



Faith Baptist Church of Cabot, Arkansas
Pastor's Mid-Week Bible Study
September 16, 2009

Lesson Two - Charging the Church
1 Timothy 1:3-7

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia -- remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith, from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

Introduction: Remain and Charge

As the Apostle Paul predicted, Ephesus had become a hot bed of false teaching. He had warned the elders of the church:

“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.” (Acts 20:29-30)

Timothy finds himself in the unenviable position of dealing with those who would distract and destroy the church. Complicating matters is the fact that he is an outsider. The church at Ephesus had elders. But Timothy, a younger man than they, has been left by the Apostle to charge the elders and the church regarding doctrine and church practice.

Paul reminds Timothy that he left him in Ephesus to remain there. Timothy probably needed the encouragement of his mentor to stay put. When faced with harsh opposition, the tendency of the flesh is either to flee in fear or retaliate in anger. Neither is the right response. Timothy was to faithfully carry out the task assigned: charge people concerning sound doctrine.

Exegesis

- ❖ The Contents of the Charge
 - Teach no other doctrine

The idea of the “Charge” is to call up alongside to encourage, exhort, or command. Of immediate concern is a Charge for those who may have been teaching “other doctrine.” That is doctrine diverging from what the Apostle Paul had taught them. The Charge is a simple one: teach no other doctrine!

- Do not give heed to fables and endless genealogies

Having left Apostolic doctrine, some had departed into fables and endless genealogies. The word translated fables is our word “myth.” It probably refers here to legends

developed from Jewish tradition. The Jews attached great importance to their genealogies and the distinctiveness of their tribes and would even embellish ancestral tales for the sake of their own prominence. Their ancestry was seen as critical to their relationship with God.

These kinds of pursuits were doing nothing but raising controversies in the Ephesian church that would result in schisms. Rather than building up the church, these pursuits divided the church. And this had to end.

❖ The Purpose of the Charge

Paul's instruction to Timothy was not only negative; there was also a positive aim for Timothy's ministry: to promote love and restoration through the teaching of the truth and the correction of the wrong.

➤ Love

This love is Agape, the love that God is (1 John 4:8, 16). More than mere affection, it is a purposed love of priority that results in sacrifice on behalf of the object loved.

- From a pure heart

This is love that flows from thoughts, intents and purposes which are free from any admixture of personal agendas, self serving schemes, or any other evil motives.

- From a good conscience

This is love that flows from conscience that is guilt-free and thus free to serve others without hypocrisy and the fear of being "found out."

- From sincere faith

This is love flowing from real faith, a genuine trust in God; with life entrusted to God a person is set at liberty to abandon himself for the sake of others.

➤ Restoration

- For those who have strayed and turned aside
- For those who have become teachers of what they do not know

The objective was not to destroy, but to restore. Some did not even know what they were talking about. They had been duped by false teachers and led astray by their pride. They needed correction. That was Timothy's task.

Application

1. Timothy was in a tough spot. What would you have done in his situation? What will you do when you must choose truth or convenience?

2. If there are still false teachers and false religions, do preachers still need to “Charge” the people? How has the “intolerant tolerance” of our culture impacted the comfort level of the “Charge?”
3. What happens if the “Charge” has only a negative aim? How critical is a balance of correction and restoration?
4. How can we make sure we do not stray from the foundational Apostolic faith of which Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone? (Ephesians 2:20)

This lesson was prepared by Brent D. Summerhill, Pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Cabot, Arkansas. Permission is granted to reproduce this lesson, but please do not alter the content.
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