



2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5 NAS

SOUND DOCTRINE

It Makes All the Difference!

Sunday, October 16 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, October 17 at 7 PM

22nd Sunday after Pentecost / 21st Sunday after Trinity – 2016

Introduction: Dear friends in Jesus Christ: No matter how strongly a person believes something, *that believing is meaningless apart from SOUND DOCTRINE!* Some strongly believe in **reincarnation**, but God said, “...it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment” (Heb. 9:27 NAS). Others strongly believe **their good deeds will save them**, but God said, “...no one will be declared righteous in his [God’s] sight by observing the law” (Rom. 3:20 NIV).

As we focus on part of Paul’s letter to Timothy, a young pastor, Paul will remind Timothy about ➡ *the source and benefits of Scripture*; then he will tell him ➡ *how to make use of that Scripture*. Please pray that I will rightly †know, †live, and †teach the Scripture, **and** that you will gladly †hear it, †believe it, and †put it into practice!

1. **The Source and Benefits of Scripture:** When the **source** of teaching is people, *the promised benefits will never be realized* 😞. However, when the **source** is our holy God, *the promised benefits are certain* 😊!
 - a. God works through His Word to save: Before we dive into this reading at verse 14, *here is verse 13:* “...evil men and impostors [thus, false teachers] *will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and*

being deceived.” ¹⁴ **You, however** [Paul wrote to Timothy], **continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them** [from your mother and from me]; ¹⁵ **and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings** [the OT Scriptures] **which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith...in Christ Jesus.** // Even though some Bible teachers go from bad to worse, God is calling all pastors, *even all believers*, to **continue** in the **Biblical things** they have learned and believed. What is the basic message of the Bible? *We were all **lost in sin**, but now, by God’s grace, sorry for our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior, we have been **found in Christ!***

- b. God works through His Word to equip: ¹⁶ **All Scripture is inspired by God** [thus God-breathed, from the mouth of God] **and profitable** [useful] **for teaching** [doctrine, imparting knowledge], **for reproof** [for calling sinners to repent], **for correction** [for improvement], **for training in righteousness** [in doing what is right]; ¹⁷ **that the man of God may be adequate** [complete], **equipped for every good work.** // Training / Equipping can take a long time, but it is very important; think about your surgeon: *You are willing to let him cut you open because he has been adequately trained.* Now, *think about your pastor, you are entrusting your soul to his care, so it is essential for him to* ♦know Scripture well and ♦use it skillfully, and for **you** to benefit from his teaching!

2. How to Handle the Truth in a Truth-Rejecting World:

- a. Take your responsibility very seriously: ^{4:1} I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, ~~and~~ [both] by His appearing and His kingdom: // Paul wrote those words to Timothy, but **Christ** is the One who will judge ✦ Timothy, ✦ all pastors, and even ✦ all people *when He returns*. Therefore, Paul made this statement, as recorded in the book of Acts, “...there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience *both before God and before men*” (24:15-15 NAS). So Paul tried to live with a blameless conscience, *knowing he would eventually be raised and stand before his Lord Jesus Christ* (John 5:28-29; Romans 14:12; Jam. 3:1). *As Christians, let us do the same!*
- b. Use the Word like a tool: ² **preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove** [convict – by showing evidence from Scripture], **rebuke** [warn – by speaking God’s Word of judgment; Hebrews 10:26-27], **exhort** [urge earnestly – regarding God’s forgiveness in Christ], **with great patience and instruction**. // So, using the Word of God, pastors and others ✦ **expose** sin, ✦ **call** to repent, ✦ **assure** of forgiveness in Christ, and ✦ **teach** how to live for Jesus! *Forgiven, let’s use the Word!*
- c. Don’t be surprised when people turn away: ³ **For the time will come when they will not endure sound [healthy] doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for**

themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; ⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.

- i. Years ago, when people knew they were sinners and were sorry for their sins, they longed for God's saving truth! But now, in America, the time has come where truth is *no longer absolute*: If a person thinks abortion is okay, *then it is okay*; if a person thinks skipping church is okay, *then it is okay!* When individuals decide what is true, *then they feel free to do whatever!*
 - ii. Today, *since most people have their own version of truth*, they are looking for teachers who agree with them. Even though God's truth brings life, *many hold to their own truth which brings death!*
- d. Never throw-in the towel: ⁵ **But you** [Timothy, and all pastors], **be sober in all things** [thus unimpaired, alert, aware], **endure hardship** [with patience, as an example to others], **do the work of an evangelist** [thus proclaim the bad news of sin and the good news of the gospel], **fulfill your ministry** [so preach the Word, use it to reprove, rebuke, and exhort, instead of telling people what they want to hear]. // Thanks for praying for my faithfulness; *please faithfully receive!*

Conclusion: Let us pray: Dear Jesus, thank You for calling me to serve; help me to stay true to the Bible and move many to gladly receive God's truth! And all God's people said: **Amen!**

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