FLOCKING TO FABLES

T. A. McMahon

Part 1 - January 1, 2023, https://www.thebereancall.org/content/flocking-fables

"Flocking to Fables" has to do with great numbers of people being overwhelmingly drawn to things that have no basis in reality. They have been bewitched by myths...or what the Bible calls "fables." Hopefully, that will be made clear as we proceed.

As we wonder what we may be facing in the year 2023, there are indications from Scripture that give us some good ideas. Actually, one is really good, and the others are not so good. The really good one is that our Lord and Savior may return to this earth to catch up His bride, His church, taking believers with Him to Heaven in the Rapture (1 Corinthians:1:5-7; 15:51-54)! That might happen soon, and nothing could be better.

There are also a number of not-so-good things that will take place should the Rapture not happen as soon as we'd like. Knowing them is not a matter of special prophetic insight, but simply reading what the Bible declares lies ahead and checking to see if any of it has, or is, taking place. The primary prophecy for our consideration is **2 Timothy:4:3-4:** "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

What does it mean to "not endure sound doctrine"? Sound doctrine is simply the teachings of Scripture, the written Word of God. It is "sound" because it's given to us by God Himself. Other than God having men write down what God the Holy Spirit communicated to them, they had no input regarding its content. None. Every jot and tittle, meaning the smallest details of the Scriptures, are directly from God. That being the case, why would those who call themselves Christians "not endure" God's Word?

There are a host of reasons, but before we get into that, let's consider what is not being *endured*. It's what God himself has revealed. The only way anyone can know God is if He tells us about Himself. No one can figure God out without His supplying information about Himself. The closest we ourselves can get to knowing some things about Him are revealed in creation. For example, we can all recognize that the universe didn't come about by chance. The mind-boggling expanse of creation and the incredible complexity within the nucleus of a human cell tell us a few things about the Creator/Designer of everything. What are they?

Well, He is omnipotent...all powerful. The vastness of the created universe itself speaks of God's power! He is omniscient—all knowing. The complexities of His design speak to his incomparable intelligence. And He is Omnipresent...there is no part of His creation that is beyond His knowledge and power. Because those attributes are recognizable, everyone is held accountable to Him as Creator (Romans:1:19-22). Nevertheless, it leaves a great many things about Him unanswered—very critical things. "Such as?" you may ask.

There are many! Who He is, for one. What of His eternal nature, His love for humanity, His holiness, His mercy, His sending His Son to pay the penalty for the sins of mankind, and so on? None of those things could be known unless God himself informs us. Has He done that? Absolutely! It's called the B-I-B-L-E. The Scriptures. Holy Writ. The Word of God. The Sword of the Spirit. And a number of other titles we could name. Yet, no matter what title we use, the important point is that it's His Word, not man's. It's His truth...His revelation of Himself. They are things that man—finite men, fallen men—can only guess at, or suppose, or speculate.

God's doctrine is sound, meaning that it is thorough, complete, and perfect in all that it reveals. So, why would sound doctrine not appeal to humanity? Why would we "not endure sound doctrine"? Doesn't everyone want the truth?