

Take Heed To Thy Teaching

1 Timothy 4:16

In the three letters of Paul written to the young preachers Timothy and Titus, the apostle uses *didaskalia* – “doctrine” or “teaching,” fifteen times.

1. The term is used in both senses:
 - a. May refer to the act of teaching.
 - b. May refer to the content of the teaching.

The Importance Of Right Doctrine

- “Sound doctrine.” (2 Timothy 4:3; Titus 1:9; 2:1)
- “Good doctrine.” (1 Timothy 4:6)
- “The doctrine which is according to godliness.” (1 Timothy 6:3)
- “The doctrine of God.” (Titus 2:10; cf. 1 Timothy 6:1)

As opposed to that which is:

- “Contrary to sound doctrine.” (1 Timothy 1:10)
- “Doctrines of demons.” (1 Timothy 4:1)
- Of those who “will not endure sound doctrine.” (2 Timothy 4:3)

Charge To Preachers

- “charge certain men not to teach a different doctrine.” (1 Timothy 1:3)
- “speak the things which befit the sound doctrine.” (Titus 2:1)

Urgency Attached To Teaching

1 Timothy 4:13 “Till I come, give heed to reading, to exhortation, to teaching.”

- (*Gk. prosechæ*) – “turn one’s attention to; be concerned about; pay attention to, heed, be careful of; occupy oneself with.” (Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament)

Urgency Attached To Teaching

1 Timothy 4:16 “Take heed ...”

- (*Gk. ephéxæ*) – “to have, hold. To have or hold upon, to hold out towards, to direct upon...used of the mind, to fix the mind upon, give heed to, pay attention.” (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

What Is Sound Doctrine?

- *1 Timothy 1:10, “if there be any other thing contrary to the sound doctrine”*
- *2 Timothy 4:3, “For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine.”*
- *Titus 1:9, “be able to exhort in the sound doctrine, and to convict the gainsayers.”*
- *Titus 2:1, “But speak thou the things which befit the sound doctrine.”*

What Is Sound Doctrine?

- *(Gk. hugiainoo)– “to be sound, to be well, to be in good health: ... i. e. true and incorrupt doctrine” (Thayer) (cf. Jeremiah 8:18-22; cf. Jeremiah 6:16)*

Galatians 1:6-7, “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another (heteros), gospel: Which is not another (allos); but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.” KJV

Paul speaks of “a different gospel (*heteros*), which is not another” (*allos*, another like the one he preached), Galatians 1:6-7. *Allos* denotes “another of the same sort”; *Heteros* denotes “another of a different sort.” (W.E. Vine)

Another “*Doctrine*” (cf. Galatians 1:6-8) is:

1. To teach “*contrary to sound doctrine.*” (*1 Timothy 1:10*)
2. To reject “*the words of the Lord Jesus*” and to reject that “*which is according to godliness.*” (*1 Timothy 6:3*)
3. To fail to “*hold the pattern of sound words.*” (*2 Timothy 1:13*)

Therefore, to “*take heed to thy ... “teaching” (1 Timothy 4:16) is to hold fast to what God has revealed.*”

The Dangers Of Failing To Preach “Sound Doctrine”

Appetite for truth gives way to error.

“They will not endure the sound doctrine.”

2 Timothy 4:2-4) cf. 1 Peter 2:2

- Endure – (*Greek anechomai*) “to hold oneself up against, i.e. (figuratively) put up with.” (Strong’s)

The Dangers Of Failing To Preach “Sound Doctrine”

They will find teachers. “after their own lusts.” (*2 Timothy 4:3*)

“Itching ears”– (Gk. knetho) “to cut, scrape, scratch, tickle. In the NT, ... meaning to be tickled, to feel an itching. Metaphorically in 2 Timothy 4:3 meaning being tickled, itching referring to the ears, having an itch to hear something pleasing.” (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

“Fables”– (Gk. múthos) “Commonly rendered as a tale or a fable or that which is fabricated by the mind in contrast to reality.” (The Complete Word Study Dictionary)

- *1 Timothy 1:4; 1 Timothy 4:7; Titus 1:14; 2 Peter 1:16*

The Dangers Of Failing To Preach “Sound Doctrine”

Do not understand. (1 Timothy 1:5-7;
Matthew 13:14-15; John 12:39)

- Yet, “**confidently affirm.**”
(Greek *diabebaioomai*) “to affirm
strongly, assert confidently” (Thayer)
cf. Matthew 22:23-33

The Dangers Of Failing To Preach “Sound Doctrine”

Makes shipwreck of “the faith.” (1 Timothy 1:18-20)

- “holding faith and good conscience which some having thrust from them make shipwreck concerning the faith of whom is Hymenaeus & Alexander.”
- Some “depart from the faith.” (1 Timothy 4:1)

The Dangers Of Failing To Preach “Sound Doctrine”

Promotes arrogance. (1 Timothy 6:3-5)

Causes some to believe they are safe.

“... ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (2 Timothy 3:5-7)

Causes deception. (2 Timothy 3:13)

The Dangers Of Failing To Preach “Sound Doctrine”

Some must be “stopped.” (Titus 1:11)

- Through “reproof / rebuke.” (Titus 1:13)
- Profess to know God, “but by their works they deny him ...” (Titus 1:16)
- Must be rejected. (Titus 3:10)

Therefore: It is plain to see that preaching is serious with God and places a great responsibility upon the teach and the hearer. (cf. James 3:1-2)

How Can We Take Heed To Sound Teaching (Doctrine)?

- Training from childhood. (2 Timothy 3:14-15)
- Believe in the power and sufficiency of the gospel. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; cf. Romans 1:16)
- “Keep the commandments without spot, without reproach.” (1 Timothy 6:14)
- Be on “Guard” (1 Timothy 6:20-21) – “Keep watch over;” “have an eye upon” (Thayer)

How Can We Take Heed To Sound Teaching (Doctrine)?

- Pass the message on. (2 Timothy 2:2)
 - Preach it fully. “The Lord stood by me ... that the message might be fully proclaimed ...” (2 Timothy 4:17)
- Study and rightly divide. (2 Timothy 2:15)

How Can We Take Heed To Sound Teaching (Doctrine)?

- Speak with authority. (Titus 2:15)
 - Speak by the authority of Christ. (Cf. Matthew 28:18; Matthew 17:5)
 - The things Paul wrote were *"the commandments of the Lord."* (1 Corinthians 14:37)
 - 1 John 4:6 *"We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he who is not of God heareth us not. By this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."*
 - Paul spoke of some who must be *"reproved sharply ... that they may be sound in the faith."* (Titus 1:13)

Conclusion

- There is a body of inspired truth – a pattern.
- Pattern is binding on teacher and hearer.
- Salvation of both teacher and hearer dependant upon *"sound doctrine."*

Conclusion

"Take heed to thyself, and to thy teaching, continue in these things; for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself and them that hear thee." (1 Timothy 4:16)