

## ***SOUND DOCTRINE***

"For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables." (2 Timothy 4:3,4). The words of Paul to Timothy have come to pass multiplied times in history. People have not been satisfied with the simplicity of the "sound doctrine" and have adopted ways that are more pleasing to their senses.

Many times, there is some pre-harvest separating of the wheat from the chaff because of "sound doctrine." When peoples' feet are being stepped upon on a regular basis, they will be forced to make a decision to either conform to the sound doctrine or to seek teachers that will tickle their ears. When this happens, generally the loss will hardly be noticed by the faithful members. This has much to do with the quality of the chaff in the first place. They are most often the "on-again-off-again" attenders that hardly ever take part in a Bible class or are involved in the work of the church. They are the first to criticize, and the last to accept criticism. The ones who think the church should be involved in the "recreation business" but don't come often enough to know why it is not.

The only, and the most important loss that is incurred by the departing of such people, is the loss of their precious souls. This is the factor that should concern us most. Certainly their presence in our assembly will not make us any the worse nor any the better, but when they go to where the doctrine suits them, they have thrown down the standard of truth, and substituted the standard of "what pleases me." Since we know that those who go beyond the teaching of Christ have not God (2 John 9), we must conclude that in seeking something outside the doctrine of Christ, they "have not God."

May God give us the strength to continue to abide within the bounds of the "sound doctrine" and not to be victimized by the sweet and flowery words of those who are subscribing to something less than the "sound doctrine" delivered by the apostles.

\*\*\*Gailen E. Evans\*\*\*