

# Slouching Toward Apostasy

The Digression Toward Religious  
Liberalism

(2 Tim.4:3-4)

# What Is “Liberalism”?

## ■ Websters:

- “Not literal or strict: LOOSE
- “BROAD-MINDED; esp: not bound by authoritarianism, orthodoxy, or traditional forms.”

## ■ Concept of “Liberalism” discussed today

- Loose interpretation of God’s Word
- Permissiveness
- Not holding fast or adhering to a standard

# What Makes A Church Become “Liberal”?

- What are the steps that lead to liberal apostasy?
  - Steps that led to Achan’s apostasy (Josh.7:21)

# Joshua 7:21

- "When I saw among the spoils a beautiful Babylonian garment, two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. And there they are, hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent, with the silver under it."

# What Makes A Church Become “Liberal”?

- What are the steps that lead to liberal apostasy?
  - Steps that led to Achan’s apostasy (Josh.7:21)
  - Accountability requires that we recognize the steps or trends toward liberalism and stop them before they lead to complete apostasy
- “For the time will come...” (2Tim.4:3-4)

## 2 Timothy 4:3-4

- 3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;
- 4** and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

# What Makes A Church Become “Liberal”?

- What are the steps that lead to liberal apostasy?
- “For the time will come...” (2Tim.4:3-4)
  1. Will not endure sound doctrine
  2. Find preachers to preach it the way they want to hear it, believe it and practice it!
  3. Turn aside to fables (doctrines of men)

# Steps Leading To Liberalism

- **Neglect of God's Word**
  - Failure to study on a personal level
  - Failure to consult God's Word before proceeding
  - Lack of concern for divine authority
  - "Destroyed for a lack of knowledge"



# Steps Leading To Liberalism

- **Aversion to Militant Preaching – Preference for Softer / Generic Sermons**
  - Not enduring sound doctrine
  - Shy away from distinctive truths
  - “Tell us what is right – not what is wrong”

# Steps Leading To Liberalism

- Interest in the Material Over the Spiritual
  - Result of first two symptoms
  - Enamored by wealth, wisdom and appearance
  - Spiritual matters and values are lost
  - Lose sight of the spiritual mission of the church

# Spiritual Mission of the Church

- Spiritual Body (1Pet.2:5)
- Spiritual Worship (Jn.4:24)
- Spiritual Mission (1Tim.3:15)
- Evangelism
- Edification
- Benevolence

# Steps Leading To Liberalism

- Interest in the Material Over the Spiritual
  - Result of first two symptoms
  - Enamored by wealth, wisdom and appearance
  - Spiritual matters and values are lost
  - Lose sight of the spiritual mission of the church
  - Pursuit of Social Gospel
  - Jesus' mission was spiritual!

# Steps Leading To Liberalism

- **Neglect of God's Word**
- **Aversion to Militant Preaching – Preference for Softer / Generic Sermons**
- **Interest in the Material Over the Spiritual**

# Slouching Toward Apostasy... Or Pressing Toward The Goal?

“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.” (Hebrews 2:1)