

DEFENDING THE FAITH

Today's lesson teaches how to effectively defend the faith. "Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that **you contend earnestly for the faith** which was once for all delivered to the saints." (Jude Ch.3)

It teaches how to deal with believers within the church who promote false doctrines. "And their talk will spread like gangrene." (2 Tim.2:17)

It is addressed to Timothy and other teachers of the word of truth within the church. "And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." (2 Tim.2:2)

This lesson will study four aspects of Defending the Faith within the church.

1. Three commands (3 Imperatives, 2ps) are given to guide leaders of the church in dealing with believers promoting false doctrines.

- **1st** Remind (hupomimnesko/ p.a.impv.2ps) and solemnly charge (diamartureo/ p.m.ptc nsm) them (leaders) not to wrangle about words (logomacheo / p.a.infin) [dispute or fight over meaning] (2 Tim.2:14).
- **2nd** Be diligent (spoudazo / a.a.impv.2ps) as workmen (ergates) handling accurately (orthotomeo / p.a.ptc.asm) the word of truth (2 Tim.2:15).
- **3rd** But avoid (periistemi / a.a.impv.2ps) [to shun] worldly (bebelos) [vain, profane] and empty chatter (kenophonia) [useless arguments] (2 Tim.2:16).

As teacher of the word of God, we present The Word and let the Holy Spirit bring its truth to your understanding. "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you." (John 14:26)

"These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. And as for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him." (1 John 2:26-27)

"Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you." (2 Tim.1:13-14)

2. Paul listed at least six reasons why church leaders must take action against false doctrines in 2Tim.2:14-26.

- **1st** False doctrines are useless (chresimos) [zero] and the ruin (catastrophe) [catastrophe, overturn] of the hearer (2 Tim.2:14).
- **2nd** They lead (prokopto / f.a.ind) [advance] to further ungodliness (asebeia) (2 Tim.2:16).

- **3rd** They spread like gangrene (infect good parts of the body) (2 Tim.2:17).
- **4th** They upset (anatrepo / p.a.ind) [overthrow] the faith of spiritual weaker believers within the church (2 Tim.2:18).
- **5th** They produce quarrels (mache) [fight, strife] and factions within the church body (2 Tim.2:23-25).
- **6th** They are used as bait by Satan to snare (pagis) believers into cosmos diabolicus (2 Tim.2:26).

“You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.**” (2 Pet.3:17-18)

3. Teachers of sound doctrine are commanded to be diligent (spoudazo / a.a.impv.2ps) in handling accurately the word of truth (2 Tim.2:15).

[DSBC has at least 20-25 teachers actively teaching every week somewhere in the community.]

In fact, they are command to be diligent in three areas.

- **Be diligent** to present (paristemi / a.a.infin) yourself approved (dokimos) to God as a workman (ergates).
- **Be diligent** to be a workman who does not need to be ashamed (anepaishuntos) [no cause for shame].
- **Be diligent** to handle accurately (orthotomeo / p.a.ptc.asm) the word of truth (ton logos tes aletheia).

4. Paul reminds us that Satan’s strategy is to attack basic doctrines of the Christian faith (2 Cor.2:11; Matt.16:21-23; Titus 3:9-11).

- Satan attacks basic doctrines of salvation (2 Tim.2:8-10; 1 Pet.2:2; Phil3:16-18).
- He also attacks basic doctrines of the CWL (2 Tim.2:18; Heb.5:11-14; Jude 22-23)

In this case, it was the doctrine of the resurrection

“Men who have **gone astray** (astocheo / a.a.ind 3pl) [err, swerve] from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and thus they upset the faith of some.” (2 Tim.2:18)

Some were teaching that the resurrection had already taken place and the church was in the mid- tribulation because of the persecution of Nero (1 Thess.4:13-18; 1 Cor.15:51-58).

The believer with negative volition toward sound doctrinal truth goes astray and becomes a target in the angelic conflict for cosmos diabolicus (2 Tim.2:26).

One purpose of maturing spiritually is this:

“Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to a mature man**, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. As a result, 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.” (Eph.4:13-14)