

Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

September 8, 2019

Issue 36

SOUND DOCTRINE

By: Ronnie Scherffius

In our previous study we noted a general theme of *sound doctrine* in Paul's first letter to Timothy. Throughout this letter, Paul not only emphasizes soundness of teaching and faithfulness to the doctrine of Christ but also reinforces this thought with bookend exhortations to his son in the faith: "charge some that they teach no other doctrine" (1:3), and "these things teach and exhort" (6:2). Considering the text of 1 Timothy 6:1-5, we highlighted that sound doctrine is defended by our conduct and how Paul defined sound doctrine. Let's continue our study of Sound Doctrine noting how some despise sound doctrine and how sound doctrine is distinguished from doctrines of men.

Sound Doctrine Despised

Paul next reveals the true character of those who despise and refuse to consent to sound doctrine. Blinded by pride they become ignorant of knowledge and spend their time "doting about questions and strife's of words" (6:4). According to Thayer, the word translated *doting* carries the sense of one who is "sick of any ailment of the mind." In essence Paul says that one who despises sound doctrine becomes so consumed with debating trivial matters that rather than being sound in the faith (Titus 1:13; 2:2) they become diseased in the mind. They do not "give heed unto the doctrine" that will save them and others (1 Tim. 4:16), but stir up envy and strife

which leads to slanderous accusations and hurtful suspicions among brethren.

The apostle further notes that those who despise sound doctrine engage in "perverse disputing's" or "wrangling's" of men (1 Tim. 6:5). In other words, they continually cause irritation and friction among brethren. Such men have become corrupted in their minds and destitute of the truth. How tragic! Those who despise the healthy and wholesome doctrine they once held dear now possess minds that are rotten having defrauded themselves of the truth. So corrupt of mind are those who despise sound doctrine that rather than consent to wholesome words they seek to make a living off of them.

Sound Doctrine Distinguished

What is our responsibility to those who despise sound doctrine and corrupt the wholesome words of Jesus Christ? Paul makes it clear that we are to withdraw from them (1 Tim. 6:5). Though the inclusion of this final phrase is disputed by biblical scholars the principle is clearly set forth in Scripture (cf. 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Rom. 16:17-18; 2 Thess. 3:16). The withdrawing of our fellowship from those who reject sound doctrine distinguishes us from the world. Paul admonished, "if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed" (2 Thess. 3:14). To the Philippians he wrote, "Brethren, be fol-

lowers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example” (Phil. 3:17). Clearly, following after sound doctrine distinguishes from those who in their pride refuse to consent to the wholesome words of Jesus Christ. Further, our withdrawing fellowship from those who teach other doctrine also serves to distinguish that healthy wholesome doctrine we hold so dear from doctrines that corrupt.

Paul’s emphasis of teaching and walking in sound wholesome doctrine is abundantly clear. One who gives himself to the meditation sound doctrine is easily identified and he is a benefit to all with whom he may come into contact (1 Tim. 4:15-16). May we ever strive faithfully to proclaim and persevere in that sound wholesome doctrine that promotes reverence and respect toward God.

Turning Pain Into Pearls



An incredible process begins when a foreign material, or a parasite, makes its way inside the shell of an oyster and begins causing damage. The intruder can threaten the life of the oyster, so something must be done. To protect itself, the oyster seals off the threat by using the same material that lines the inside of its shell (called nacre). The oyster cannot spit out the intruder, so it covers it with many layers of precious material, thus making it into a pearl. In other words, the producing of a pearl is a defense mechanism. The result? The painful intruders are turned into the beautiful

pearls we have today.

There is much we could learn from the oyster. Too often, people intrude into our lives with qualities like discouragement, lies, insults, and anger. There is no doubt these cause damage. There is no doubt these can destroy relationships. However, when we respond in a kind and loving way, we can take someone who intended to do harm, respond in love, and transform that person into something beautiful for the Lord. Incredible changes can take place when we slowly respond to such intruders with layers of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

As sad as it is, hurtful words and actions are going to enter our lives, but how we react to them is completely up to us. Peter said it best:

“To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; **not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead**; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing” (1 Peter 3:8-9).

-Selected-

To Our Visitors: We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
Week of September 8, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Kirk FitzSimmons

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Lupe Escojido
Fruit of the Vine: Clifton Rutherford
Offering: Bryant Siegel
Assist: Isaac Jobes, Manny Flonnory, Fred Scherffius

Sunday Evening: Lupe Escojido, Clifton Rutherford

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Doug Jobes
P.M. Closing: Anthony Scherffius

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Larry Nuckels
Sun. P.M.: Jerry FitzSimmons
Wednesday: Anthony Scherffius

Ushers:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional:

Ronnie Scherffius

Open/Close Building:

Sound System:

Curtis Scherffius

Greeters:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion:

Dolan

The annual Summer Youth Series Awards will be held immediately following Sunday evening services Sept. 22nd. After the awards there will be a congregational fellowship meal. Please bring a potluck dish.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Veronica Serenil, who Ronnie visited this past week. It is her desire to be restored to the Lord's church. Once she recovers from her surgery, she will return to worship with us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 8: Men's business meeting @ 3pm
Sept. 8: Jr/Sr. High Devotional at the building after evening services.
Sept. 10, 17, 24: Men's and Ladies' Tuesday Bible Class
Sept. 14: GEMS meeting
Sept. 22: Summer Youth Series awards
Nov. 10-13: MidTown's Fall Gospel Meeting with Jason Rollo.

AREA EVENTS

Sept. 3,9,16,23: Digging Deeper with Wayne Jones @ Odem church of Christ
Sept. 7: Ladies' Day @ Portland church of Christ
Sept. 21: San Pedro C of C Ladies' Day in San Antonio
Oct. 18-20: Recharge Youth conference @ Weber Rd.
Nov. 9: Bible Bowl @ Weber church of Christ

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Herb Ramsey (9); Cooper Siegel (11)

Happy Anniversary: Curtis & Ann Pantel (9)

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Mickey Tisue
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of September 1, 2019

Bible Class.....	98
A.M. Worship.....	136
P.M. Worship.....	81
Wednesday Bible Study.....	86

Offering \$3,884.49

THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

Each week will focus on reading a portion of the New Testament, each reading will only take 30 minutes:

Colossians—2 Thessalonians



SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

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