

Tract Number Six
“That Form of Doctrine”

NOTES FROM THE TEXTBOOK



Clifton H Carpenter

Romans 6:17 But God be thanked, that whereas you were the servants of sin, you have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

The epistle of Paul to the Romans contains many doctrinal truths and could be considered one of the scholarly expositions of the New Testament. The Apostle Peter speaks of Paul's writings as, some things hard to be understood. Romans could very well qualify as being a hard book to understand; not so much for its literary style, but the content of its message. The theme is God's Plan for Righteousness and Salvation: Eternal life received by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul takes much time in simplifying this great truth and elaborating upon the privileges that are ours because of the sacrifice of God's Son. The failure of many to accept the simplicity of the gospel, accounts for much of the perversions from the truth. Therefore, Romans continues to be a relevant study in supplying the believer with information related to what is true Christian Doctrine.

In our lesson text, the Apostle commends the Roman Christians for their positive response to the doctrine he had delivered – That Form of Doctrine. The key word in this phrase is the word “form” it is a translation of the Greek word “tupos” which means “an impression made by a blow” It was the method of the Apostle Paul to instruct his students in the things pertaining to Jesus Christ.

He taught a specialized system of truth in order to produce salvation as evidenced by faith and growth in grace. These Romans whom Paul longed to see, had accepted the gospel report, and the affect was such that they were no longer servants of sin.

The uniqueness of the Christian life is that we are no longer slaves to sin; sin does not continue to master our lives. We are freed from its bondage and have inherited a new Master, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is to Him that we owe our allegiance. Although there are those who contend that we are sinless the moment we become a Christian, the struggle with the flesh is quite apparent and speaks loudly to oppose this teaching.

However, happiness is ours when we become obedient to the claims of Christ. The more we learn and appropriate the things of Christ - the less we sin. This new life is a progressive life, and it never ceases to be so until we leave this earthly life. There is a pattern in which the church is moving, toward the unity of faith.

The importance of teaching doctrine is of necessity because of its importance to the Christian life. Christian life or morality is the fruit that grows from the tree of Christian Doctrine.

Beloved, what impression has the gospel made upon your life since you have believed? Does conviction follow when you walk contrary to the claims of Jesus Christ? Is there disciplinary action on the part of the Holy Spirit to cause correction in your life?

If this is the case, thanks to God, that whereas you were the servant to sin, you have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine that can deliver you from the power of sin.