

INTRODUCTION

We have all heard the phrase, “He or she knows just enough about (fill in the blank) to be dangerous!” In many professions, this type of person can cause a lot of problems and in some areas of life this type of person can bring utter disaster to the hapless listener who gives heed to that person’s counsel. These types of people speak with such confidence that if you didn’t know better you would be easily persuaded by them. The false teachers that Paul describes in his first letter to Timothy are such people. Philip Rykan, teacher and commentator, describes these teachers as “ignorant and arrogant; which is a very dangerous combination”. Timothy has been charged with the correction of these teachers. This is going to be a difficult task, but Paul knows Timothy will be up to it if it is done for the sole purpose of demonstrating love.

1 Timothy 1:5-7 (NKJV)

⁵ Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith, ⁶ from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, ⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

Jesus taught us that we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind. He said this is the first and great commandment and the second is like it, that we should love our neighbor as ourselves and on these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Then the Holy Spirit instructs us through Paul that the commandment for Timothy to admonish or warn the teachers in the church to stick with the established doctrine’s purpose which is to love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith. We are not trying to defame anyone. We are not doing this to prove ourselves righteous, without an ulterior motive (pure heart) without regret (a clear conscience) and without doubt (faith).

We’ve learned from our text that some of these teachers have strayed away from true doctrine. They’ve decided to teach a “work for salvation” message. They are teaching a message that has no more to do with Jewish law than it does redemption. The false teachers don’t realize that living under the law also means living under the curse! Paul knows that these teachers have no real knowledge, authority or understanding of the law. They are relying on their own common sense and opinion. How can Paul make these accusations? What is in his back ground that makes him so sure?

Let’s look at Paul’s credentials found in **Acts 22:3 (NKJV)**

³ "I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today. In **Philippians 3:4-6 (NKJV)** Paul says: ⁴ though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. So Paul knows what he is talking about.

There are false teaches in our day as those described in our text. They teach that the blood of Christ isn't valuable enough to pay the price of salvation. They teach that works plus the blood of Christ is necessary for salvation. What are some of the works that must be performed according to the "ignorant and arrogant"?

Baptism

Baptism for the dead

Mission trips

Good deeds

Connection to a church nominated "saint" or earthly ministry or church

The exemption of certain foods from the diet

Worship on the Jewish Sabbath only

Confession of sin to another man

Soul must be further cleansed in a place some call purgatory after death of the body

The worst thing these false teachers taught was that the blood of Christ was not necessary at all, that the works of the law would provide salvation. They didn't understand that the law was made to expose sin not to redeem anyone from it. They didn't understand that no man could ever keep the law perfectly. They didn't understand that the law was not designed to change the heart, but that they needed a Savior who could.