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You Lose!

The Detrimental Effects of the Decline of Doctrine

by G. Richard Fisher

Modern theology is in a crisis. The Evangelical and Charismatic churches have a huge identity problem and they do not even know it. Discernment is declining and there is no doubting that the Church at large has lost its way. For a number of years the American Church has been the target of marketeers interested only in profit. These hucksters will sell anything regardless of its content. We are inundated and buried under a deluge of fads, countless vapid books, and "Jesus junk."

There is even a recent book on praying backwards and the cover of the volume assures you that you can "transform your prayer life by beginning in Jesus' Name."¹ What Bruce Wilkinson's *Prayer of Jabez* did not do, this one may — and all one has to do is use the mantra "Jesus" at the beginning of the prayer. The marketeers get rich while the Church is facing doctrinal poverty. The Church at large is sick unto death. The plague of doctrinal ignorance is stalking the land. As Isaiah once said, "The whole head is sick, And the whole heart faints" (Isaiah 1:5b).



Commenting on the book of Titus and the problems in Crete, author and pastor James Draper observes:

"God put a divine order in the church. He gave the church his Word, the basis for all we do and say. If our interpretation or creed contradicts at any point with the Word of God, the Word of God is to be our authority. To make sure this is done, God gave the churches pastors and leaders in the church. They are to keep pure the teachings of the church. These heretics in Crete had no willingness to accept the authority of the Word of God or the apostolic authority within the church."²

WHICH SIDE ARE WE ON?

The most basic question is not being asked. It is an absolutely fundamental question. That question is, "Are Evangelical pastors and leaders staying

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