

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Rodney Ellis

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper

Cole Meador Bryan Garlock
Bill Brittenham Jon Barry

Prayers

Mark Davis Pete Rowland

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Rodney Ellis

Scripture Reading

Bill Brittenham

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Cole Meador Clay Morris

Prayers

Jack Calvert Gerald Eaton

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Gerald Eaton

Song Leader

Bryan Garlock

Prayers

Clay Morris Mark Davis

Invitation

Meeting

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons

Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Clay Morris

Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.
Worship6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

WWW.TXKCHURCH.COM

GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16;
1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10

Think On These Things

Franklin Drive Church of Christ

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Issue 41

A Different Doctrine

Mark Roberts

We live in challenging times. More and more churches of Christ are adding instrumental services. Women preachers seem to be the next “big thing,” as several large and influential congregations add ladies in the pulpit to their “menu.” Attitudes are shifting and shifting rapidly. What is more distressing is that even among conservatively minded brethren talk about Bible authority, “book, chapter and verse” or “command, example and necessary inference” sometimes is met with disdain. There seems to be a mindset that views attempts to be specific about what God does and does not allow the New Testament church to do is somehow legalistic, if not an outright manifestation of Pharisaism.

visit to 1 Timothy 1:3 may help us. Paul there writes “As I urged you when I was going to Macedonia, remain at Ephesus so that you may charge certain persons not to teach any *different doctrine.*” The term here is an unusual one. Some scholars wonder if Paul didn’t coin the term himself. It is a combination

of the term for “teaching” or “doctrine” (the Greek word is *didasko*) and the term for “different.” That term is *hetero*. We recognize that term because we know what it means to be *heterosexual* instead of *homosexual*. “Homo” is the term for “same.” We have homogenized milk, which has been processed to be smoothed out and have the same consistency. Homo is about sameness, while hetero is about being different.

Interestingly, Paul doesn’t identify the teaching and doctrines that trouble the church at Ephesus as “false.” Paul can do that. He is not averse to calling something false (2 Cor 11:13; Gal 2:4; 2 Thess 2:11). But here instead of saying this teaching or doctrine is false he says it is different. Stott notices that Paul likes that terminology. “Similarly, Paul complained that the Galatians had deserted the grace of Christ for ‘a different gospel’ and that the Corinthians were being led astray to a ‘different Jesus’, ‘a different Spirit’ and

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Willie Margaret Mobley, Bonnie Allgor, Maxine Burnham, W.H. McFerrin, and Francine Davis.** Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

Charles Lansford has been in the hospital with pneumonia.

Laci Morris's father, **Homer Young** is recovering from extensive back surgery.

Pat Buls is scheduled for surgery Oct. 16.

Philip Moore has recently been diagnosed with kidney cancer.

Please pick up some invite cards and ask for Bible studies. See Bryan if you need any help with home studies.

Continued from page 1

'a different gospel' from those they had first received" (John R.W. Stott, *Guard the Truth : The Message of 1 Timothy & Titus*, page 42).

How does this help us? The point is simple: Paul can only say the Ephesians are being troubled by a different doctrine **if there is a standard from which to differ!** If all teaching is the same, if there is no such thing as a practice or doctrine that violates God's will, then there is no such animal as "a different doctrine." Paul is writing to Timothy (and by extension to us) urging Timothy to return Ephesus to the original apostolic doctrine that they had

heard. Thus, he doesn't have to label this new teaching "false" because by simply noting it as different it is therefore false and to be utterly rejected. *They need to go back to the original doctrine and turn away from anything different from it.*

Therefore, as we face changing practices and teachings is it not fair to ask "Is this a different doctrine?" I don't want to be a part of something that displeases the Lord. I want to be a New Testament Christian, believing and living according to the original Gospel message that the apostles proclaimed. If something is different from that then we must all reject it. It seems to me much that is being advocated today is clearly *heteros*. If there is an argument to be made that somehow these things are part of the original teaching, I will hear that argument and weigh it carefully. But to act as if everything is acceptable and it is legalistic to ask for "book, chapter and verse?" Surely not! Shouldn't we all want to be sure that we are not "teaching a different doctrine?" Paul's unique term clues us as to what it means to follow Christ. Our adherence must be to the original doctrine, and not to something different from it.

Things to Ponder

Joseph Girona

- Is Jesus an occasional guest in your home or daily member of your family? *I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.* Galatians 2:20
- What we live for determines what we see in life and gives clear focus to our inner vision. *Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'* Matthew 22:37

- Perfection is more a process of striving than a state to be attained, so one' perfection is in attitudes constantly changing or ever more perfectly reflect the mind of God. ... because it is written, *"Be holy, for I am holy.* I Peter 1:16
- Be content with slow progress. Human beings are like plants. They grow in stages and those stages cannot be accelerated. In due time plants bear their fruit and with human beings it is much the same. In the proper time and at the proper pace we grow into what God intends us to become. We grow, gradually, imperceptibly, under the subtle guidance of god's own spirt. *Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.* II Peter 1:5-7

Two Ways to Keep Members Faithful

Bill Hall

There are two ways to keep members of the church "faithful."

The first way is to be sure everyone is involved. Have a project for each member, and make sure that he feels important in his role. Praise him for the good job he is doing. Make him feel needed; make him feel that the well-being of the whole congregation rests firmly on his shoulders. That will keep him "faithful." There are two problems with this method. In the first place, it encourages the creation of projects that are not

remotely related to the work of the local church. One member plays on the church ball team; another leads the Boy Scout troop; another is an active member of the "Dorcas Society"; another plans the program for the men's luncheon. Everybody is busy all right, but in activities that are not authorized in the New Testament.

In the second place, members are often given roles for which they are not qualified. A lady is chosen to teach a class, not because she is qualified, but because she needs to be involved. A man is appointed a deacon to help him to be "faithful." Another man is appointed to serve the Lord's Supper for a month in order to encourage him to be present each Sunday that month. This method thus places "the cart before the horse," for no one should ever be assigned any work in the Lord's service who is not already faithful and qualified for the work to be done (2 Timothy 2:2).

The second way to keep people faithful is to develop within them a genuine love for the Lord. When people love the Lord, they will be faithful, and it won't take some kind of "special" project to keep them faithful. They will also be involved: in worship, in study, in prayer, in godly living, in sharing the gospel with a friend, in helping the needy. I have known literally hundreds of Christians who have never in their lives been appointed to any special work, but whose love for the Lord alone keeps them faithful. There is no superficial faithfulness on the part of these; theirs is a faithfulness that is real.

Special responsibilities are fine for those who are qualified, but the man who requires some special duty to be faithful has never learned what true faithfulness is.