

APOSTATE CHURCH MEMBERS AND DOCTORS OF THE LAW

By Brother Mike Sutherland

Stand for a minute and turn in your Bibles to Isaiah 30 and we will read verses 8-13.

⁸ Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: ⁹ That this *is* a rebellious people, lying children, children *that* will not hear the law of the LORD: ¹⁰ Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: ¹¹ Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us. ¹² Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon: ¹³ Therefore this iniquity shall be to you as a breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant. *Isaiah 30:8-13*

In chapter 1 of First Timothy, Paul is giving his charge to Timothy as the pastor of the church at Ephesus. He also calls the names of the false teachers Hymenaeus and Alexander and publicly rebukes them for having said evil things concerning the faith. In chapter 2, Paul gives his charge to the men and women of the church at Ephesus. In chapter 3 Paul gives the qualifications for the bishops, pastors, and deacons. There is a great need for thorough and complete teaching on the qualifications for pastors and deacons in our churches today. Everybody can tell you that a pastor and a deacon should be the husband of one wife, but what about the rest of the qualifications: for instance to be blameless. The whole idea is that pastor and deacons must be above reproach in every aspect of their lives. I could take the rest of the qualifications listed and throw out 95% of the pastors and preachers in the pulpits of Baptist churches even if they all had never been divorced. Chapter 3 verse 16 contains one of the strongest statements in the New Testament that the Lord Jesus Christ is God. That is why he is called LORD. In chapter 4 Timothy is warned about the coming battle with seducing spirits and doctrines of devils

¹ Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; ² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; ³ Forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. *1 Timothy 4:1-3*

¹² Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. ¹³ Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. ¹⁴ Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. ¹⁵ Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. ¹⁶ Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee. *1 Timothy 4:12-16*

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The charge to pastors continues on in 2 Timothy. In chapter 1 we are admonished not to be ashamed of the gospel. Chapter 1 is also the source for that great hymn "I Know Whom I have Believed". Chapter 2 contains the charge to pastors to commit sound doctrine to faithful men that they may be able to teach others also. Chapter 2 also contains the charge to pastors to study the word of God. We are not just to study it, but we are to be a workman in the word of God. I would not give a plug nickle for a man who routinely will not study before he goes into the pulpit. A man that will not study the word of God brings shame to his ministry. If all you are getting from the word of God is what you are getting from the pulpit, then you are shameful embarrassment to God. If you are what you ought to be, then you'll do what you ought to do.

¹⁴ Of these things put *them* in remembrance, charging *them* before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, *but* to the subverting of the hearers. ¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. ¹⁶ But shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. ¹⁷ And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; ¹⁸ Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some. ¹⁹ Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. 2 Timothy 2:14-19

¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. ⁶ For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ⁷ Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. ⁹ But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all *men*, as theirs also was. ¹⁰ But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, ¹¹ Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. ¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. ¹³ But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. ¹⁴ But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*; ¹⁵ And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect,

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throughly furnished unto all good works. *2 Timothy 3*

¹ I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; ² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴ And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. *2 Timothy 4:1-4*

The teachers that Paul speaks of here are the doctors of the law, the doctors of the scribes, and the doctors of the scholars who continually crucify the word of God between two thieves: the dollar and the scholar. There is a conspiracy of the devil's prophets in the land. We have churches that are full of doctors that have graduated from America's best Bible colleges; still unsaved and chock full of heresies and apostasy. There is a difference between a bible college and a bible institute. A bible college teaches you about the bible. A bible institute teaches you the bible. I would run from a man that has received the title of DOCTOR from an America Bible College. The Lord Jesus Christ had nothing good to say about doctors of doctrine. Do not ever call me doctor. If you are a preacher and insist on being called a doctor, do not ever expect me to call you doctor unless I am mad at you. Do not ever call me reverend. That title belongs only to God since holy and reverend is his name. Men who constantly seek after titles are in trouble with God. Most of them are doing it for the praise of men. They want to be well spoken of by all men. Jesus said in *Luke 6:26* : "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets".

The Lord Jesus Christ rebuked the men of letters during his day. These were the unsaved scribes and pharisees. He said: *Luke 5:17*: "And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was *present* to heal them". Seventeen (17) times the Lord Jesus Christ spoke of the scribes and pharisees and had nothing good to say about them. They went about seeking the titles and praise of men. Listen to the warnings of Job and Jeremiah:

²¹ Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man. ²² For I know not to give flattering titles; *in so doing* my maker would soon take me away. *Job 32:21-22*

²³ Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: ²⁴ But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD. *Jeremiah 9:23-24*