

Accusations Against Truth Teachers (Part 1)

Sermon by Andy Sochor

Text: John 15:18-21

Those who are opposed to the truth will naturally be opposed to those who speak the truth. Jesus came “to testify to the truth” (John 18:37) and was crucified for it. He warned that we will receive the same kind of treatment. We also see this throughout the book of Acts. We are going to look at the accusations made against truth teachers in Acts. This will hopefully help us prepare for potential accusations that will be made against us today.

“They Are Full of Sweet Wine” (Acts 2:13)

- When the accusation was made – day of Pentecost; apostles received the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues (Acts 2:1-4); this drew a crowd (Acts 2:5-6), and they were amazed (Acts 2:7)
- Why the accusation – it is safe to assume that the accusers were focusing on the languages they did NOT understand; they also ignored the sound (Acts 2:2), sight (Acts 2:3), and the crowd’s reaction (Acts 2:6-8); but they were “mocking” (Acts 2:13); they were not serious about considering what was happening
- Answering the accusation – whether fermented or unfermented wine, the charge was absurd (Acts 2:15)
- Give no credibility to the accusation – we are not to be drunk at any time (Ephesians 5:18); Christians are to avoid the casual use of alcohol that could lead to this (1 Peter 4:3-4)

“We Have Heard Him Speak Blasphemous Words...Against God” (Acts 6:11)

- When the accusation was made – Stephen was teaching and performing miracles (Acts 6:8-10); his opponents could not argue with him (Acts 6:9), so they induced some to make this charge
- Why the accusation – it was intended to turn the people against Stephen (Acts 6:12); they wanted to portray Stephen as being against the law, the temple, and the customs of Moses (Acts 6:13-14)
- Answering the accusation – his defense outlined a history of rebellion by God’s people (Acts 7:1-50); he accused them of rejecting God’s messengers just as their forefathers did (Acts 7:51-53)
- Give no credibility to the accusation – the old law may have been nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:14), but we must still be clear that the Law of Moses is good (Romans 7:12); we should also point out what the law was intended to do, which was to lead people to Christ (Galatians 3:24; cf. Acts 17:2-3)

They Are “Proclaiming Customs Which [Are] Not Lawful” (Acts 16:21)

- When the accusation was made – in Philippi, Paul cast a spirit out of a slave girl (Acts 16:16-18); this ruined her masters’ hope of profit (Acts 16:16, 19), so they dragged them before the authorities
- Why the accusation – this was meant to turn the Roman authorities against Paul and Silas; they portrayed them as inciting rebellion (Acts 16:20-21), and as Jews (non-Romans)
- Answering the accusation – not given a chance to answer right away (Acts 16:22-24); instead, Paul later called out the authorities for their unlawful actions (Acts 16:35-40)
- Give no credibility to the accusation – there are times to ignore or defy the law (Acts 5:29); but otherwise, we are to be good citizens (1 Peter 2:13-15); live in such a way that accusations like this seem foolish (1 Peter 2:12, 15)

Conclusion

- In these examples, false accusations were made because people wanted to mock the truth, argue against the truth, and reject the truth in favor of material gain
- They did not love the truth, but were offended by it – we must love the truth to be saved (2 Thessalonians 2:10)
- Despite any accusations that will be made, we need to keep teaching the truth, following the truth, and encouraging others to believe and obey the truth today