



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – January 17, 2010

Heart to Heart...

Timothy was instructed by Paul to remain in Ephesus so that he could "***instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines.***" (I Timothy 1:3) What are "***strange doctrines?***" The Greek word means different than the standard doctrine that was already in existence. There was a known standard of doctrine that the apostles had taught (Jude 3) and Timothy the preacher was expected to make sure it was upheld by those men teaching!

We can see that "***strange doctrines***" have been around from the beginning of the church. We have added 2000 years of men teaching "***strange doctrines.***" Too many are not following the word of God in its context and purity and adding something different to it! It promotes conceited attitudes and reveals a great lack of understanding. The interests of such teachers promote controversial questions because in their minds, it is good discussion. They like to dispute and wrangle about words (I Timothy 6:3-5). It leads to divisions and constant friction.

"***Strange doctrines***" are what make people speculate. Paul uses the Greek word "zetesis" to describe the confusion caused by men teaching these "***strange doctrines.***" It means "speculative discussions." "***...which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith.***" (I Timothy 1:4) The word "***speculation***" is the Greek word "zetesis." These speculative discussions are promoted and the furthering of God's word is reduced. God wants His realm, His work to be furthered by faith. When teachers/preachers lose sight of God's will to promote His ways by faith, it leads to all sorts of speculative discussions. In I Timothy 6:4, speaking about those who go after a different doctrine: "***he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions ("zetesis") and disputes about words...***" Timothy is warned: "***But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations ("zetesis") knowing that they produce quarrels.***" (II Timothy 2:23) Paul instructed Titus: "***Avoid foolish controversies ("zetesis") and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.***" (Titus 3:9)

What do we learn? We need to make certain our men who teach do not promote "zetesis." Man-made controversies, strange doctrines and fruitless discussions will lead us away from God's intended goal of faith. Let's be a people who hold to the doctrine as taught by the apostles, that was preached by the preachers and handed down to the saints. We need to contend earnestly for the faith. May God give us the wisdom to recognize the difference. Think about it!!!

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