

# LOVING SOUND DOCTRINE

HEALING OUR ITCHY EARS



## THE PROFITABLE NATURE OF SOUND DOCTRINE ...

1. The true value of sound doctrine is in the training and direction we receive that causes us to live in the will of God and love the will of God, 3:16.

- (2 Timothy 3:16 LSB) All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **training in righteousness**.

a. When teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness are doing their profitable work in our lives, we experience the good and pleasing and perfect will of God in our daily lives.

- (Romans 12:2 LSB) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may approve what the will of God is, that which is good and pleasing and perfect.

b. Living in the will of God we live in a world with hope and with God.

c. We experience the goodness of God and break free from our previous world in which there was no hope and no God.

d. When we were apart from Christ, our world was a dark, fearful place—a world without hope.

- (Ephesians 2:12 NIV) Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

e. We are blessed because we see clearly his will for our lives.

f. For instance, it is God's will that we know what great love he has for us, his compassion for us and how wonderfully and powerfully he forgives our sins.

g. Living in the will of God we taste these things and become thoroughly convinced of them.

- (Psalm 103:11–14 ESV) For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. 13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. 14 For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

h. We come to love the word of God (sound doctrine) that yields the fruit of living in the will of God.

---

FOR THE TIME IS COMING WHEN PEOPLE WILL NOT ENDURE SOUND TEACHING, BUT HAVING ITCHING EARS THEY WILL ACCUMULATE FOR THEMSELVES TEACHERS TO SUIT THEIR OWN PASSIONS.

(2 TIMOTHY 4:3 ESV)

- (Psalm 119:97–100 LSB) **Oh how I love Your law!** It is my meditation all the day. 98 **Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies,** For they are mine forever. 99 I have more insight than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation. 100 I perceive more than the aged, **Because I have observed Your precepts.**
- (Psalm 119:103–104 LSB) **How sweet is Your word to my taste!** Sweeter than honey to my mouth! 104 From Your precepts I get perception; Therefore I hate every false way.

#### THE THOROUGH PREPARATION OF SOUND DOCTRINE ...

2. The person who lives in and loves the will of God hungers for the opportunity to be thoroughly equipped by sound doctrine to do God's good work, 3:17.

- (2 Timothy 3:17 LSB) So that the man of God may be equipped, having been thoroughly equipped for every good work.

#### THE ENDURING NECESSITY OF PREACHING SOUND DOCTRINE ...

3. Hand-in-hand: Faithfully preaching sound doctrine enables and empowers faithful living in the will of God, 4:1-5.

- (2 Timothy 4:1–5 LSB) **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 teaching.** 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.** 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

- a. We are solemnly charged in the presence of God to faithfully preach the word.

**Charge means** to solemnly exhort; to exhort someone concerning grave or important matters (in or as in a legal context).

- b. We are solemnly charged to faithfully preach the word in season and out of season.
- c. We are solemnly charged to stay true to the purpose and profit of the world—reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and teaching.

#### THE ENDURING NECESSITY OF RECEIVING SOUND DOCTRINE ...

4. So if we are solemnly charged in the presence of God to preach the word in season and out of season, then we are surely solemnly charged to hear and receive the word in season and out of season.

- (2 Timothy 4:3 ESV) For the time is coming **when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions.**

**Itchy ears ...** κνήθω [knetho] ... to scratch, tickle, make to itch; **desirous of hearing something pleasant; to desire to listen to something specific;** conceived of as having an itch on one's ear that one desires to scratch.

Here are the spiritual analytics for the person who wants to have their ears tickled or itched ...

- a. This person is not profiting from the word of God as God intended.
- b. This person turns away from truth to fulfill his desires rather than follow the will of God.
- c. This person will turn to fiction—myths—preferring to determine the narrative and construct a reality that fits his will.

**Myth ...** μῦθος [muthos] ... a speech, word, saying; a narrative, story; a fiction, a fable; an invention, a falsehood—a piece of fiction that narrates a chain of related events; especially understood as ahistorical.

#### THE SOBER DETERMINATION TO FULFILL OUR CALLING ...

5. Be sober-minded, endure, work and fulfill what God has called you to do.