

Sunday School Lesson

By Bessie Wilbon

INTRODUCTION

Wouldn't it be great if we could trust everyone who claims to be a Christian teacher? But our lives as disciples and church members is not as simple as that. "There shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring damnable heresies," (2 Peter 2:1).

We need not suppose a person is wicked just because he says or does something wrong. We see several kinds of false teachers. One may be sincere and honest, but mistaken about some things. Apollos was one of this kind. (Read Acts 18:24-27.) There may be hypocrites who come into the church for the purpose of hurting it. (Read Galatians 2:4.) Some become Christians with good intentions, and even become teachers and leaders, but later are led away from the faith. (Read Hebrews 6:4-6 and our text for today.)

LESSON BACKGROUND

False teaching is of many kinds. Some of it comes from heathen influences and some from "science falsely so called," (1 Timothy 6:20). In the first century, as in our twentieth century, some teachers denied that the dead are raised, (1 Corinthians 15:12). Others said Jesus was never really human, (1 John 4:2,3); still others said He was not divine, (1 John 4:15). But it seems that the troublesome teachers of Ephesus were Jewish Christians who wanted to enforce the Old Testament law in the church. They wanted to be teachers of the law, but they didn't understand it, (1 Timothy 1:7). They spent much time with genealogies, perhaps to exalt themselves as priests or as descendants of David or other heroes, but in their minds the Old Covenant law was so mixed with tradition and fable that their teaching produced confusion instead of enlightenment.

THE LESSON

"(1) The Spirit says clearly that some people will abandon the faith in later times; they will obey lying spirits and follow the teachings of demons. (2) Such teachings are spread by deceitful liars, whose consciences are dead, as if burnt with a hot iron. (3) Such people are teach that it is wrong to marry and to eat certain foods. But God created those foods to be eaten, after a prayer of thanks, by those who are believers and have come to know the truth. (4) Everything that God has created is good; nothing is to be rejected, but everything is to be received with prayer of thanks. (5) Because the Word of God and the prayer make it acceptable to God," (1 Timothy 4:1-5).

Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit gave him explicit information about what would happen in the latter times. The warning was for Timothy's own time as well as our own. Some church members had already "turned aside" by reason of false teaching. Unless Timothy could counteract that teaching, more would depart from the faith in the times just ahead. Instead of testing the spirits as John would advise some years later, they would accept and teach doctrines of devils instead of doctrines of God. We do not know just how they manage to infect Christian teachers with their doctrines, but we need to be on guard against such doctrines.

Verse two describes what can happen to a false teacher, and it can happen to all of us if we are not on guard. It is easy to go from an honest mistake to an outright lie. For example, suppose I get the idea that single living is holier and better than married living. Paul does indicate that it is better in some circumstances, (1 Corinthians 7:1, 26, 32-35). But once I get that idea firmly in mind, I may ignore the circumstances and insist that single living is better than married living at all times. I may ignore the

Scriptures that indicate God designed marriage for mankind, (Genesis 2:18, 21-24). In promoting my opinion I may exaggerate the difficulties of married life and the advantages of single life. I may invent unsound arguments and use misleading statistics to support my opinion. At first my conscience may protest against any misrepresentation, but if I override its objection it may become seared as if with a hot iron. Finally, I may be no longer sensitive to my own falsehood; if anything seems to favor my position, I may think it is right. And this can happen to anyone who takes a strong stand. So be on guard! Keep your conscience tender. Turn away resolutely from the first beginning of falsehood.

"If you give these instructions to the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, as you feed yourself spiritually on the words of faith and of the true teaching which you have followed. But keep away from these godless legends, which are not worth telling. Keep yourself in training for a godly life. Physical exercise has some value, but spiritual exercise is valuable in every way, because it promises life both for the present and for the future. This is a true saying to be completely accepted and believed. We struggle and work hard because we have placed our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all and especially of those who believe. Give them these instructions and these teachings," (1 Timothy 4:6-11).

A Christian leader has the problem of disentangling God's truth from human tradition and custom folklore - from the things that "everybody knows." Often these words "everybody knows" are used of things everybody supposes or takes for granted. God's Word is not the source of such well-worn maxims. A Christian teacher must be tactful in rejecting popular notions that are contrary to the truth, but he or she must reject them.

The advice that was good for Timothy is good for every Christian leader, and the advice that is good for leaders is good also for every Christian. Be an example; show the way in what you say and what you do, in love, in faith, and faithfulness, in purity of character and life.

Let's watch ourselves and our teaching.

Prestigious Ladies' Shop

Lucielle's Vogue Celebrating 60th Anniversary

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

Can you imagine what the store Lucielle's Vogue must have been like in 1925 and how it has changed over the years? According to Richard Roskind, owner of the store, much has taken place for this fashionable women's store bringing it to this point of celebrating its 60th anniversary.

First, there wasn't actually a store called Lucielle's Vogue back in 1925. There was a prestigious lady's shop called Lucielle's named for the proprietor Mr. Zimmerman's wife. Located at 132 N. Tryon St., the store was known as "the" place to shop for the women of that period.

The Vogue, owned by Herbert Roskind, was a women's apparel shop begun in 1933 on Trade St. Roskind eventually moved his store to 201 N. Tryon St., a location across the street from Lucielle's.

In time, Lucielle's still had prestige, but not enough mark-up perhaps, and was not making much profit. And while Lucielle's was enjoying status, The Vogue, however, was enjoying sales, enabling Roskind to purchase Lucielle's in 1949.

So as not to lose the reputation associated with Lucielle's, when Roskind later merged the two stores he compounded the names.

Lucielle's Vogue, now located at 2 N. Tryon Plaza, celebrates its 60th anniversary this year as one of the oldest fashion specialty stores in downtown Charlotte, where it has always maintained. Today, it is managed by Herbert Roskind's son, Richard.

He credits the longevity and success of Lucielle's Vogue to, especially, one good foresight on the part of his father in an area that was not being touched by most area merchandisers of his day. "We were one of the first stores to hire black saleswomen in the 1950s," recalls Roskind. "It's hard to believe it now, but it was a big thing to have blacks working in your store in the 1950s," he emphasizes.

Also, when other stores were treating black customers as second-class citizens, to the extent of separate dressing rooms, according to Roskind, his father was informing his employees, "If someone walks into this store, black or white, you're going to give them the respect they deserve."

Says Roskind, "He told them, 'If you're going to work for me, this is the way it's going to be.'"

Lucielle's Vogue is still reaping the benefits from the elder Roskind's unprejudiced stance. "The majority of our most loyal clientele are black customers," reveals Roskind. "They remember the store's policy of confidence and trust and we've always employed black people at every level in the store from bookkeeping, to sales to receiving."

"One-third of our business comes



The friendly staff members of Lucielle's Vogue are (l-r) Nora Poole, Phyllis Rippey, Natalie Lucas, Manager Doretha Davis, Elsie Abrams, Jane Richards and Blecker Cathey. (Not pictured) are President Richard Roskind, Janette Goodman, Josephine Patterson and Matilda Bowns.

from black customers who keep coming back. We have mothers, daughters, aunts, nieces, boyfriends and husbands who continually shop here. It amazes me," remarks Roskind, "the loyalty we have."

"We're aware of these things. A real care and consideration goes on between ourselves and the customers," assures Roskind. He refers to Lucielle's Vogue as a

"family-oriented" store. "We're not a cold store," he comments. "We're very service-oriented."

Of course the type of clothing Lucielle's Vogue offers does its part in pulling and keeping customers. "We've maintained quality and selection," reports Roskind, "and continue to seek new directions particularly for the working woman who's dressing for the compe-

titive world."

But close to Roskind's heart is "the kinship with the black community." "I want to express it," he acknowledges. "For our anniversary celebration we gave away \$15,000 in gift certificates to charge customers," Roskind points out.

Then also, in the way of gifts not long ago Roskind presented Grace AME Zion Church with an air conditioning system taken from an old Lucielle's Vogue store. "I had attended a funeral there and noticed there was no air conditioning in the church." The air conditioning system was turned over to the church free of charge. This was one way Roskind felt he could give something back to the black community.

He hopes to see the good feelings at Lucielle's Vogue continue for "the next 20 years and more." Roskind points out that there are saleswomen in the store who have worked there for over 20 years. Mrs. Doretha Davis, one of the first black saleswomen hired in the 50s, is currently working at Lucielle's Vogue.

The dedication and loyalty of both the employees and customers pulled the store from the brink of bankruptcy three years ago. Roskind remembers, "None of the employees jumped ship," he says with gratitude. "They stayed with me and stuck with me and that took personal and financial sacrifices."

Roskind is fond of saying, "We are like a family," about the faithful employees and customers of Lucielle's Vogue. There is so much closeness, he notes, that it is not uncommon to have female customers come to the store, pull aside one of the saleswomen and say, "My husband is coming in next week. This is what I want you to show him."



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