INTRODUCTION

1. The Lord's church is the "pillar and ground of the truth" -- II Tim. 3:15

2. The Lord's people must be immovable in their determination to speak only "the things which are proper for sound doctrine"-- II Tim. 4:3

3. We are warned that some in the church "will not endure SOUND DOCTRINE" -- II Tim. 4:3

   (1) Sound doctrine, the doctrine of Christ, the Faith (Rom. 1:5), the Truth (Rom. 2:8), the Gospel (Rom. 10:16) are one and the same -- Rom. 6: 17-18

4. Paul said many corrupted the word of God -- II Cor. 2:17

I. PASSAGES THAT SHOW THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUND DOCTRINE

   1. II Tim. 3: 16 - 17
   2. I Tim. 4: 13, 16
   3. II Tim. 1:13
   4. II Tim. 4: 3 - 5
   5. II John 9 - 11
   6. Tit. 1: 9
   7. The church must remain faithful to sound doctrine -- I Pet. 4:11
   8. A little LEAVEN will permeate the entire LUMP -- a little doctrinal weakness left unchecked and uncondemned can become a corrupting leaven within the entire church -- I Cor. 5: 6 - 7
   9. We must repudiate all doctrinal softness in the church and purge it.

II. THINGS THAT BRING DOCTRINAL SOFTNESS IN THE CHURCH

   1. The habitual neglect of Bible study will result in a generation of half-converted members of the church.
   2. Sound members of the church study the Word of God

      (1) II Tim. 2: 15
      (2) I Pet. 2: 2
      (3) Eph. 5:17; I Pet. 4:2; Matt. 7:21; John 7:17
      (4) Heb. 5: 12 - 14
   3. Sound members attend Bible Study -- Heb. 10:25
   4. Members who don't study the Bible and don't attend Bible study --their presence in the church may be detected WHEN:

      (1) These members see little danger in worldly behavior.

         1. They see nothing wrong in watching R rated movies and vulgar TV shows.
         2. They see no harm in social drinking, mixed swimming, immodest dress, etc.
3. They see no need of preaching against instrumental music, pre-millennialism, Institutionalism, Calvinism and denominationalism.

5. A LACK OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE will bring doctrinal softness.
   (1) Discipline is commanded
   1. II Thess. 3:6
   2. I Cor. 5: 4 - 6
   3. Rom. 16: 17 -18
   4. Tit. 3:10
   5. Matt. 18: 15 - 17
   (2) The purpose of DISCIPLINE
   1. To save the soul of the person being disciplined -- I Cor. 5:5; II Cor. 2: 5 - 8; II Thess. 3: 14 - 15
   2. To save the church -- that the church might be purged and preserved as pure -- I Cor. 5: 6 - 8; Rev. 2:5; Eph. 5:27
   3. To cause all to fear and examine their lives -- Acts 5:11; I Tim. 5:20
   4. To magnify and maintain the honor of Christ and His authority -- I Cor. 5: 4 - 5; Matt. 28:18
   5. For the benefit of the world -- Acts 5: 11, 14
   (3) The neglect of discipline in the church reflects and contributes to doctrinal softness.
   1. It is a reluctance to sever ties with sinners and put sin away from us.

6. THE WRONG KIND OF PREACHING
   (1) The character of the church is determined by the character of the preaching being done.
   (2) INDISTINCTIVE preaching is preaching that does not underscore the distinctive characteristics that separate the church from denominationalism.
   (3) Neutrality in preaching -- preaching that does not take a stand -- II Tim. 4: 2 - 5; Phil. 1:17; Jude 3
   (4) Non-controversial preaching -- over emphasis on the positive and de-emphasis on the negative -- Eph. 4: 25 - 32; Heb. 10:25; Jer. 1: 9 - 10; II Tim. 4:2
   (5) Preaching to please men -- Gal. 1: 10
   (6) Preaching a compromised gospel.
   (7) Preaching human wisdom.

7. The LOSS OF AN AGRESSIVE CONTROVERSIAL SPIRIT
   (1) Christ our King wants the church to be aggressive in carrying out its mission in the world -- Mark 16:15 - 16
   (2) We are to put on the whole armor of God to do battle with Satan -- Eph. 6: 10 - 17
   (3) We are to RESIST the Devil -- James 4:7
   (4) We are to "War a good warfare" -- I Tim. 1: 18; II Cor. 10:3 - 5
   (5) We are to aggressively fight the good fight of faith -- II Tim. 4: 6 - 8
   (6) We are to turn the world "upside down" -- Acts 17:6
III. FOUR IMPORTANT THINGS IN MAINTAINING DOCTRINAL PURITY

1. We must always study the word (sound doctrine) with diligence -- II Tim. 2:15; I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5: 12 - 14

2. We must have a resolution to practice sound doctrine -- James 1: 22- 25; I Cor. 15: 1 - 2; 15:58; Matt. 25: 41 - 46; James 2: 14, 24

3. We must have enough zeal and love to teach Sound Doctrine to others -- Tit. 2:1

4. We must demonstrate the courage and conviction to defend the gospel -- Phil. 1:17; Jude 3; Gal. 2: 5; 2:11

CONCLUSION:

1. Let us all, young and old, determine we are going to keep the church DOCRINALLY PURE.

2. Have you obeyed the doctrine of Christ? -- Rom. 6: 16 - 18