

SPEAKERS

August 1 - Ken Storm
Holy Communion

August 8 - Nathan
Ruonavaara

August 15 - Ken Storm

August 22 - Bruce Sarkela

August 29 - Herb Jarvi

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday Service:
11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study:
7:00 p.m.

CONTACT

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Preach the Word

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine - 2 Timothy 4:2

Apostle Paul wrote two letters to Timothy in what amounts to be his final words of guidance to believers in Christ. Above all, he exhorted Timothy to guard his heart against false doctrine, especially against those “*desiring to be teachers of the law...*” (1 Timothy 1:7). One might question what is wrong with trying to satisfy the Ten Commandments seeing that God gave them to us. After all, we should do whatever we can to please our heavenly Father, shouldn’t we? Throughout his ministry, Paul opposed the notion that man should somehow try to fulfill the Law, even if only partially. It is human nature to try to please God but Paul contends that it only matters what God has done for you; not the other way around.

The Book of Acts details Paul’s struggle against such false doctrine when people from his own faith began to teach fellow believers that “*except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved*” (Acts 15:1). Paul taught that it was faith alone that saved a person and that there was no requirement to try to satisfy the law as well. However, there were certain ‘believers’ who adamantly opposed this idea, preferring instead to teach “*that it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses*” (Acts 15:5). To this Peter responded by saying that those who “*hear the word of the gospel, and believe*” will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost from “*God, which knoweth the hearts*” (Acts 15:7-8).

Before his conversion, Paul, being a Pharisee himself, would have totally agreed with the need of obeying the Law in order to be saved for he too “*taught according to the perfect manner of the law...*” (Acts 21:3). However, when Jesus spoke to him on the road to Damascus, Paul became awakened to his lost condition for the very first time in his life. But it was not until Ananias placed his hands on him that Paul was saved being “*filled with the Holy Ghost*” (Acts 9:17) just as John the Baptist said would happen to all who repent of their sins in the name of Jesus: “*I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I...he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire*” (Matthew 3:11). Paul testified that God gave him the ‘faith’ to believe that his sins were forgiven when he met with Ananias: “*arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord*” (Acts 22:16). Thus, Paul’s salvation had nothing to do with satisfying the Law of Moses but with being baptized with the Holy Ghost: that’s how he and the other Apostles taught.

This battle for the hearts and minds of man has not relented over time and will only gain in strength of deception in the latter days: “*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; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry*” (2 Timothy 4:3-5). It is abundantly clear today that most people think more of themselves than of others, let alone to think of the eternal salvation of others. Preachers of ‘false doctrine’ have always appeared to be righteous, “*Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away*” (2 Timothy 3:5). Sadly, those who stubbornly turn their back to God will continue to listen to false doctrine and to go about life without knowing that they are sinners in need of God’s

saving grace: *“but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand...”* (Daniel 12:10).

Thus, Paul’s guidance to Timothy centers on believers being ever-ready to ‘preach the word’. That is to never tire of teaching that *“through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins”* (Acts 13:38). It will then follow that those that truthfully call upon God will be granted the grace to repent of their sin and to believe the gospel message of forgiveness proclaimed by a messenger of God, such as Ananias. These penitent souls will then personally understand what God has done for them as they study scripture under the tutelage of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

God’s Peace,
Charles Korhonen