



Sunday, May 19, 2019
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to 2 Timothy 2:14-19

2 Timothy is a great challenge for those who seek to be teachers in the church. While it is a good thing to desire to teach the word of God, with that privilege comes the responsibility of “cutting it straight” or accurately interpreting and applying it. Not only this, but James 3 reminds us that those who are teachers in the church will face a stricter judgment. So, those who wish to be teachers in the church must give themselves to sharpening their ability to rightly handle the word of truth.

The gravity of this need is demonstrated in Genesis 3:1-3. In that famous scene in the Garden of Eden, an exchange takes place between Satan and Eve. Satan distorts the word of God in one way. Eve distorts the word of God in another way. In that case, what was needed was for Adam to come along and accurately declare, “Thus says the LORD.” Instead, Adam is silent. Satan deceives. Eve sins. Adam sins. And now the human race suffers under the curse because of that. So, it is of utmost importance in every area of life that we rightly teach (and seek to be rightly taught) the word of God. Our lives depend on it!

Context

Thus far it has already been made clear that Timothy is facing difficult challenges in his pastoral ministry. Paul has exhorted Timothy to guard the deposit that was entrusted to him and remain faithful to the gospel. He must do this not just for the sake of his church, but for his own sake. Others who present false teaching, while they may prevail for a little while, will ultimately be judged and shamed for what they’ve done. But Timothy is God’s man and Paul is confident that he will remain faithful despite the challenges and the temptations to teach only what people want to hear.

Discuss

- 1) Read Acts 17:10-11. Certainly not all Christians are called to be teachers, but we should all be discerning when it comes to the teaching we sit under in church (including the preaching, the singing, teaching in Adult Bible Communities, or even more informal teaching settings). What kind of effort would you say you devote to fulfilling this responsibility?
- 2) Pastor Don talked about getting into “wars of words.” Since the command in 2 Tim. 2:14 is for Timothy to relay to his congregation, it applies to all of us. What kind of trivial debates do we have a tendency to get involved in as 21st Century Christians?
- 3) What kinds of false teaching are professing Christians prone to buy into today? Have you witnessed any of them “spread like gangrene”?
- 4) Read Numbers 16:1-5, 16-33. Verse 5 is where the quote in 2 Timothy 2:19 comes from. It seems that Paul is intentionally drawing in this story about Korah’s challenge to Moses’ leadership to encourage Timothy as he faces challenges to his leadership from false teachers. How should the story of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram from Numbers 16 be an encouragement to those who seek to faithfully teach the word of God in the midst of false teachers?