

CAUSES OF A LACK OF DISCERNMENT (continued)

- 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 defections 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