

THE DOCTRINAL PURITY OF THE CHURCH

By Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. The Lord's church must be immovable in its determination to speak only sound doctrine.
 - (1) Paul said, "*hold fast the form of sound words*" --II Tim 1:13
 - (2) He said, "*Speak thou the things which become sound doctrine*" --Tit. 2:1
 - (3) "*Sound speech that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.*" --Tit.2:8
 - (4) Peter said, "*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God*" --I Pet. 4:11
2. God's people cannot speak a corrupt speech in religion and the church remain pure in doctrine.
3. We think as well as speak by means of WORDS
 - (1) God gave His message to man in WORDS -- I Cor. 2:13
 - (2) If a man thinks scriptural ideas, they can be expressed in scriptural speech

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUND DOCTRINE

1. Sound doctrine claims divine origin -- II Tim. 3: 16 - 17
2. Paul said it is NOT from man-- Gal. 1: 6 - 12
3. Sound doctrine is able to save one -- Rom. 1:16; I Pet. 1:22
4. Sound doctrine can only save in its purity and fullness -- James 2:10; Rev. 22: 18 - 19

II. THE DANGER OF DEPARTING FROM SOUND DOCTRINE

1. Paul warned of the time when brethren would not want sound doctrine in its purity and fullness -- II Tim. 4: 1 - 4
2. John warns about unsound teachers -- II John 9 - 11
3. A little doctrinal weakness unchecked and uncondemned can corrupt the whole church -- I Cor. 5:6

III. REASONS FOR DEPARTURES FROM SOUND DOCTRINE

1. Fundamental doctrines are laid aside in preaching
2. Denominational error is no longer condemned.
3. Popular sins of the day are not condemned:
 - (1) Divorce and remarriage for any cause
 - (2) Dancing
 - (3) Drinking
 - (4) Gambling
 - (5) Immodest dress
 - (6) Fornication
 - (7) Homosexuality
4. Themes, such as "Divine Authority" are not dealt with.

5. The "social gospel" is not condemned.

6. When the church does not let TRUTH have priority.

(1) Truth is more important than friendship -- John 8:32; Prov. 23:23; II Thess. 2:10

(2) Truth must have priority over family -- Mat. 10: 34 - 37

(3) Truth must have priority over courtesy -- II John 9 - 11

(4) Truth must have priority over peace, unity and fellowship -- John 17: 20 - 21; Eph. 5:11

(5) Peace, unity and fellowship are results of following and obeying the truth.