

Guard the Teaching

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Timothy 1:1-7.

B. The history of the Pastoral Epistles is after the book of Acts so many questions remain.

C. This letter is a beautiful letter of a spiritual father to his son in the faith who has undertaken a heavy task.

II. Introduction of the letter.

A. Paul maintains that threats would come from the outside and from the leadership of the church.

B. Timothy was sent as Paul's substitute for the more permanent leadership of elder oversight.

1. Timothy represented the apostolic witness.

2. Scripture functions similarly today.

C. Mercy is included in the salutation because Timothy was afraid—mercy is God's promise to deliver from difficult circumstances.

III. Exhortation to the church.

A. Urge the church not to teach different doctrines than the divine truth.

1. The first task was to guard the teaching.

2. The teaching is the most important aspect of the ministry of the church.

a. The church exists to declare a unique body of truth.

b. The false teachers were beginning to form a teaching derived from Greek philosophy.

c. The Word of God is the most powerful tool to correct error.

3. Interests in speculative matters are okay until they take the place of the pure revelation of Scripture.

a. Paul is concerned with their faith about the facts of gospel.

b. The gospel is unique in the world and is the secret wisdom of God. (II Corinthians 2)

c. The world needs men and women who have learned to be free through the gospel.

4. Essentials of the gospel.

a. There is a total ending of the old life symbolized by the dying of Jesus.

b. There is an impartation of new life through the resurrection of Jesus. (II Corinthians 5:10)

5. Truth can be detected by what it produces.

a. Love.

b. Sincere faith in the facts of the gospel.

6. The false teachers are exposed by their desire for status, and they are without understanding.

Application questions:

1. Why is teaching the truth the most important aspect of church ministry?

2. What are the essentials of the gospel? Why do you think these are so important to include in any gospel presentation?

3. When have you felt that a church has not been teaching the truth? Why? Does it line up with the speaker's method?
