

Theme: Sound teaching is evident 1st in the strengthening of the hearers' faith in the "glorious gospel" of God as revealed in the Apostolic teachings, 2nd in the love of God and the body of Christ that fills the life of the believer, and 3rd in an ever-deepening love for the law of God and its fruit in our lives.

Background/Introduction: Who's afraid of the *Di Vinci Code*?

- I. "Different" Doctrine Is Dangerous – Even Deadly!
 - A. Timothy's charge
 1. Guard the truth!
 - Taking on teachers/elders
 2. No "different" doctrine!
 - Not 1st time the warning is given (Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Corinthians 2:17; 11:4)
 - Don't let them add anything (4)
 - B. A threat to the faith
 1. Desiring to be "teachers of the law"
 2. Devoted to myths and genealogies (4)
 - Jewish myths (Titus 1:14): *Book of Jubilees* (165-105 BC)
 - Finding "hidden" truths

NOTE: It is still happening today – From Harold Camping to *The Bible Code* to the Bible's secret to training your children.
 3. Gnostic influence?
 - Dividing the "spiritual" from the "physical" (4:3f)
 - C. A threat to love (5)
 1. The Gospel is an expression of love
 - a. God's love for us – in His Son. (John 3:16; 1 John 4:7-19)
 - b. Our love for God – and through Him, for one another (Matthew 22:37-39; John 13:35)
 2. Undermining that which is essential to love
 - a. Pure heart, Good conscience, Sincere faith
 - b. Wandering away (6-7)
 - "Different" Doctrine Is Dangerous – Even Deadly!
 - D. A threat to the Church
 1. Threat to its doctrine
 - a. Promoting speculations
 - b. Undermining "the stewardship from God that is by faith"
 - *oikonomia* - the responsibility of managing/administering (Ephesians 3:2, 9)
 2. Threat to its life/walk
 - Failing in their purpose for existence (3:15)
 - Right doctrine leads to right living (6:3)
- II. Confronting Error Is Loving
 - A. The goal of the charge? Love.
 - It is loving to correct error
 - B. Truth and love are inseparably linked
 - False doctrine will distort what love is

C. Deliverance from bondage

III. The Place of the Law - It is properly seen in relation to the Gospel

A. Convict us of sin

B. Lead us to Christ

C. Guide to godly living

IV. Sound Doctrine – Understanding Law and Grace

A. The Law is an Instrument of the Gospel

- Not contradictory – but complementary

B. What we believe affects how we live

Our greatest need is to know God better, therefore - put yourself in the path that leads to the knowledge of God, revealed in His Son, by the power of the Spirit.