

Is it Biblical to confront  
apostasies  
and wrong teachings  
even in our enlightened day and age?

If in doubt, let's see what the Apostle Paul has to say on this thorny issue.

2 Tim. 4.1-5

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

**Preach the Word**; be prepared in season and out of season;

**Correct, rebuke and encourage** – with great patience and careful instruction (!)

**For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine** (=it will upset them).

Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather **around them a great number of teachers** to say what their itching ears want to hear (=to suit their liking)

**They will turn their ears away from the truth** and turn aside to **myths** (=they will design their own teachings, also interpretations of the gospel that had gone forth initially, and which will also determine their training in the Scriptures and so that they can feel good about themselves and be popular in the sight of man, in stead of learning how to please God by doing what His Word prescribes for those who are called by His Name).

**But YOU !**

keep your head in all situations,

endure hardship

do the work of an evangelist

discharge all the duties of your ministry.

(Quoted from Thompson Chain-Reference Bible (NIV), 1984

Compare the aforementioned with the Good News Bible, First S.A. Ed 1977, Seventh Imp. 1981:

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and because he is coming to rule as King, I solemnly urge you to -

preach the message,

to insist upon proclaiming it (whether the time is right or not),

to convince,

**reproach,**

and encourage, as you teach **with all patience.**

The time will come

**when people will not listen to sound doctrine,**

but will follow their own desires

and will collect for themselves more and more teachers

who will tell them what they are itching to hear.

**They will turn away from listening to the truth**

and give their attention to legends.

**But YOU!**

must keep control of yourself in all circumstances;

endure suffering,

do the work of a preacher of the Good News

and perform your whole duty as a servant of God.

[Coming from the pen of a teacher of sound doctrine (Paul) and who, for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ, was sacrificed (his life was harshly brought to an end through martyrdom and just because he had brought the message as Jesus had desired it of him and as he had also passed it on to amongst others, Timothy.

Therefore Paul could so boldly confess : “I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith (=as he had received it from Jesus and as it was preached by His apostles) “.....And now there is waiting for me the prize of victory awarded for a righteous life, the prize which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that Day – and not only to me, but to all those who wait with love for him to appear (=and who have also finished the race like Paul did and in the manner he had set the example it be done (2 Tim. 4.6-7; 1 Cor. 15.1-2)].

The apostle, in accordance with true apostolic practice, urged us then to give an ear to sound doctrine rather than lending our time and ears to modern-day myths – teachings that are steering us away from adherence to faith in God and gospel truth.

We are, to put it plainly, then called to walk only in the Light of the Word, also to follow closely the teachings of Jesus and His apostles, rather than seeking flimsy comfort in self-sustenance, self-enhancement, self-enrichment, self-indulgent ego-inflation training (=courses designed not for healthy personal growth but to equip the psyche with a sense of hyper self-confidence and egocentricity, self-promotion and self-enlightenment – all then revolving around asserting the most important “self” and so that, in stead of drawing closer to Jesus/Yeshua day by day through prayer and which approach will indeed ensure a closer walk with Him, also confidence in Him - we in the end may become so self-directed and self-reliant that we will hardly be able to think of tried-and-true dependence on the Lord!

We then have to come nearer to God willingly and with full motivation of heart in order to remain spiritually alert (=to remain in

Him) and we can surely do so just by committing ourselves one hundred percent to our goal, namely to, (1) reply to God (=to repent/teshuva) and (2), and do what He requires of us in His Word. Should we be prepared to do so, we will then rest in Christ for we will then be walking the path of righteousness (=right standing with God). For such ones there is no condemnation, only constant transformation as we daily keep growing in Him.

And this is indeed something which can only really be done should we actively apply God's principles and prescriptions to our lives and so that we will also then be able to live the principles of God spontaneously, namely to “love our neighbour as ourselves”. A pretty hard *Biblical* prescription!

Beginning then of course first and foremost by cultivating within ourselves, through perseverance and dedication, an unfeigned love for Jesus, and then applying the love we have gained for Jesus to others by doing to them (=our fellows/neighbour) what He demands of us in His Word.

Our guideline of course always being the Bible and sharing what we have received from our Lord with others who are in dire need of true spirituality and which can only be found in Jesus who came not to make us feel self-important, but to save our souls through **redemption** (to reconcile us unto God). Jesus/Yeshua can then change us from self-centered to God-centred, from selfish to altruistic, caring and sharing the way Jesus/Yeshua had set the example for us.

Therefore, let us thank God if He may be sending somebody on our way to reprimand us and so that we can bring our lives in line with God's Word!

The basis of our spiritual life then must remain, namely the solid foundation, for this is the *sound* doctrinal standard that was once delivered to the saints and which must be upheld regardless what the standards of this world may be thrusting upon us (Jude v3)!

So let's strive for a closer walk with Jesus for the King is coming! Besides, the true follower of Jesus is heading for “Canaan's land” where true spiritual and personal fulfilment are awaiting those who have persevered in the path of righteousness, not then trying to create for the self here below a “successful” Utopia and which may offer soul-satisfaction for a moment but which will also not be permanent!

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