

## CAUSES OF A LACK OF DISCERNMENT

- I. De-emphasis on THEOLOGY (Titus 1:9)
  - A. The VALUE of systematic theology
    - 1. It takes a BROAD look at the BODY of Truth
    - 2. It takes a DETAILED look at SPECIFIC truths
  - B. The DEMANDS of systematic theology (1 Tim. 6:3)
    - 1. It requires ENERGETIC THINKING
    - 2. It requires ACCURATE THINKING
  - C. The DEFLECTIONS from systematic theology (2 Tim. 4:3)
    - 1. *Liberalism* denies the Bible's TRUSTWORTHINESS
    - 2. Much of *Evangelicalism* doubts the Bible's SUFFICIENCY and CLARITY
    - 3. Much of *Fundamentalism* usurps the Bible's AUTHORITY
  - D. The CONSEQUENCES of forsaking systematic theology
    - 1. The theological "wheel" is constantly REINVENTED
    - 2. Self-styled "EXPERTS" are looked to as "AUTHORITIES"
    - 3. Important TERMINOLOGY is used CARELESSLY
    - 4. False teaching is first TOLERATED, then EMBRACED (cf. Rev. 2:2)

## II. Disintegrating LEADERSHIP

- A. Ignoring the need for EQUIPPING the SAINTS (Eph. 4:11-12)
  - 1. Pastors are emphasizing IMAGE over SUBSTANCE
  - 2. Pastors are prioritizing ENTERTAINMENT over TRAINING
- B. Failure to provide proper OVERSIGHT and GUIDANCE (Heb. 13:7, 17)
  - 1. People follow INDIVIDUALS without SUPERVISION
  - 2. Merchandising CELEBRITIES has replaced maturing SAINTS
  - 3. Landscape is cluttered with “faith-based” organizations without ACCOUNTABILITY
  - 4. “PROFESSIONAL” counselors have replaced “PASTORAL” counsel
  - 5. Autonomy has become ANARCHY, freedom has become LICENSE