

The Teaching of God

Scripture Reading: **Acts 2:40-47**

Introduction

- 1. The New Testament church was in its infancy. Peter had just delivered the very first gospel sermon on the day of Pentecost before thousands that were gathered from "all nations."**
- 2. The Lord had given Peter the keys to the kingdom, to unlock the doors that lead into the blessed church which Christ said he would build (Matthew 16:18).**
- 3. At the conclusion of his sermon, about 3,000 souls were saved and entered into the church of our Lord.**
- 4. Today, I know who will be baptized and be added to the number that are saved in the church. Who will be baptized? *"those that gladly receive His word."* (v41)**
- 5. After their baptism, the early New Testament Christians then determined to:**

Continue Steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine

1. The apostles' doctrine was received from Christ **Galatians 1:11-12**

John 17:8 For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

2. The early church was taught to observe only the commandments of Christ that were delivered to the apostles. **Matthew 28:18-20**

1 Corinthians 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you:...

A. There was never any authority for man to believe and practice the things delivered as doctrine from man.

B. We must only depend upon the teachings of the New Testament to learn how to worship and serve in the church of God. There is no exception as far as God is concerned.

3. To disregard and refuse apostolic teaching is to reject God, Christ and the Holy Spirit.

1 John 4:6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Luke 10:16 He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me."

1 Thessalonians 4:8 Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

The Attitude of the Church Toward the Doctrines and Commandments of Men

1. We are to prove all things by the Bible

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

2. We are to hold to the faithful word of God

Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

Titus 2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:

3. We are not to be wishy washy concerning the truth. Let us mature unto righteousness.

Ephesians 4:14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

4. Instead of being carried away by false teaching, we should learn what the truth is.

1 John 4:1-6

5. Let us learn to speak only those things which we have heard, and then to speak it boldly.

Acts 4:19-20 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

The Attitude of the Church Toward False Teachers

- 1. Cut off the occasion for false apostles and deceitful workers**
2 Corinthians 11:12-15
- 2. There should be no fellowship or encouragement given to those who walk not according to the "apostles' doctrine."**

2 Thessalonians 3:6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

- 3. We should mark and turn away from those that cause division contrary to the apostles' doctrine.**

Romans 16:17-18 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

- 4. We are not to receive false teachers into our house, giving them greeting, for we may become partakers of their teaching.**
2 John 7-11

The Problem of Allowing False Doctrines to be Taught in the Church

- 1. A little leaven, leavens the whole lump (Galatians 5:9).**
- 2. Jesus warns the church at Pergamum**

Revelation 2:14-16 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

- 3. Elders are responsible to protect the church from the destructive effects of false doctrines.**

Acts 20:27-32

Conclusion

- 1. May we learn from the early New Testament church to continue only in the Apostles' doctrine.**
- 2. "Test the Spirits" to ensure that everything we do is approved of by God (Matthew 7:21).**

