

## **BIB 281 The Pastoral Epistles**

### **Lesson 4 The Design of Ministry**

Intro. The design of ministry is to preserve the truth mentioned at the end of chapter three. There is a desperate need for absolute truth - Barna: 64% of people professing to be born again do not believe in absolute truth. This is the crying need of our times that the light and salt of the world is responsible for.

1. The Preservation of Truth 14-16 Key verses: The purpose of the epistle is always good to identify "These things write I unto thee...that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God" People remember practice better than they understand precept. A small deviation from truth is magnified over time into great error.
  - A. The place of truth - the house of God - what a novel idea
  - B. The promotion of truth - support, that which sustains or upholds
  - C. The pronouncement of truth - summary of God's great plan of redemption
    - His incarnation, declaration, resurrection, reception, and ascension

#### 2. The Perversion of Truth 1-5

-depart = apostasize from the faith

-apostasy = an abandonment of what one has professed, a total desertion, a departure from one's faith or religion. One who has forsaken the church to which he before adhered.

"Spirit speaketh expressly" means in direct terms, plainly -He that hath an ear let him hear...

A. source of perversion -what we have to look forward to I John 2:18 II Tim 3:1 4:4

##### 1. seducing spirits

seduce- to draw aside from the path of duty in any manner by flattery, promises, bribes, or otherwise; to tempt and to lead to iniquity. To entice to surrender of chastity.

a. I Kings 22:22,23

b. II Cor. 11:13-15

c. II Tim. 3:13

d. Mt. 7:15

##### 2. doctrines of devils

B. signs of perversion - lying hypocrisy Ted Haggard

C. sense of perversion - a seared conscience, hardened or cauterized

conscience - internal or self-knowledge, or judgment of right and wrong; or the faculty, power or principle within us, which decides on the lawfulness or unlawfulness of our own actions and affections, and instantly approves or condemns them.

"The conscience has been made insensitive to right and wrong because of some radical act of perverting the truth. The conscience is man's sensitiveness to right and wrong based on his standard. If the standard is perverted, then its action becomes altered. It is cauterized and fails to respond. The verb Kausteriazio depicts this perversion of truth as a violent and radical action. The writer suggests that act to have been the time when the religious teacher deliberately turned away from the instruction of God's word and permitted Satan's demonic hosts to take control of his mind and thought." Homer Kent

1. Eph. 4:19

2. Titus 1:15

D. sins of perversion

1. celibacy - this is what causes Catholic priest to molest children
2. diet - Lent - God sanctified meat to be eaten with a prayer of thanksgiving

Obvious reference made to Catholicism. If this was apostasy where did Rome apostasize from? The truth. Be careful lest we produce heresies which over time will pervert the truth.

3. The Protector of Truth 6-11 - "a good minister of Jesus Christ"

In the face of the overwhelming apostasy that Timothy was facing he attempted to give him some guidelines on what needed to be taught to these disciples.

A. a good minister's responsibility to remind - 6 of the teaching of the Bible, which can easily be forgotten

1. II Peter 1:12-16
2. II Peter 3:1,2
3. Jude 1:5

B. a good minister's responsibility to refuse - 7a unscriptural teachings

1. the profane = irreverent to any thing sacred. (A man is profane when he takes the name of God in vain or treats sacred things with abuse or irreverence.) Obscene; heathenish, tending to bring reproach on religion; as profane fables I Tim. 4.

2. fables = a feigned story or tale intended to instruct or amuse

C. a good minister's responsibility to reinforce - 7b-8 godliness

godliness = piety, holiness; piety toward God

piety = -in principle - is a compound of veneration or reverence of God and love of His character

- in practice - is the exercise of these affections in obedience to His will and devotion to

His service.

1. reinforce by example - exercise thyself
2. reinforce by explanation - the benefits of godliness compared to the benefits of exercise - profitable unto all things, benefits in this life and the life to come.
  - a. Rom. 6:19-22
  - b. Ps. 1
  - c. Ps. 128
  - d. Luke 18:28-30

Note: most Christians do not understand the benefits of godliness and must be reminded of them.

3. reinforce by expectation - This hope of a future life is the cause of our labor and suffering of reproach because we believe it, therefore continue to teach it.

4. The Personification of Truth 12-16 be a living example of the truth

- A. by your example - 12
- B. by your emphasis - 13 reading, exhortation, doctrine
- C. by your exhortation - 14 use your gift of teaching
- D. by your effort - 15 dwell on them, give thyself wholly to them
- E. by your endurance - 16 continue

Conclusion

"Right living is the fruit of right learning; proper deportment of proper doctrine; correct behavior of correct belief"