1Thess 109

Never attack God’s choice of authority

We are currently in a short series related to negativity and destruction of the chain of command.

This was brought out by the principle we noted in 1Thessalonians chapter 5.

Specifically verses 2 into verse 3;

/1Thes 5:2 For you **yourselves know full well** that the day of the Lord is coming just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then **sudden destruction will come upon them** like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.\

The Apostle Paul is in the process of beginning a correction of false doctrine that was allowed into that congregation.

This was because, just like at the church of Corinth we noted last lesson, a few of the elders or those in leadership allowed the false teachers access in. Either through a counterfeit message or a teacher that now began to spread lies in the congregation.

Paul had established that church inside of about two months on his first visit.

He then had Timothy circle back around and come back to Thessalonica to teach the repetition and check on their progress.

They were taught about the coming 7 years of Tribulation and the Rapture as well as the 2nd Advent of Christ.

That is why Paul emphasized knowing full well about the doctrines of Eschatology.

Yet Timothy had to report back to the Apostle Paul that some of the members were now going in a different direction.

This was because they slowly began to erode the chain of command that was left for them.

There are important protocols concerning a chain of command that should be highlighted;

/ A chain of command is that which is set by an authority (governing body or one authority). It is the guidelines and regulations for training, edict, daily functions, procedures and the line of command under the initial authority. For a ministry/church it is the pastor who sets the chain of command, yet his authority to do so, answers to Bible Doctrine and nothing else.\

The ultimate authority is the WORD of God. Every pastor is accountable to that, not the emotions of a congregation.

Christ is the head of the church just as HE is head of the family and head over everything – King of kings, Lord of lords.

Every pastor has to adhere to the mind of Christ. They must run their ministry in a fashion that upholds BD.

 REPEAT

Yet they may differ on minor details in their church or ministry.

/Some pastors may have a protocol of the time of service, manner of preference for those under his authority and number allowed in leadership, style of church or ministry foundational principles…etc. As long as it does not contradict the word of God the pastor is the final authority. A chain of command is covered in all those aspects as well as those in leadership under the pastor.\

So, the chain of command is a general term even within the military to mean slightly more than just who is next in line for leadership.

Business owners, fathers and mothers should pay attention to this concept as well.

For example, in the army you always had a handbook…you had a field guide. Yet there were also – the DRILL and CEREMONY GUIDE, the SOLDIER’S GUIDE, TECHNIQUES of MILITARY INSTRUCTION and so on.

These were all part of the chain of command under the general concepts of authority.

If you drove a 5-ton truck there was an army guide book for that specific truck.

Every soldier became responsible to have access to that book and follow the protocol in that book.

If you screwed up, often times the first thing those in leadership would ask was why didn’t you follow the protocol in the manual?

If you did follow the protocol you either wouldn’t screw up in the first place or it wasn’t your fault…something or someone else caused the error.

 REPEAT

/Authority is only destroyed after the chain of command is eroded. This means that protocols and those in charge of regulations and protocols failed. In the case of Thessalonica those left with the messages from the Apostle Paul neglected their duties. The secondary failure was allowing false or negative messages or teachers to enter the congregation. \

As a leader make your policies and guidelines clear. Do not stray from them because that brings confusion and eventually weakness in the chain of command.

Criticism will always pop up from time to time but constant criticism is a problem – that is a negativity in the atmosphere that is cancerous.

/Constant criticism of anyone deteriorates the relationship. It also can chip away at the confidence of someone who may have areas of weakness. Constant criticism of the pastor destroys his authority. He should be strong enough to stand in his gift and not collapse in weakness. Yet consistent criticism becomes a slow, repeated injection of poison that weakens the chain of command of that pastor.\

Allowing consistent negativity in and around the chain of command deteriorates the authority.

Loss of authority neutralizes any effect of the communication of Bible doctrine — divine viewpoint is essentially stopped.

/No communication of Bible doctrine means no soul breathing. No soul breathing will eventually lead to hardness and scar tissue of the soul. Scar tissue in the soul means no spiritual growth or function inside the plan of God, which in turns means thinking and walking (lifestyle) with human viewpoint.\

That is the simple math of it!

Human viewpoint means disorientation to the plan of God and the grace of God.

Remember what we looked at last lesson in 2Corinthians chapter ten?

There was an effort to undermine the teaching and the authority of the Apostle Paul.

/2Cor 10:9 “That I may not seem as if I would **terrify you by letters**.” 10 For they say, “His letters are **weighty and strong**, but his personal presence is **unimpressive** and his speech **contemptible**.”

These were direct quotes from Paul’s critics. \

The two Greek words that are used have a negative connotation toward the Apostle Paul.

Arrogant people are usually insecure under the surface of their confidence – they have a tendency to use words and phrases in a very manipulative manner to try and plant seeds in other people.

Remember rebellious arrogance loves company – they enjoy building alliances with others to appear stronger and more righteous.

/ Weighty – *barys,* heavy, severe or grievous in nature. Overwhelming or too much of a load to carry.

Strong – *ischyros,* very strong, forceable, having overpowering might.

These were used to point out that the Apostle Paul pushed to much upon the congregation – his letters were too much to carry and digest. \

BAR-ROUSE, it is taken from a root word meaning very burdensome and too heavy to carry.

ISK-WHO-ROS, means strong but it is also used for overpowering and violent.

Human viewpoint attacks or distorts doctrine. In fact, the emotional attack is usually centered upon BD being too difficult to understand.

BD when it goes to deep is unloving is one of the claims from the emotional Bel.

These are the folks who usually say - *just read your Bible occasionally and be nice to one another.*

*It’s all just love and you don’t need all that Bible doctrine.*

Human viewpoint attacks the Word and the attack begins with just such subtle criticism. Attacks begin subtly yet they almost always remain directed at communication of BD, meaning the one communicating it comes under the assault.

Within the teaching of 2Corinthians was a few hard lessons, though hard on them, it was an expression of God’s love and Paul’s love and concern for those infected by the negativity.

To have sins and negativity exposed is beneficial, it helps Bels correct themselves. Therefore, resulting in rebound and that combined with a steady intake of BD is how the removal of scar tissue happens.

  REPEAT

The consistent filling power of the HS and BD removes scar tissue.

The Apostle Paul is using his authority to lead carnal Believers back into the grace plan of God.

 You can go over to the OT – Numbers chapter 12 RF.

All of the divine sarcasm and hard teaching was necessary for that church. /The chain of command is that Bible Doctrine is accurately handled, upheld to the highest standard – first by the pastor then those under his authority;

Heb 13:17 **Obey your leaders and submit***to them*—for they keep watch over your souls as **those who will give an account—so that they may do this with joy, not groaning**; for this *would be* **unhelpful for you**.\

 There is evidence in the Bible of right man and right woman as well as evidence of right-pastor-teacher.

There is even evidence that our government leaders… federal and state can be the right leaders chosen by God— Romans chapter 13 covers this principle.

 REPEAT

Numbers chapter twelve recalls a very good lesson on undermining the authority over you. The Exodus generation were a challenge for Moses’ authority. But in this particular case, it was the two family members involved in the chain of command that bucked against Moses.

/Num 12:1 **Then Miriam** and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman);

The original Hebrew text insinuates that Miriam began the rebellion with Aaron following her lead.\

This was Moses’s second wife who was probably from the African Continent – of Ethiopia. This is a recorded account of an interracial marriage, which shows us, it means nothing concerning culture or skin color in the plan of GOD– it is about being equally yoked.

/The only time you see GOD warning against inter-cultural marriage has to do with false idols and foreign gods infecting HIS people. GOD always looks at the heart – HE sees two races or two cultures- Believer or Unbeliever.\

[Num 12:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/num/12/2/s_129002) and they said, “Is it a fact that the LORD has spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us as well?” And the LORD heard *this.*

[Num 12:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/num/12/3/s_129003) (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any person who was on the face of the earth.)

The Bible is clearly stating Moses had tremendous humility even as the God- ordained leader.

Moses was not going to call out his brother and sister and he needed to!

Aaron was second in command and Miriam was a leader of the ladies.

That was part of the chain of command for the Exodus generation.

/[Num 12:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/num/12/4/s_129004) And **the LORD suddenly said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam**, “You three go out to the tent of meeting.” So the three of them went out.

There was not a moment of hesitation! Because GOD does not approve of hesitation in the realm of bucking authority and the chain of command. \

The Hebrew adverb is *piṯ'ōm,* (PITH-OM), *not just suddenly*… instantaneously! So fast it is surprising.

[Num 12:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/num/12/5/s_129005) Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent; and He called Aaron and Miriam. When they had both come forward,

/[Num 12:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/num/12/6/s_129006) He said, “**Now hear My
words: If there is a prophet among you,
I, the LORD, will make Myself known to him in a vision**. I will speak with him in a dream.

Moses was the prophet and leader; God spoke to Aaron and Miriam under different and more unique circumstances. Moses was the chosen leader! \

Num 12:7 “*It is* not this way *for* My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My household;

/[Num 12:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/num/12/8/s_129008) With him I speak mouth to mouth, That is, openly, and not using mysterious language, And he beholds the form of the LORD. **So why were you not afraid To speak against My servant, against Moses?”**

God was stating - *you directly challenged my authority, not Moses*.\

[Num 12:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/num/12/9/s_129009) And the anger of the LORD burned against them and He departed.

[Num 12:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/num/12/10/s_129010) But when the cloud had withdrawn from above the tent, behold, Miriam *was* leprous, as *white as* snow. As Aaron turned toward Miriam, behold, she *was* leprous.

/[Num 12:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/num/12/11/s_129011) **Then Aaron said to Moses, “Oh, my lord, I beg you, do not hold us responsible for this sin** by which we have turned out to be foolish, and by which **we have sinned**.

Aaron quickly adjusted to the justice of GOD! \

[Num 12:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/num/12/12/s_129012) “Oh, do not let her be like a dead person, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes out of his mother’s womb!”

[Num 12:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/num/12/13/s_129013) So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, “God, heal her, please!”

[Num 12:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/num/12/14/s_129014) But the LORD said to Moses, “If her father had only spit in her face, would she not be put to shame for seven days? Have her shut outside the camp for seven days, and afterward she may be received again.”

This was a part of ancient punishment for a rebellious daughter or son – when a father reprimanded them and then spit on the ground near them - that was bad enough!

To spit in the face - carried with it an extended punishment. That was because the error was so grievous that the shame alone in the family would now become public shame for all to see!

/[Num 12:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/num/12/15/s_129015) **So Miriam was shut outside the camp for seven days**, and the people did not move on until **Miriam was received again**.

Sin carries with it responsibility and GOD makes the choice of discipline and the length of it. She was brought back in after 7 days – eternal security was in view. \

Often times Bels wonder how God’s discipline works out – one thing I can tell you is - that keeping short accounts with God’s justice system, ensures you don’t see any long term discipline and that even a curse can be turned into a blessing!

Never play games with justice system of GOD. Bring yourself to HIS mercy quickly and have repentance in heart after you sin.

[Num 12:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/num/12/16/s_129016) Afterward, however, the people moved on from Hazeroth and camped in the wilderness of Paran.

God is always ready to move forward and not look backward at yesterday’s failures.

/Psa 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our wrongdoings from us. 13 Just as a father has compassion on *his* children,
So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.\

Those who are in awe and hold the LORD in high regard. Those are the ones who know the protocol of the divine justice system.