

A Closer Look at the Ephesian Heresy

Introduction

At least five false teachings have been cited by scholars to explain the Ephesian heresy that Paul repeatedly confronts and refutes throughout his two epistles to Timothy (I Timothy 1:3-11, 4:1-6, 6:3-5 and II Timothy 2:15-18, 3:1-9). All five of these are treated in other New Testament epistles and have continued to plague the church in some form or another in “these last days” before our Lord’s return. All, if consistently practiced, will result in apostasy.

Five False Teachings

1. Asceticism – S_____ m_____ results when one r_____ from certain “earthly” activities or possessions (Colossians 2:8-23).
2. Judaism – The o_____ of the c_____ l_____ in some form (especially c_____) is required for s_____ (Acts 15, Galatians, and Hebrews).
3. Jewish Fables/Myths – Speculations beyond the t_____ of the O____ T_____ took on g_____ i_____ (Titus 1:13-14 and 3:8-9).
4. Gnosticism – This emphasizes the need for a k_____ which sees the m_____ w_____ as either e_____ or an i_____ (I John 1:1-4). Advocates of this position often practiced either extreme l_____ or a_____ (Colossians 2:8-23).
5. Resurrection Confusion – The b_____ that the r_____ had already occurred was d_____ many (I Corinthians 15 I Thessalonians 4:13 and II Thessalonians 2:1-2).