

## INTRODUCTION

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is perfect. What the bible says about Him is perfect. When Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote about Him, as the Holy Spirit carried them along, what they wrote was perfect. When our Lord's apostles wrote to the churches about Jesus Christ, what they wrote was perfect, the very word of God breathed out by the Holy Spirit.

When they preached to sinners, they preached forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ; they preached the gospel, the good news!

What the Lord Jesus said, as recorded in the bible, and what the apostles preached and wrote, as found in the bible

gives all glory to God for His grace shown to sinners in Jesus Christ, and gives us all the benefit available to us from God's hand

To vary is to fail to give Him all the glory, and to give us all the benefit.

What God commands all men everywhere does not involve human works:

-believe

-repent

So, to command something else is to unpreach the gospel of salvation by God's grace and preach salvation by good works, which is not good news, because impossible.

What our Lord instructs is morally right, in keeping with love, obedient to the Ten Commandments; to instruct something else...

The church must take care that no doctrine other than the biblical, apostolic doctrine is taught in the church, because only that doctrine gives all glory to God's grace in Jesus Christ, only that doctrine proclaims salvation by God's grace to sinners, and only that doctrine teaches the Lord's disciples to obey what He has commanded.

The Church Must Not Tolerate Any Teaching Different from What the Apostles Taught

## TEXT

1 Timothy 1:3-7

## BODY

### The Church Must Not Tolerate Any Teaching Different from What the Apostles Taught

#### I. There are some who teach something else: *heterodidaskaleo*

##### A. other than what?

##### 1. other than the words of our Lord Jesus Christ

a) 1 Timothy 6:1-5 Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed. (2) And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things. (3) If anyone **teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome [ESV sound] words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness**, (4) he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, (5) useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

##### b) example of the words of our Lord Jesus Christ

(1) Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

(2) Matthew 24:34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

(3) John 6:28-29 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" (29) Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

##### 2. other than what the apostles taught

a) 2 Timothy 1:13-14 Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. (14) That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

b) 2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

c) APPLICATION: this is an important point, although somewhat subtle: the words of our Lord Jesus Christ as taught by His apostles

##### B. This is clearly a main or the main problem being corrected in this letter.

C. They are listening to something else, and incorporating it into their doctrine

1. Myths

- a) opposite of the truth    2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; (4) and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to **fables [ESV: wander off into myths]**.
- b) opposite of eye-witness apostolic testimony    2 Peter 1:13-18 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, (14) knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. (15) Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease. (16) For we did not follow **cunningly devised fables [ESV: cleverly devised myths]** when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. (17) For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (18) And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.
- c) application to us: anything that teachers say that is not known to be true
- d) e.g. from Bill Gothard    Recently a little 11-year-old boy broke his leg, the large bone above the knee. He was taken to the hospital, and they put him in traction. He was supposed to lay there for six weeks in traction, hoping that the bone will fuse back together. Every day they dutifully bring him his meal---meat and milk. They tell him, 'Eat it all.' I just got word a few days ago that they can't figure out why that bone isn't mending the way it should. They're going to keep him three weeks longer because the calcium is not, the bone is not mending the way it should. I just believe that if we would understand all the wisdom, all the knowledge that God has for us in His word, we would then say with the psalmist, 'How love I Thy law! It is my meditation day and night' And this is why we want to build our lives around the principles of God's word.---Basic Seminar; Session 1; 1:03:18

2. Endless genealogies

D. Their teaching is not profitable

1. verse 6 their talk is vain or idle or random Tyndale, KJV "vain jangling"
2. verse 7 when they try to teach the law
  - a) they don't understand what they are saying
  - b) they don't understand the things they affirm
3. I hope to speak more about this next time

- II. These must be charged not to teach something else
  - A. “to teach no other doctrine” is a problematic translation
    - 1. not that these men are to be told to teach no other doctrine
    - 2. but that these men are to be told NOT to teach other doctrine
  - B. literally “not otherteach”
  
- III. APPLICATION: Is every Christian to be a teacher? No!
  - A. No James 3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.
  - B. If you do not understand and hold to the elementary truths of our faith, then definitely not! Hebrews 5:12-6:2 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.
  - C. Who gets to decide when a person has such a grasp of the truth?
    - 1. the church!
    - 2. that is, the congregation led by those who already are so ordained
  - D. But doesn't the Great Commission instruct us to teach?
    - 1. us as the church - yes
    - 2. each of us individually - no
  - E. Fathers and mothers teach their children, with no need to be set into that role by the church; let fathers and mothers learn, so they can teach their children rightly!

## CONCLUSION

There are sinners...who can save them?

We struggle every day against the temptations of the flesh. Who can help us?

-Is it a Jesus who says we should circumcise and observe the passover?

-the real Jesus, who says, “Love the Lord...and love your neighbor...”

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### verse 3b “charge some that they teach no other doctrine”

ESV: charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine

“some” or “certain persons”

JRY:

recall that this church had multiple elders even a few years before Paul had warned that some would rise up even from their own number Acts 20:28-31 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. (29) I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; (30) and **from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.** (31) Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears.

literally “not other teach” *me heterodidaskaleo*

-RWP says this is the earliest known use of this word, so it may be original to Paul

“to teach no other doctrine” is a problematic translation

-not that these men are to be told to teach no other doctrine

-but that these men are to be told NOT to teach other doctrine

This is clearly a main or the main problem being corrected in this letter.

-see that having begun with this, Paul will restate this near the end as he is concluding

-and where he uses the word again, he also gives essentially the definition of it

1 Timothy 6:1-5 Let as many bondservants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and His doctrine may not be blasphemed. (2) And those who have believing masters, let them not despise them because they are brethren, but rather serve them because those who are benefited are believers and beloved. Teach and exhort these things. (3) If anyone **teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome [ESV sound] words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness,** (4) he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, (5) useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

example of the words of our Lord Jesus Christ

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#### **verse 4a “fables” ESV “myths” G3454 *muthos***

1 Timothy 4:6-7 If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. (7) But reject profane and old wives' **fables [ESV: irreverent, silly myths]**, and exercise yourself toward godliness.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; (4) and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to **fables [ESV: wander off into myths]**.

Titus 1:13-14 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, (14) not giving heed to **Jewish fables [ESV: myths]** and commandments of men who turn from the truth.

2 Peter 1:13-18 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, (14) knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. (15) Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease. (16) For we did not follow **cunningly devised fables [ESV: cleverly devised myths]** when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. (17) For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (18) And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

VWS:

As to its exact reference here, it is impossible to speak with certainty. Expositors are hopelessly disagreed, some referring it to Jewish, others to Gnostic fancies. It is explained as meaning traditional supplements to the law, allegorical interpretations, Jewish stories of miracles, Rabbinical fabrications, whether in history or doctrine, false doctrines generally, etc.

Henry:

Now his business was to take care to fix both the ministers and the people of that church: Charge them that they teach no other doctrine than what they have received, that they do not add to the Christian doctrine, under pretence of improving it or making up the defects of it, that they do no alter it, but cleave to it as it was delivered to them. Observe, 1. Ministers must not only be charged to preach the true doctrine of the gospel, but charged to preach no other doctrine. If an angel from heaven preach any other doctrine, let him be anathema, Gal\_1:8. 2. In the times of the apostles there were attempts made to corrupt Christianity (we are not as many, who corrupt the word, 2Co\_2:17), otherwise this charge to Timothy might have been spared. 3. He must not only see to it that he did not preach any other doctrine, but he must charge others that they might not add any thing of their own to the gospel, or take any thing from it, but that they preach it pure and uncorrupt.

Ministers should avoid, as much as may be, what will occasion disputes; and would do well to insist on the great and practical points of religion, about which there can be no disputes; for even disputes about great and necessary truths draw off the mind from the main design of Christianity, and eat out the vitals of religion, which consist in practice and obedience as well as in faith, that we may not hold the truth in unrighteousness, but may keep the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.

Clarke:

silly legends, of which no people ever possessed a greater stock than the Jews. Their Talmud abounds with them

Barnes:

These were composed of frivolous and unfounded stories, which they regarded as of great importance, and which they seem to have desired to incorporate with the teachings of Christianity.

One of the most successful arts of the adversary of souls has been to mingle fable with truth; and when he cannot overthrow the truth by direct opposition, to neutralize it by mingling with it much that is false and frivolous.

Fairbairn:

But fables and genealogies of whatsoever sort belonged to a different category; they did not address themselves to the principle of faith; they merely exercised the fancy and the intellect, and did so in a manner fitted rather to create a distaste for the proper objects of faith. The more one might give himself to such a line of things, the more would he find himself carried away from the sphere of God's merciful economy for the salvation of sinners.

Spurgeon:

You see, the apostle, in his day, had to contend against those who ran away from the simplicity of the gospel into all manner of fables and inventions. Such, in our day, are the doctrine of evolution, the doctrine of the universal fatherhood of God, the doctrine of post-mortem

salvation, the doctrine of the final restitution of all men, and all sorts of fables and falsehoods which men have invented.

JRY:

most directly: fanciful stories from Jewish rabbinical tradition

more broadly: any doctrine that has some relation to the bible, but includes material not known to be true

thinking that Jewish insight is necessary for understanding the bible

Examples from Bill Gothard

One day a young man on a farm experienced a flood of doubts about whether or not he really was a Christian. He walked outside behind the barn, knelt down, and prayed. His prayer contained the following: "Thank you, God, for loving me and sending your son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die for me, a sinner. Right now, I do receive Him and ask you to cleanse me by His blood and make me your child. Thank you for raising Him up from the dead as a living Savior, and thank you for hearing and answering this prayer." He finished his prayer, pounded a wooden stake in the ground and wrote the date on it. About two weeks later, the doubts came back again. This time he had a ready and very effective reply, "All right, Satan. Come with me!" He walked out behind the barn, pointed to the stake and said, "See Satan. Here's the date and here's the place I received Jesus Christ as my Savior. And God has promised that if I call upon the name of the Lord, I shall be saved." Romans 10:13 Since that time, doubts never returned.

---Basic Seminar Textbook, p. 159

Recently a little 11-year-old boy broke his leg, the large bone above the knee. He was taken to the hospital, and they put him in traction. He was supposed to lay there for six weeks in traction, hoping that the bone will fuse back together. Every day they dutifully bring him his meal---meat and milk. They tell him, 'Eat it all.' I just got word a few days ago that they can't figure out why that bone isn't mending the way it should. They're going to keep him three weeks longer because the calcium is not, the bone is not mending the way it should. I just believe that if we would understand all the wisdom, all the knowledge that God has for us in His word, we would then say with the psalmist, 'How love I Thy law! It is my meditation day and night' And this is why we want to build our lives around the principles of God's word.

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**verse 4b "endless genealogies"**

Ezra 2:62 These sought their listing among those who were registered by genealogy, but they were not found; therefore they were excluded from the priesthood as defiled.

**verse 4c which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith**

It is characteristic of fables/myths and endless genealogies that they

1. do cause disputation/speculation
2. do not cause edification/stewardship (in the sense of dispensing for building up)

Trapp:

It is but laborious loss of time to search into those things, whereof we can neither have proof nor profit; the gains will not pay for the pains, the task is not worthy the toil. Toilsome toys they are, hard to come by, but of no use or worth; like an olive or date stone, hard to crack the one, or cleave the other; but nothing, or nothing worth aught, when cracked or cloven, within either.

Calvin:

He judges of doctrine by the fruit; for every thing that does not edify ought to be rejected, although it has no other fault; and everything that is of no avail but for raising contentions, ought to be doubly condemned. And such are all the subtle questions on which ambitious men exercise their faculties. Let us, therefore, remember, that all doctrines must be tried by this rule, that those which contribute to edification may be approved, and that those which give ground for unprofitable disputes may be rejected as unworthy of the Church of God.

**verse 6b “have turned aside to idle talk” KJV vain jangling ESV vain discussion**

compound: vain/empty + talk/words

## APPLICATION

Is every Christian to be a teacher? No!

James 3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.

if you do not understand and hold to the elementary truths of our faith, then definitely not!  
Hebrews 5:12-6:2 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

Who gets to decide when a person has such a grasp of the truth?

the church!

that is, the congregation led by those who already are so ordained

But doesn't the Great Commission instruct us to teach?

us as the church - yes  
each of us individually - no

Call to Worship: Psalm 115:18

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29

Sermon: "Do Not Vary from the Apostolic Doctrine" 1 Timothy 1:3-7

Benediction: Psalm 115:14-15

G 23 Blessed Assurance, Anna Piano, Camille Sing

T 68 Not Unto Us From Psalm 115, Camille Piano, Anna Clarinet or Sing

G 202 My Jesus Fair, Anna Piano, Camille Flute

G 102 Looking Always Unto Jesus, Anna Piano, Camille Ukulele