perverted, twisted, altered

- But remember, there are those that sincerely believe false gospels such as this one
- And who live daily in the belief that they are right
- They do not hold to sound doctrine

- And not every teaching that is outside the boundaries of sound doctrine regards salvation
- Consider 1 Timothy 6:1-5...

1 Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour,

that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.

2 And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

- Some were teaching incorrectly about our relationship and responsibility to authorities
 - And perhaps they were teaching in opposition to Paul's teaching earlier in this book
 - In the previous chapter he was teaching on the role of certain members within the church
 - And on the responsibilities of elders, like Timothy
 - Whatever the specific issues were, they were, because of a lack of character and understanding, teaching the opposite of Paul's teaching
 - They were proud, knowing nothing
 - Another version says they have "a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, slander, evil suspicions"
 - They have wrong motives, lack understanding, display a sinful character, and therefore teach not sound words
 - These even seek to appear godly, even though they are not, to obtain material gain
 - Timothy was told to avoid these people
 - We ought also to avoid them
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- How then, do we follow that which is told to Timothy at the beginning of 2 Timothy?
 - Verse 13 of chapter 1 is the basis for our title and theme...

2 Timothy 1:13

13 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

- There is a body of teaching that has been imparted to Timothy over the course of time
- It is not found (necessarily) in a church creed or document, but is rather recorded in the whole of scripture
- A faithful discipler teaches "all things, whatsoever Jesus commands"
- And provides, for the disciple they are teaching, a view of all scripture
- Knowing that it all comes from Him and is profitable

- That it should be the basis of our teaching
- Should be the text that would determine any rebuke we may need
- Provides the tools useful for correction
- And determines for us what righteousness is in Jesus Christ
- That anyone "in Him" could be complete
- Being equipped fully to do all their Savior commands

- This is someone who will not live a life outside relationship with Christ, merely believing works that they do will gain the kingdom of heaven
- Or be taken in by those that add to the gospel and pervert it
- Or, because of bad character and motives, alter and contradict the clear teaching of the Old and New Testaments
- They will "hold fast" to sound teaching

- The Holy Spirit will play a key role in this
- As Jesus told His disciples in John 14:26...

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

- He will guide us and be our teacher
- And He will empower us to do those things which God commands
- When we need reminders, He will provide them

- What further do we know about these "sound words" and this "sound doctrine"
- There are a few scriptures to consider

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

- Concentrate first on "all scripture"
- This will become an important phrase for all developing a doctrinal foundation
- No scripture is considered in isolation
- We apply that which we know about all scripture to that which we read in any single scripture
- The meaning of that single scripture is influenced greatly by its immediate context, its

greater context within a book, and its context within all 66 books of the Bible

- Our Old and New Testament scriptures must inform all that we come to believe about any given text

- Consider Romans 15, starting in verse 4...

4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

6 That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- While there are different considerations, often, regarding the Old Testament and New Testament, they are critical companion pieces in all (right) doctrinal foundations

- Each provides a basis for understanding the other

- Personal study is imperative, but the Bible also commends and requires teaching

- Consider the Great Commission itself in Matthew 28:20...

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

- Every believer is to be taught and to engage in teaching

- Discipleship is a life of constant learning

- We learn through personal study and through being taught

- The local church is the key location for learning and being held accountable for those things which we learn

- Consider Ephesians 4, beginning in verse 11...

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

- Our learning, and being equipped to serve God, is done (in large part) here

- And we assist one another in this...

Hebrews 10:24-25

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

- That which we come to believe about Christ and what He demands for our lives is shaped by our brothers and sisters

- By their teaching and by their personal exhortation

- We need, and we must have a commitment to, a broad understanding of the whole Bible, honestly considered

- With a concentration on the historical, orthodox teaching of righteous brothers and sisters

- Starting with those in our local church

- And those who share the perspective and outlook of those in our local church

- Become well-informed on those to which you listen outside of church

- Ask serious questions

- Demand answers about perspective and history and character and commitment

- Not every ministry or minister that wears the label Christian or claims to hold a Biblical world view can be trusted

- It is up to the individual disciple to consider all that is said and written with discernment

- With high standards, established by scripture

Christopher Harper, November 2021