

“Holding the Line’

Eph. 6:13-14

Introduction

- I. There comes a time in battle when individuals have to fight not to lose ground.
- II. More than likely, there were many times that intense effort led to the gains that had been accomplished.
- III. Christians are “spiritual soldiers” that should diligently “hold the lines” that have been gained (Eph. 6:13-14; Heb. 10:38-39; Rev. 3:3).

Discussion

- I. Early on, the church had to “hold the line” against false teachings.
 - A. Judaism was no longer the way of life that God wanted man to live.
 - B. There was an effort to add circumcision and other tenets of a law that was no longer valid (Col. 2:14; Gal. 5:1-4; cf. Acts 15).
 - C. There was those that were perverting the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Gal. 1:6-9; Acts 28:22).
 - D. There were false apostles (2 Cor. 11:13-15; cf 2 Cor. 12:12; Rev. 2:2).
 - E. There were other false teachers (2 Tim. 4:2; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Thess. 2:1-12; Acts 20:28-32).
 - F. Later some did not “hold the line” and the result was apostasy.
- II. There was an effort during the Restoration Movement to regain the “lines” that had been lost (Jude 3; Isa. 8:20; 1 Pet. 4:11; 2 John 9).
- III. Today, the church has to “hold the line” against liberalism and scrupulous conservatism
 - A. There are additions that have been made that are not approved.
 1. Instrumental music in worship (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
 2. Missionary societies (1 Tim. 3:15).
 3. Denominationalism, sectarianism, human creed books, modernism, etc. (2 John 9).
 - B. There have restrictions that have been made that are not to be bound (“anti” positions).
 1. “Anti Sunday Schools” (Matt. 28:19-20).
 2. “Anti Orphan Homes” (James 1:27).
 3. “Anti Cooperation” (Acts 11:22-26; 15:22-32; 2 Cor. 11:8)
 4. Etc.

Conclusion

- I. Much work has been done that the church should never reverse.
- II. Much work is to be done to make sure that the “line” is held in the future.