MYTHS FOR ITCHING EARS

2 Timothy 4:3&4 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

The Previous Command

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.

Why People Will Not Put up with Sound Doctrine

2 Timothy 4:3&4a For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires,

2 Peter 3:3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires,

People will not want to listen to sound teaching, the teaching of the truth, because they want to do things God’s Word says are sin.

2 Timothy 4:4b they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

If you can get enough people saying and teaching something, many, if not most people will believe it because so many are saying it. Hans Christian Anderson’s *The Emperor’s New Clothes* presents this in an entertaining way.

2 Timothy 4:4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

Truth is that which conforms to reality. Myths are things that are popularly believed but have no real evidence that they are true.

Common Cultural Myths

First myth: Science has proved the earth is billions of years old. This is usually based on radiometric dating, which is based on three assumptions:

There were no daughter elements in the rock when the rock was formed. There are no instances of rocks formed at known points in time in human history that the actual date and the radiometric date agree. For instance, radiometric dating of the rocks formed when Mount St. Helens erupted in 1982 date either to hundreds of thousands or to millions of years ago.

The radioactive decay rate is constant and cannot be changed. Rocks dated millions of years old still have almost all the helium from the decay process, which should not be there if the rocks are millions of years old.

There has been no contamination from outside the rock. When rocks don’t give ages that agree with preconceived ideas, contamination is routinely blamed.

There are a multitude of other processes that give a very young age for the earth: the amount of helium in the atmosphere, the percentage of carbon 14 in the atmosphere; the decay of the earth’s magnetic field, the amount of salt in the ocean, etc.

Reason for the myth: If there is a God, He isn’t personally involved.

Second myth: Everything that exists came about because of a gigantic explosion (Big Bang) when nothing exploded and became everything. People who believe this routinely claim that the universe consists of somewhere between 70% and 90% dark matter and energy, but no evidence for either has ever been found.

Reason for the myth: There is no reason to believe in a Creator to whom we are accountable.

Third myth: Life somehow spontaneously came from non-life. Michael Denton, an agnostic, in EVOLUTION, A THEORY IN CRISIS, quotes Hoyle and Wickamansinghe, both evolutionists, as estimating the chance of a simple living cell spontaneously coming into existence as 1 in 10 followed by 40,000 zeroes, which is why they believe evolution happened in outer space.

Reason for the myth: God did not create us. We have no obligation to Him.

Fourth myth: The fossil record supports Darwin’s theory of evolution.

“On this doctrine of the extermination of an infinitude of connecting links, between the living and extinct inhabitants of the world, and at each successive period between the extinct and still older species, why is not every geological column formation charged with such links? Why does not every collection of fossil remains afford plain evidence of the gradation and mutation of the forms of life? We meet with no such evidence, and this is the most obvious and forcible of the many objections which may be urged against my theory… I can answer the questions and grave objections only on the supposition that the geological record is far more imperfect than most geologists believe. ON THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES, Charles Darwin, reprint by Harvard University Press, 1964, pages 463-464

“The earliest and most primitive known members of every order already have the basic ordinal characteristics, and in no case is an approximately continuous sequence from one order to another known. In most cases the break is so sharp and the gap so large that the origin of the order is speculative and much disputed.” George Gaylord Simpson, TEMPO AND MODE IN EVOLUTION,1944. page 105

“This regular absence of transitional forms is not confined to mammals, but is an almost universal phenomenon, as has long been noted by paleontologists. It is true of almost all orders of all classes of animals.” *Ibid.* page 107

“There is in this respect a tendency toward systematic deficiency in the record of the history of life. It is thus possible to claim that such transitions are not recorded because they did not exist, that the changes were not by transition but by sudden leaps of evolution.” *Ibid.* page 231

*“Nature is in fact a fundamental discontinuum of distinct Types and not the functional continuum maintained by Darwinian orthodoxy.”* EVOLUTION: STILL A THEORY IN CRISIS, Michael Denton, Institute Press, Seattle, WA, 2016 page 219

*“Ultimately the Darwinian theory of evolution is no more nor less than the great cosmogenic myth of the twentieth century.” EVOLUTION: A THEORY IN CRISIS, 1985,* Michael Denton, page 358

Reason for the myth: Science has proven that the biblical story of creation is not true.

Fifth myth: What you think you are determines what you are, not biological reality. For centuries, when a baby has been born, it has been obvious to everyone whether it is a boy or a girl. Now we are being told that a person’s gender is arbitrarily assigned at birth and that gender does not necessarily align with biological reality.

Reason for the myth: To convince people that behavior the Bible condemns is just people living out who they really are, not disobedience to what their loving Creator has said is best.

The Remedy

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.

Things to Remember

We are clearly warned that a time will come when people will not want to hear sound doctrine, to hear the truth, that which conforms to reality.

The reason they will not want to hear the truth is they want to follow their own evil desires.

People will amass a great number of teachers who will teach what their itching ears want to hear, myths that justify sinful behavior.

Those who know God must continue to proclaim the word, to correct, rebuke and encourage,- with great patience and careful instruction.