

Abiding in the Word of Christ

(BT 201, 203; Sup on False Doctrine – Preached in Two Parts)

1. I believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ - the Son of God.
 - a. My faith in things pertaining to God begins with Jesus Christ.
 - b. He was “a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know” (Acts 2:22)
 - c. He was “declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead” (Rom 1:4)
 - d. Those who knew Him believed that He was “God in the Flesh”
Colossians 2:9 “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.”
 - e. His disciples could not stop speaking about what they had seen and heard (Acts 4:20) - even if it meant a cruel and certain death.
 - f. John 1:1-3, 14 John said . . .

2. I believe that Jesus is “The Word of God”
 - a. He said, “I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak” (Jn 12:49)
 - b. He said, “He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world.” (Jn 8:26)
 - c. The message Jesus preached is “The Word of God”.
 - d. He said, “Father, sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.” (John 17:17)
 - e. He said, “If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31-32)

3. I want to be a Disciple of Jesus Christ. (Learn from Him – follow Him)
 - a. I want to “abide” in His word.
 - b. I want to “hold to His teachings”
 - c. He said, “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.” (John 12:48)

4. Jesus desires that all people become His “Disciples”
 - a. He said, “**All** authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
Therefore you go and make disciples of all the nations . . .
Therefore - you teach them to observe all that I commanded you” (Mt 28:18-20)
 - b. And when we do that - we are called “Legalists”.
 - 1) But I don’t care . . .

- 2) Because I want to carry out the last will and testament of Jesus Christ
 - 3) “Teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you”
 - c. God said, “This is My beloved Son . . . listen to Him!” (Mt 17:5)
 - d. God made **Him** to be head over all things to the church” (Eph 1:22)
 - e. **He** is to have “the supremacy” in all things (Col 1:18)
5. How can I know “The Words of Christ” today?
- a. He is not with us – we cannot hear Him teach.
 - b. Can we trust that His Words were accurately preserved in the Bible?
6. I believe that God made provision for us to know His will most certainly.
- a. Jesus told His apostles, “the Holy Spirit will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.” (Jn 14:26)
 - b. I believe that the creator of the universe had the power to do just that.
7. I believe that the writings of **all** the NT books are also “The Word of Christ”.
- a. Jesus made another promise to His Apostles . . .
 - b. He said, “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth” (Jn 16:12-13).
 - c. Because of this promise – I believe in the inspiration of **all** the NT.
 - d. Paul believed that his own writings were inspired by God.
 - 1) He told the Corinthian church, “the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.” (I Cor 14:37)
 - 2) Whatever applied to the whole church then - applies ... today.
 - e. Paul gave thanks for the church in Thessalonica . . . for, he said, “when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which performs its work in you who believe.” (I Thes 2:13)
 - f. The teachings of the apostles **were** the teachings of Christ:
 - 1) Again - Paul told the Corinthian church, “I have sent Timothy to you – he is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which **are in Christ**, just as I teach everywhere in every church.” (I Cor 4:17)
 - 2) Paul said, “My ways are Christ’s ways - I teach the ways of Christ everywhere I go”.
 - g. No wonder . . . then . . . that Paul was so insistent about his teaching:
 - 1) He said, “Brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.” (II Thes 2:15)
 - 2) **Why** stand firm in the traditions of NT writings? Because the traditions taught by the apostles were “the commandment of the Lord” . . .

- 3) And . . . Jesus said, “teach them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Mt 28:20).
 - h. **This** is why “Scripture” is so important to us today . . . indeed . . . “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for **doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (II Tim 3:16-17)
8. We are told that “**Doctrine**” is not important today.
- a. Those who take a stand on a doctrinal matter are legalists and divisive
 - b. Churches today are in the entertainment business:
 - 1) They have “stages” instead of “pulpits”.
 - 2) They put on “plays” instead of preaching “sermons”
 - 3) They sit and watch as “bands and choirs” perform the worship and then they **applaud** as though the worship were for **them**
 - c. The name of the game is filling the seats.
 - 1) And people today do not want to be “preached to”.
 - 2) People today desire a more exciting format for their religion.
 - d. But I tell you . . . only so many concepts can be explained in the format of a “play” or a “song”.
 - 1) The deeper concepts must be abandoned for the sake of keeping the service “fast paced and exciting”.
 - 2) The concepts which are too hard to explain in a song or a play have had to be abandoned.
 - 3) Therefore . . . the members of such churches are immature and superstitious and gullible.
 - a) They are like children in their Biblical knowledge.
 - b) Paul said, “we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but we are to speak the truth in love, thus we shall grow up into the image of Him who is the head, even Christ” (Eph 4:14-15)
 - 4) The vast domain of the denominational world is absolutely **ignorant** of some basic, fundamental **doctrines** of the New Testament church.
 - 5) And when you show them - they can’t believe it’s true - because they’ve never heard it taught.
9. Brothers and Sisters in Christ . . .
- a. Do you believe that **doctrine** is unimportant?
 - b. Have you been convinced that **doctrine** should not be discussed?
 - c. Have **we also** become so diluted and watered down that we are ashamed for the **truth** of God’s word to be proclaimed?

10. We'd better not abandon **Doctrinal Conviction** - and I'll tell you why:
- a. False Doctrine Will Make our Worship to God Useless
 - 1) Jesus was appalled by the "Man Made Religion" of His day.
 - 2) He fired out at the religious leaders: Mt 15:7-9
 - 3) His disciples felt He had been a little harsh: Mt 15:12
 - 4) READ Mt 15:13-14
 - 5) He said that the **Doctrines of Men** will make Worship useless
 - b. False Doctrine Will Destroy Those Who Teach It
 - 1) READ Galatians 1:8-9
 - 2) Peter said, "There will be false teachers among you ... who will bring swift destruction upon themselves." (II Pet 2:1)
 - 3) He also said that "the untaught and the unstable will distort the Scriptures to their own destruction" (II Pet 3:16)
 - 4) James said very explicitly: "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment." (James 3:1)
 - 5) False doctrine will destroy those who teach it.
 - c. False Doctrine Will Destroy Those Who Accept It
 - 1) In II Thes 2:10, Paul talks about those who "did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved."
"And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness." (vss 11-12)
 - 2) There are two kinds of people described in this passage:
 - a) Those who love truth and seek it
 - b) Those who disregard truth and avoid it
 - 3) Paul said, "God would have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth." (I Tim 2:4)
- Concl # 1
- 1) "Truth" is a precious commodity.
 - 2) Prov 23:23 "Buy the truth – and never sell it. Get wisdom and instruction and understanding".
 - 3) Proverbs 16:25 "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."
 - 4) It is imperative that you must know the difference.
(between what **seems right** and what **is right**)
 - 5) Tonight – for those who "hunger & thirst after righteousness" – we shall delve a little deeper into these matters.
 - 6) We shall look at some of the popular "precepts of men" that are taught today.
 - 7) We shall compare these "precepts of men" to the Word of God
- Intro #2
- 1) This morning - we introduced some foundational thoughts for our lesson this evening:
 - a) Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ - the Son of God

- b) Jesus is “The Word of God”
- c) We are His disciples **if** we “abide in His word”.
- d) **All** NT writings are indeed - The Word of Christ.
- e) We are to Stand Firm in the doctrine of the New Covenant

- 2) We also observed some points about False Doctrine:
 - a) It will make our worship to God void
 - b) It will destroy those who teach it
 - c) It will destroy those who accept it

I. New Testament Writers Warned Us about False Teachings

- A. Mt 7:15 “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”
- B. Acts 20:29-30 “I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.”
- C. Rom 16:17 “Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.”
- D. 1 Tim 4:1-3 “But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods”
- E. 2 Tim 4:3-4 “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.”
- F. I Jn 4:1 “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

II. All these Warnings Help Us Understand That We Must Guard Against Error

- A. The Christians in Berea “searched the scriptures daily” to see if the things taught them were true.
- B. I am simply saying that we must do the same.
- C. If we stand for nothing – we will fall for anything.
- D. And that is exactly what has happened in much of the denominational world.
 - 1. Being eager not to offend - they have tolerated anything.
 - 2. For the sake of unity - they have accepted apostasy.
 - 3. Under the banner of Grace - they have overlooked basic NT doctrines.
- E. Do you think it matters what a person believes?
 - 1. Could you simply pick a church with a good youth ministry and be happy there no matter what was practiced?

2. Do you honestly believe that all who acknowledge Christ are also His Disciples?
 3. “If you abide in My word - then you are truly My disciples”
- F. Because of this desire to “abide” in the word of Christ . . .

III. I Could Not Conscientiously Participate with Those Who Believe in . . .

- A. The Doctrine of Inherited Sin
 1. Ezek 18:20 says that a son will “not bear the punishment for the father’s iniquity”.
 2. Paul said that infants are not accountable for sin until they can understand the Lord’s commandments (Rom 7:9)
 3. Sin is not something you inherit – it is something you do (I Jn 3:4)
 4. Jesus came to “save His people from their sins” (Mt 1:21) not from the sins of Adam.
 5. On the day of judgment - we shall give account for the deeds that we have “done” (II Cor 5:10) - not for those we inherited
 6. Can you see the difference between the precepts of men and the word of God.
 7. When you begin to believe a doctrine of error – it then leads to a practice of error.
 8. I Could Not Conscientiously Participate with Those Who Believe in
- B. The Doctrine of Infant Baptism
 1. Jesus said that participants in baptism must “believe” the terms of the gospel (Mk 16:16) - an infant can’t do that.
 2. Peter said that participants in baptism must “repent” of sins – (Acts 2:38) – infants can’t repent, nor do they have anything to repent of.
 3. Those who were baptized after the preaching of Peter did so because they had “received the word” he had preached. (Acts 2:41)
 - a. Baptism follows a cognitive understanding of the gospel
 - b. Infants can’t understand “potty” - much less the gospel of Christ.
 4. Jesus used children as an example of what **we** are supposed to be like
 - a. They are innocent and pure.
 - b. If baptism is “for forgiveness of sins” - then little children are not in need of it.
 5. But then - one false practice leads to another . . .
 6. I Could Not Conscientiously Participate with Those Who Believe in
- C. The Doctrine of Sprinkling and Pouring for Baptism
 1. Submerging infants is a mess and a hassle . . .
 2. So ... a dab of water is placed on their forehead (or similar)
 3. This was not the procedure for baptism in NT writings:
 - a. John needed “much water” for his baptizing (Jn 3:23)

- b. Phillip went down “into the water” with the man he was baptizing (Acts 8:38)
- c. Why? Because “baptism” represents the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus (Rom 6:4)
- d. Immersion is a suitable symbol for this - sprinkling is not
- 4. Besides that - the Greek word “Baptizo” means:
 - to dip, plunge, or immerse.
 - a. It doesn’t mean to sprinkle or pour.
 - b. The Greeks had other words for those ideas.
- 5. We now are seeing infants:
 - a. Who have no reason for being baptized
 - b. Undergoing a procedure which has no similarity at all with what was taught or practiced in the NT.
- 6. Can you see anything wrong with this picture?
Do you think it makes no difference what we believe?
- 7. I Could Not Conscientiously Participate with Those Who Believe in

D. The Doctrine of Praying to Mary

- 1. Jesus is our “mediator” before God (I Tim 2:5)
- 2. Jesus intercedes for us to the Father (Heb 7:25)
- 3. We are to address “Our Father in Heaven” (Mt 6:9)
- 4. Not one single place in the NT do we find anyone praying to Mary or teaching that we should.
- 5. It is a “precept of men” and contrary to NT teaching.
- 6. I Could Not Conscientiously Participate with Those Who Believe in

E. Giving High and Lofty Names to Religious Leaders

- 1. Jesus commanded that we should call no religious leader “Father” upon the earth (Mt 23:9)
 - a. This would include the concept of a “Pope”
 - b. “Pope” means “Papa” in Latin.
- 2. The title of “Reverend” is reserved for God alone.
 - a. Only God is called “Reverend” in the Bible.
 - b. Psalm 111:9 (KJV)
- 3. To one another - we are all just “Brothers” Jesus said (Mt 23:8)
- 4. But men love:
 - a. to be noticed by others.
 - b. the place of honor at banquets (Mt 23:5-7)
 - c. the chief seats at the assemblies
 - d. respectful greetings around town
- 5. Men love to be called:
 - a. Holy Father _____
 - b. The Very Most Reverend _____
- 6. But – as a disciple of Jesus – I can’t participate in such a thing
He said, “the greatest among you shall be your servant.
He said, “whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.” (Mt 23:11-12)

7. There is a vast difference between the word of Christ and the false practices of men.
 8. I Could Not Conscientiously Participate with Those Who
- F. Wear Another Name than Christ.
1. Jesus' disciples were called "Christians" (Acts 11:26)
 - a. This name gave honor to the master.
 - b. They were "Ones Like Christ".
 2. Paul renounced denominating names in I Corinthians 1:10-13
 3. Peter reminds us that salvation is found **only** in the name of Christ (Acts 4:10-12)
 4. Yet – people today wear their denominational monikers like a badge. (like members of differing civic clubs)
 - a. And so proud of the distinctions:
 - b. "We Kiwanians believe it this way."
 - c. "And we Lions do it another way."
 - d. "But we Optimists have the best this or that."
 - e. "Has Christ been divided," Paul asked (I Cor 1:13)
 5. I want to be a Christian – and a Christian only.
 6. I Could Not Conscientiously Participate with Those Who Believe
- G. That One Can't Fall From Grace
1. "Once saved – always saved" is the way we often hear it.
 2. Yet – the Hebrew writer talks about those:
 - who have once been enlightened and
 - have tasted of the heavenly gift and
 - have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit and
 - have tasted the good word of God and
 - the powers of the age to come
 and then have fallen away (Heb 6:4-6)
 3. What do you think he was talking about?
 - Could he have stated it any clearer?
 4. Heb 10:26 tells of those who "go on sinning willfully **after** receiving the knowledge of the truth, for them, "there **remains no longer** a sacrifice for sins"
 - (sounds like they **once** enjoyed a sacrifice for sin)
 5. James says that if "**a brother** strays from the truth", his soul must be saved from death (James 5:19-20)
 6. Paul believed that even **he** could be "disqualified" if he didn't remain faithful to the Lord (I Cor 9:27)
 - a. Can you imagine the false security this doctrine could produce among certain believers?
 - b. Paul taught just the opposite in I Cor 10:12
 - He said, "let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."
 7. This doctrine is a precept of men and not the word of Christ.
 8. I Could Not Conscientiously Participate with Those Who

- H. Condone Women with Leadership Roles in the Church
1. When Paul addressed proper behavior in the worship assembly he very plainly said, “Let the women keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but let them subject themselves, just as the Law also says.”
(I Cor 14:34)
 2. Again – in I Timothy 2:8-15 he taught that:
 - a. the **men** are to pray in the church (3:15)
 - b. and the women are to quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.
 - c. He said, “I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.”
 3. I submit to you that this is the word of Christ . . . and . . . we are to abide in His word if we are truly His disciples.
 4. I Could Not Conscientiously Participate with Those Who
- I. Tolerate Homosexuality as a Pure and Holy Lifestyle before God
1. Paul said that the practice is degrading, unnatural, indecent, depraved, and will be punished (Rom 1:26-28)
 2. He said that those who practice such things are “unrighteous” and “shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (I Cor 6:9)
 3. Now – that’s what the word of God says.
 - a. It’s not politically correct.
 - b. But then – our consciences are constantly being trained by an ungodly, humanistic media
 4. I want to be a disciple of Christ – and that means that I must “abide in His word”.

- Concl #2
- 1) We have listed only nine false doctrines of men in this lesson.
 - a) There are many, many more.
 - b) We never even touched on doctrines teaching:
 - (1) that Jesus was a created being
 - (2) that we can become Gods and populate our own planet
 - (3) that we are already Gods and should worship ourselves
 - c) These are all doctrines that are taught and practiced this very day in the name of Jesus Christ.
 - 2) I feel great compassion for those who have so little regard for the word of Christ - the Son of God.
 - a) False doctrine will make their worship void.
 - b) It will destroy those who teach it
 - c) It will destroy those who accept it.
 - 3) Brothers and Sisters – regard your opportunity for Bible study to be a very precious and important thing.
 - a) Do not turn from God’s word to the left hand or to the right
 - b) Meditate upon His word – that you might not sin against Him
 - c) The word of God is our only compass in life to direct us to the Heavenly Home above.