

PAUL'S WARNINGS TO THE CHURCH

This Bible study was an attempt to be an exhaustive and thorough study on the warnings that Paul gave the church concerning the church age, the end of the church age, and the end times. It is possible that I may have missed several. Nevertheless it is quite clear from this study that God warns of false doctrine that will come in and infect the church and that the church would end in apostasy (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3)

Part 1: The Church Age ends in Apostacy

7 is the number of completion or perfection in the Bible

The 7 Churches of Revelation: The 7 Church Ages (Revelation 2-3)

What do the names mean?

Ephesus: "Desirable"

Smyrna: "Myrrh" is an embalming plant, and had to be crushed in order to emit a sweet fragrance, used in the embalming of the dead.

Pergamos: "married" church and state united by Constantine.

Thyatira: "continual sacrifice" "sacrifice of labor"

Sardis: "remnant"

Philadelphia: "Brotherly Love" No word of rebuke from the Lord

Laodecia: "People's Rights" or "Civil Rights" Humanism

Paul wrote to 7 Churches

Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians,

1) Romans Very heaven on basic doctrine; tells us how to believe rightly with the emphasis on the individual believer.

2) Corinthians reproves practical error due to the failure to do according to the doctrine in Romans.

3) Galatians corrects doctrinal error due to beliefs that are contrary to the doctrine in Romans.

4) Ephesians tells us how to believe rightly with the emphasis on the Body of Christ and the doctrines related thereto.

5) Philippians reproves practical error due to the failure to do according to the doctrine in Ephesians.

6) Colossians corrects doctrinal error due to beliefs that are contrary to the doctrine in Ephesians.

7) Thessalonians tells us how to believe rightly with the emphasis on Christ's return.

The 7 Churches and the 7 Church Epistles picture the church age.

Also, Paul's life is a pattern unto the individual believer and the church (1 Timothy 1:16)

Paul specifically told the Laodecian church to read the epistle that he wrote to the Colossians (Colossians 4:16, 2:1-4). And then he says this... "Remember my bonds" (Colossians 4:18).

Why did he say this?

Remember Paul's life is a pattern. Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles and revealed to us church age doctrine. What happened at the end of his life? Go to Acts 20:16. He wanted to go to Jerusalem for Pentecost. Acts 20:22-23 (warned by the Holy Ghost) and 20:29-31. Acts 21:4 (warned by the Holy Ghost again). Acts 21:8-15 (warned by the Holy Ghost the third time). The question we must now ask is why did the Holy Ghost not want Paul to go to Jerusalem? Keep reading and the answer is in the passage.

Acts 21:17-26

James said the people are zealous of the law

They are INFORMED of THEE that: (1) taught the Jews among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, (2) Don't circumcise their children, (3) don't walk after the customs.

James argument: The multitude MUST NEEDS COME TOGETHER

How to prove to the people what they heard of him isn't true: Go to the temple and purify yourself so they know that Paul is walking orderly, keeping the law.

Acts 22:17-23 (Paul warned while in the temple at Jerusalem to leave Jerusalem since they will not receive his testimony concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, and that Jesus said unto him, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles).

What ended up happening to Paul?

He was put in bondage and was sent bond unto Rome in an Alexandrian ship where he died. (Acts 27:1, 6) All of the New "Bible" Versions come from Wescott and Hort's Greek Text which are based on Roman Catholic texts. Why is this a problem? She is the great whore (Revelation 17)

Roman Catholic Texts:

Codex Vaticanus- contained the apocryphal writings in the OT; stored in the Vatican Library. Listed in the Library of the Vatican in the 1400's; thought to be originally from Alexandrian Egypt.

Codex Sinaiticus- thought to be written in Egypt; found in a trashcan in the monastery of St. Catherine: they were about to be burned one someone asked if he could have them (1844).

So when Paul says "remember my bonds" to the Laodecian Church he is referring to his bondage that lead him to Rome. What got him bond? The Holy Ghost said not to go to Jerusalem 3 times; Paul goes and what does he do? He COMPROMISES FOR THE SAKE OF THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH! By following James' advice he is captured and bound is heading on an Alexandrian ship headed towards Rome.

What I believe God is saying to us is don't compromise for the sake of the unity of the Church just keep my word!

How does the church age end? It ends in apostasy. The last church age is humanistic and about the rights of the people. Does this not characterize our day? Even amongst supposedly Christians churches? It's all about the rights of the people and world peace,

at what cost, at the cost of truth and sound doctrine. The tool used to reunite Christendom back unto Rome is that Alexandrian ship of new "Bible" versions and the promoting of ecumenicalism even by protestant churches today. How does the new versions help reunite Christendom back under Rome's subjection. The new versions cast doubt on the infallibility of the word of God, in other words, they destroy the final authority status of the word of God, the Bible. So what is going to take the place of that authority? How about a tradition that goes back thousands of years? How about opinions of men? Hey since we don't know what God really said or didn't say, why not reunite all of "Christianity?" We know according to the Scripture that Rome will be in charge during the tribulation according to Daniel and Revelation and the great whore the Roman Catholic Church will be riding that political system.

For next week: Over 60% of Paul's warnings to the church have to deal with false doctrine and false teachings and there is a reason for that. There is so much false doctrine and false prophets and soothsayers and false teachings out there and if you don't know God's word you will be lead away and put into bondage. But just because most of the church is going into apostasy doesn't mean you have to. Just keep his word and you'll be fine.

Part 2: Paul's Warnings in his Epistles

* The highlighted sections refer to doctrinal issues

Romans – nothing

I Corinthians

1. 11:19 – There must be heresies among us

II Corinthians

1. 2:11 – Not ignorant of Satan's devices
2. 11:3-4 – regarding the preaching of another Jesus, gospel, and spirit
3. 11:13-15 – false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light; his ministers transformed as the ministers of righteousness

Galatians

1. 1:6-9 – The Galatians were soon removed from God unto another gospel
2. 2:4 False brethren crept in unawares... want to bring us into bondage
3. 4:17-18 False brethren zealously affect them
4. 5:7-9 – A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump

Ephesians

1. 2:1 – spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience
2. 4:14 False doctrine by the slight of men

Philippians – nothing

Colossians

1. 2:4 Beguiled by enticing words
2. 2:8 – warnings about philosophy and vain deceit
3. 2:18-19 - be not deceived by the worshipping of angels

I Thessalonians

1. 5:1-3 – regarding the day of the Lord

II Thessalonians

1. 2:1-3 – referring to the gather together of the church unto Christ
 - a. That day shall not come until
 - i. There come a falling away first
 - ii. The man of sin revealed
2. 2:4 – Man of sin will do the following
 - a. Oppose and exalt himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped
 - b. He as God will sit in the temple of God showing himself that he is God.
3. 2:7-10 – mystery of iniquity
 - a. Christ's coming after the working of Satan
 - i. Satan has power and will perform signs and lying wonders with all deceivableness
4. 2:11 – God sends delusion that they should believe a lie

I Timothy

1. 1:4-7 – Give not heed to fables, people would desire to teach the law
2. 4:1-3 Spirit speaks about the latter times
 - a. Some shall depart from the faith
 - b. Giving heed to seducing spirits
 - c. Giving heed to doctrines of devils
 - d. Speaking lies in hypocrisy
 - e. Conscience seared with a hot iron
 - f. Forbidding to marry
 - g. Commanding to abstain from meats
3. 4:6 – refuse profane and old wives tales
4. 4:16 – Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine
5. 6:3-6 – If any man teaches otherwise and consent not unto wholesome words...
 - a. He is proud, knowing nothing, destitute of truth, etc.
6. 6:20-21 – Avoid profane and vain babblings and oppositions of science falsely so called

II Timothy

1. 1:13 – Hold fast the form of sound words
2. 3:1-7 – Last days perilous times
 - a. Lovers of their own selves
 - b. Covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers,
 - c. Disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy
 - d. Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, fierce,
 - e. Despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high minded,
 - f. Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God
 - g. having a form of godliness BUT denying the power thereof
 - h. Ever learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth
3. 3:12 – All that live godly shall suffer persecution
4. 3:13 – evil man and seducers will get worse, deceiving and being deceived
5. 4:3-4 – time coming that they will not hold sound doctrine
 - a. After their own lusts heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears,
 - b. Turning ears

- i. Away from the truth
- ii. To fables

Titus

1. 1:15-16 – Professing to know God but denying him with there works
2. 3:10-11 – How to deal with a heretick

Philemon – nothing

According to the outline, 18 / 30 of these passages deal with doctrinal issues. Over 60% of Paul's warnings in his epistles in some way relate to doctrine. Pretty interesting how more than half of what Paul warns us about deals with doctrine in some shape or form.