

The Gospel - the Faith - the Doctrine - the Truth

1 Timothy 1:1-3,10,11;2:4;3:15

Introduction:

- A. We tend to isolate each individual points of gospel, doctrine, faith, and truth.
 - 1. Easy to forget that all points are interwoven into a single unit: THE Gospel, THE Faith, THE Doctrine, THE Truth.
 - 2. Easy to forget that offence in one point, offends the whole unit. (Jas. 2:10).
- B. We sometimes make artificial distinctions in our use of these terms.
 - 1. Gospel and Doctrine.
 - 2. Doctrinal, Moral, and Practical.
 - 3. Assign relative importance based on these distinctions.
- C. We need to understand some facts about these terms:

Discussion:

I. THE TERMS ARE INTERCHANGEABLE.

- A. Each term refers to same system.
 - 1. "The Faith" and "The Gospel" (Col. 1:23).
 - 2. "Doctrine" and "Gospel" (1 Tim. 1:10,11).
 - 3. "Truth" and "The Gospel" (Gal. 2:5).
- B. Each term emphasizes a different feature of same system.
 - 1. "The Gospel" emphasizes it as a system of good news.
 - a. Greek: "glad tidings" or good news. cf. Evangelist, evangelism.
 - b. Old English: Good Spell.
 - 2. "The Faith" emphasizes it as a system of belief.
 - 3. "The Doctrine" emphasizes it as a system of teaching.
 - 4. "The Truth" emphasizes it as a system of spiritual truth.
- C. Each term demands the obedience.
 - 1. The Gospel must be obeyed. (2 Thess. 1:8).
 - 2. The Doctrine must be obeyed. (Rom. 6:17).
 - 3. The Faith must be obeyed. (Acts 6:7; Rom. 16:26).
 - 4. The Truth must be obeyed. (I Pet. 1:22).

II. THE TERMS ARE COMPREHENSIVE.

- A. Each term spans the whole of Christianity, not just select subjects.
 - 1. "The Gospel"
 - a. Includes Death, Burial and Resurrection. (1 Cor. 15:1-4)
 - b. Includes day to day behavior toward others. (Gal. 2:14)
 - 2. "The Doctrine"
 - a. Includes "form of doctrine" to be freed from sin (Rom. 6:17)
 - b. Includes various duties of Christians (Tit. 2:4ff).
 - 3. "The Truth"
 - a. Includes what is obeyed to become a Christian (I Pet. 1:22)
 - b. Includes what is obeyed as a Christian (Gal. 5:7).
 - 4. "The Faith"
 - a. Includes "fundamentals" (Acts 6:7).
 - b. Includes domestic duties. (1 Tim. 5:8).
- B. Each term includes all points, so interrelated as to be a single unit.
 - 1. Cannot single out certain points to believe and obey - all or none.
 - 2. Cannot decide some points essential and others non-essential - a single unit.
- C. Each term involves all points as a unit when dealing with error.

1. "Doctrine (of Christ)" vs. other doctrines (2 John 9; 1 Tim. 1:3; Rom. 16:17).- Cf. "Doctrine of Christ" & "Doctrine of Nicolaitans."
2. "Gospel" vs. "Another gospel" (Gal. 1:8,9).
3. "Contend for the faith" (Jude 3)
4. Some deceived because "they did not receive the love of the truth" (2 Thess. 2:10).
5. Does not answer the question: "(Gospel/Doc./Faith/Truth) about what?"- but simply "THE doctrine", "THE gospel", "THE faith", "THE truth".

Conclusion:

- A. Let us broaden our concepts of certain expressions we use:
 1. "Obeying the gospel" - More than Faith, Repentance and Baptism.
 2. "Doctrinal matters" - More than "tenets of faith", include daily living.
 3. "The faith" - More than "fundamentals", includes much more.
- B. Let us realize that we must commit ourselves to the "whole thing" - that every point is so related to the other that all subjects are considered as one.