

## “PROBLEMS TODAY!”

There were problems in the first century and they had to be dealt with – Paul did this very thing. Timothy was left in Ephesus that he might, *“charge certain men not to teach a different doctrine,”* I Tim. 1:3. Titus is charged with the same task in Crete, *“For there are many unruly men, vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision, 11 whose mouths must be stopped; men who overthrow whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre’s sake ..... For which cause reprove them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, 14 not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men who turn away from the truth,”* Tit. 1:11-14. They had their problems and **they were charged with dealing with them.**

Today, we find many Gospel Preachers (?) not willing to deal with the problems we have. It could be they do not want to lose their job! It could be they are not grounded in the faith and do not know how to defend the truth! It could be they are so weak and passive they do not want to soil their hands doing the difficult work that needs to be done. We are “SOLDIERS” and this should not be forgotten. We are expected to stand up and be counted, and oppose that which is **destroying** the Lord’s people.

If I was called upon to name some of these issues I would begin by stating: (1) Denominationalism is a threat; because, when we fail to teach on such our brethren begin to lean toward that and soon they will think there is nothing wrong with denominationalism. (2) Those who teach “baptism has nothing to do with one being saved,” are wrong and the truth needs to be presented. Acts 22:16, There is a *“washing away of sins,”* in baptism. (3) Instruments of music in the worship of the Lord should be opposed, Col. 3:16, *“sing with grace in your hearts unto God.”* If I can change the form of singing, why then cannot I change the form of baptism, Col. 2:12 from *“burial”* to sprinkling and pouring? (4) Problems with the Lord’s Supper not being served every First Day of the week, this was like the Sabbath, each and every Sabbath; so, each and every First Day of the week! (5) The issue of The Deity Humanity of Christ must be considered. There are those among us who feel Jesus was just an “ordinary man” while here on earth. (6) The doctrine of “70ADism” should be considered and a strong effort should be made to *“stop the mouths”* of those who advocate such. Should I go farther? Many, many other subjects could be named, I am confident there are those who do not know what I am talking about with most of these subjects listed – which is further evidence there are preachers not doing their work and not fulfilling their duty as Gospel preachers. **Just to do nothing is to join forces with the devil!**

Are we to sacrifice truth for a large congregation? Do we limit truth just to have a fat check each week? Do we preach “positive sermons,” just to have large beautiful buildings – remembering the million dollars for Manhattan! This was a promotion to build a million dollar building in Manhattan. It is easy to get side tracked from the cause of the Lord.

There was a time when I felt most preachers of the Gospel of Christ were capable and able to defend the truth in the area where they were and now I doubt that to be so! Paul said, *“I am set for the defence of the Gospel,”* Phil. 1:16; yet, at the departure of his life he could say, *“I have fought the good fight, I have kept the faith,”* II Tim. 4:7. Please note that *“keeping the faith,”* is equated with, *“I have fought the good fight,”* II Tim. 4:7.

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