BIBLE STUDY THE APOSTLE PAUL' S FIRST EPISTLE TO TIMOTHY



Having come to an end of our study on the Apostles Paul's First Epistle to Timothy. I have some feedback that I would like to share with you. You will be aware that one or two issues arose that were not addressed. We had an issue with what was an Apostle and I raised the question are there Apostles in the church today?

Another issue was when it was sighted, by one of the ladies, that in Hebrews¹ that Jesus was an Apostle, I further added that in Isaiah it is written whom shall² I send and who shall go for us? I stated that this had reference to Jesus Christ, who was sent by the Father, but this suggestion was rejected and denied saying it had nothing to do with Jesus as it was Isaiah that was sent to the people and not Jesus. To which, I now add, that although it was Isaiah that was sent, as an apostle, that it was the very message that Isaiah was given to speak to the people that Jesus delivered as The Apostle when he spoke to the people of his day³, which means it had every thing to do with Jesus and more, a matter that should not be discarded.

Another issue arose when I said that I believed COVID was sent by

¹ Hebrews 3:1

² Isaiah 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

³ Matth 13:13, This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. 14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which saith, 'By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive.

God for a reason, but this was dismissed and rejected, in disdain, by the ladies without discussion. So when I sensed the alarm at my suggestion I felt it best to say I was not arguing with them and stated I was expressing my belief.

Bare in mind my son Isaac, Jessica Alex and Rebekah had contracted COVID and in isolation and lock down, only Isaac and Rebekah professed to be Christens. I counselled them all, in connection with a Christian view of God's providence and government of the world, and with them in particular. They knew their lives with in the hand of God and not in a world left to chance and uncertainty. Therefore we are directed to God to seek God in Prayer for help and deliverance from all evils. That it was for that reason I had asked a the meeting for the church to pray for them.

The other matter that occurred, which upset one of the women who reacted in anger towards me and resulted in an unpleasantness felt on my part was when I asked the question, and gave the answer, 'Are there Apostles today?', I stated there were none. It was this view the lady objected too as she felt otherwise.

After that objection I decided to remain silent during the next study as I anticipated unpleasant objections being raised to a faithful exposition of the scripture, in connection with the role of men and women in the church.

The study, in the 2nd Chapter, was conducted at the next meeting, and I remained silent during the meeting, for the reasons stated above and in my opinion the sensitive issues that I anticipated were avoided and not treated in a scriptural way. This matter related to a women roles in the church and the plain meaning of the scripture. The matter was avoided and not treated. Leaving the matter open to the opinion of those who believed it was written to keep women down.

The other matter that raised its self was in connection with the sovereignty of God and with COVID, etc, I understand from scripture that all things that come to pass are according to the Will of God⁴, I considered it a failure, or denial of the rule of God, in the government of the world, in providence and grace, and leads to what I have termed Modern Atheism⁵. For this denies the predestination of God,⁶ the purpose of God in saving the elect according to His grace and a correct understanding of the verses in connection with 1 Timothy 16 and its meaning in connection with salvation.

⁴ Lamentations 3:31 Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?

⁵ Modern Atheism http://www.davidclarke.altervista.org/The%20Modern%20
Atheist%20html files/content.htm#bookmark0

⁶ See R.C. Spoal on <u>All Christians Believe In Predestination</u>

As already mentioned I had experienced some unpleasant objections, from the ladies, over the matter of Apostles and COVID and I felt at that time I should say no more and abstained from expressing the biblical view on both subjects. As a result these matters spoken of in 1 Timothy 2. 15, were not treated correctly, which to my mind were vital and pertinent in light of the problem that have arisen in the church during the past two or three years.

I have since conducted my own study on the subject of the role of women 7 in the church, that involved my daughter Maisie (age 16) , and her 16 year old friend, which included Alex and Rebekah (both 24) , in the reading of scripture, and an exercise which demonstrated that a correct reading of the scripture, and in particular this passage of scripture 1 Tim 2 11-14.is important, if we are to remain faithful to scripture.

The matters relating to a woman's role in the church was avoided in our study and no reference was made to complimentary passages of scripture⁸ that cite Peter, another Apostle, that taught on this subject and the matter discarded leaving the matter open to the opinion of the ladies, which as one of them said was written to put women down.

Further to that I felt it unfair to sight Islam, at our last meeting, and its treatment of women, as an example of the way Christianity treated women in the early Church. This is because some believe the bible is out of date and not appropriate for today and it is often sight that Islam and its treatment of women is the reason why we can reject what scripture says on this matter.

We must learn from the bible alone as to how men and women are to behave and be treated and how they were treated in the church, not only in the church but also in the family and the wider society of the world.

Islam is a relativity new religion and Islamic teachings are found in the Quran. Islam was founded by Mohamed who was born in the year 570 AD. The Quran was compiled as a religious text during the life time of Mohammed. It is not Christian and so it is ungodly.

All of the Old and New Testament scriptures were published and

- 7 A Woman's Role In A Christian Church https://www.biertonparticularbaptists.co.uk/resources/Women's%20Role%202.pdf
- 8 34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. 35And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church. 36 What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only? 37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. 38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

accepted by Christians, as the word of God, some 500 years before the Quran was composed⁹ and it is unfair to sight the Quran as a representation of the way Christians treated women.

All Christians will know that the Quran distorts and rejects the person of Jesus Christ as the Son of God, his death and resurrection and rejects the New Testament scriptures.

It is also true to say that Roman Catholicism and the Roman Catholic church system, distorts the New Testament teaching concerning the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ and its veneration of Mary, and therefore Islam, or Roman Catholicism, is no representation of the teaching of Christ concerning any matter relating to doctrine and practice in the Christian religion.

All Christians believe and teach what the Old and New Testament scriptures teach concerning the relationships between men and women, children and parents, not only in the church but in the wider society in the world.

In connection with the church the relationship between Christ and the Church it mapped out by the marriage relationship, where Christ is the head of the Church as the man is the head of the women in marriage.¹⁰

In the New Testament we are taught, by the Apostle Paul, by the charge¹¹ he gave to Timothy to observe all that taught without preferring one another and so not being partial in judgement or treatment of others. And also, 1 Tim 2.1, Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

The New Testament also teaches the various roles of men, women and children, in the church and society making clear distinctions between male and female¹²

The Apostle taught clearly the roles of men and women in the Church stating women were not to teach¹³ or usurp authority over the man and that these principles were not cultural but directed by God from the

- 9 <u>The West and The Quran, by David Clarke,</u> "The Quran, New Testament and The Old Testament.
 - 10 Mary, Mary Quite Contrary, by David Clarke, Chapter 14, Christian Marriage
- 11 1 Timothy 5:21 "I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality."
- 12 Mark 10:6 "But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female."
- 13 1 Timothy 2:12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

creation,¹⁴ as a pattern for the church in the future. He also taught men should love their wives¹⁵ as Christ loved the Church.

And Peter taught of the behaviour of women¹⁶ how they were to imitate holy women such as Sarah, Abraham's wife.

We are also taught in the New Testament of the qualifications¹⁷ for

- 14 1 Timothy 2 11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection: But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to user-pt authority over the man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression: 15 Notwithstanding she shall be saved in child-bearing, if they continue in faith and charity, and holiness, with sobriety.
- 15 Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.
- 16 1 Peter 3:3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. 5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: 6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.
- 17 1 Timothy 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. 8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; 9 Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. 10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. 11 Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. 12 Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

elders (Bishops) and Deacons in the Church.

We are also taught how all men¹⁸ and women both old and young, and widowed including offices of the church are to be treated in a just way.

In connection to Islam and its treatment of women and that of any other system of religion is that the scriptures alone are to be the rule of conduct and practice of the Christian church. We are not to be governed by the opinions of the world outside of the church, or the philosophies of the world or our own thinking and ideas. And just as Islam and Roman Catholicism has distorted the scriptural teaching on many things and the directions given on this subject we must avoid going to the other extreme and ignore what is written on this subject relating to men and women in the Church.

It is argued by many, including my son Isaac and I speak to younger people, that they believe the Apostles were not always correct and they were fallible, therefore they may be wrong in matters of those relationships spoken of in the New Testament, and that in our modern age, old fashioned and primitive ideas of men were wrong and inappropriate for the age we live in.

It is often stated that there was no world flood in Noah's day, that Adam was not the first man, that the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was not due to sexual immorality, that the bible teaching on male, female, gender, and their relationships, including chastity are out of step with the modern proponents of Diversity, Inclusivity and Equality. That the gospel is to do with loving people only and so the biblical views on the subjects under discussion can be discarded.

This error is demonstrated by my son Isaac who is a living example of those who lightly esteem the scriptures and their authority. He denies that

^{18 1} Timothy 5:1 Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; 2 The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity. 3 Honour widows that are widows indeed. 4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God. 5 Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. 6 But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. 7 And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless. 8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. 9 Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man. 10 Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work. 11 But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; 12 Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith.

Adam was the first man and that the Apostle's directions relating doctrine and practice, in connection with men and women's role in the church, that they were wrong. And for this reason I direct you to an article written on the subject of Apostolic Canonisation¹⁹ of the scriptures, by Ed Stevens, which I hope will open up another important subject that needs to be considered, if we are to study the bible and learn of all those matters taught for our edification. All of which shows the need to clearly state what, and why, the bible speaks, and is the authority on the rule of faith, and practice for the Christian, and for such reason articles of religion²⁰ are generally used to teach alert people regarding ones beliefs on those subjects that are taught in the scriptures.

My son who should know better and is a produce of modern atheism²¹. as Christians we must be directed by the Word of God, in all matters of faith and practice alone, and not our own ideas, or those of the world of men.

David Clarke 19th January 2022

¹⁹ Apostolic Canonisation by Ed. Stevens.

²⁰ Bierton Particular Baptists Articles Of Religion

²¹ See Prelude to Modern Atheism