

2 Tim 4:1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.

reprove, rebuke, exhort,

reprove – to find fault with, correct

a) by word: 1) to reprehend severely, to chide, to admonish, to reprove

2) to call to account, to show one his fault, to demand an explanation

b) by deed: to chasten, to punish

rebuke – censure or admonish; by implication, forbid:

exhort – to encourage, to strengthen

with great patience and instruction

Why? Why not just boot them out?

2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

How patient was the Lord?

Concerning the necessity of circumcision - from Acts 10 (AD 38) to Acts 15 (AD 49) probably 9-11 years (from Acts 9:26 to Acts 15:1 is 14 years Gal 2:1)

Concerning the complete disappearance of the Law of Moses Acts 2 (AD 33) to Gal 3 (AD 65) probably 30 years.

1 Tim 1:15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. 16 And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

Paul was a young man Acts 7:58 but was already on the Sanhedrin Acts 26:10. He was a witness of the risen Lord

1 Cor 15:7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as it were to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

While the Lord is patient, where does that leave an individual who is not following the will of the Lord?

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

Gal 2:11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision.

We cannot continue in sin!

Notice, however, that there were parties (groups, factions) in the church.

1 Tim 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires;

The church of our Lord has had major problems in the past with doctrine. Some of us want to avoid controversy. Some of us don't like to "argue" about doctrine. We must take a lesson from the Scriptures.

Acts 15:1 And some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.

1 Cor 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. 11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you.

Rev 2:14 'But I have a few things against you,
because you have there some who hold the
teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put
a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat
things sacrificed to idols, and to commit acts of
immorality. 15 'Thus you also have some who in
the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
16 'Repent therefore; or else I am coming to you
quickly, and I will make war against them with the
sword of My mouth.

The Restoration of the New Testament church in North America began in the early 1800's pleading with all men to put away the doctrines of men and return to simple New Testament Christianity. The Lord built only one church! The plea was “where the Bible speaks, we speak. Where the Bible is silent, we are silent.

Col 3:17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

By 1850 the church in North America experienced
its first major division.

Instrumental Music (Christian Church,
Disciples of Christ)

Missionary Society (Disciples of Christ) – a
group to collect funds from churches and then to
be responsible for sending missionaries into the
field

That trend toward division appears to be
accelerating.

A Professor at Pepperdine noted in 2003, that among churches of Christ, some had moved away from their fellowship requiring immersion in water for the remission of sins. Others had decided that instrumental music was appropriate for the assembly. Yet others had begun using women to serve the Lord's supper and to lead in prayer or direct the singing.

He pointed out that churches of Christ are not alone in our belief that instrumental music is wrong as the Greek Orthodox church steadfastly refuses to allow instruments.

They should know the Greek on psallo (sing) at Eph 5:19 and the comparable word ado (sing) in Col 3:16

Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing (Gr psallo) and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing (Gr ado) with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

We are not alone on the meaning of the word baptism – A Greek Orthodox tract “Let’s put the water back in baptism!” Baptism is by immersion!

Acts 8:38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing.

They did not need to stop and go down into the water if sprinkling or pouring some water would have been sufficient. Only immersion (baptizing) requires much water.

Jn 3:23 And John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there; and they were coming and were being baptized.

But in all these problems and more , how do we know when we have been led astray by our teachers (writers) and we must reform our lives?

Gal 2:5 But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel might remain with you. 6 But from those who were of high reputation (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)-- well, those who were of reputation contributed nothing to me.

2 Tim 4:1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word;

2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

Brethren, error was present when Jesus walked on the earth, when Peter and Paul were preaching, when John wrote the Revelation and now. We must diligently search the Scriptures and then contend for the faith!

Jude 1:3 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.

We need to train our children and recognize ourselves, that we cannot change just because the world and the denominations are changing.

Rev 2.10 Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Mat 12:30 Whoever is not with me is against me,
and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

We have to take a stand or be lost.

Do not risk another day in the service of Satan.

Act 22:16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be
baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his
name.'