The Protection That Makes the Church Run Well

Gal. 2:1-7

Introduction:
A. Old distinctive sound of the truth of the gospel must always ring loud and clear.
B. Old distinctive sound of the truth of the gospel can be taken from us.
   1. Judizers secretly worked to that end in Paul’s day.
   2. A well-know preacher (Peter) wavered when chips were down.
C. Old distinctive sound of truth of the gospel was protected then and can be now in certain ways:

Discussion

I. We Can Protect it by Recognizing False Brethren (2:4)
A. Considering all genuine is naive and dangerous (v. 4; cf. 2 Cor. 11:26)
B. Considering all genuine is all too common today.
   1. Ignores many warning (2 Tim. 2:2-4; 2 Pet. 2:1; Acts 20:28-30)
   2. Leads to accepting things in church would reject from outsiders.
C. Considering brethren subject to error does not justify cynicism, but caution. (cf. 1 Thess. 5:19-22; Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:1)

II. We Can Protect it by Resisting Disastrous Compromises (2:5)
A. Compromising one point of the truth of the gospel is out of the question.
   1. Does mean cannot compromise points of judgment and personal opinion (Jas. 3:17 NKJ)
   2. Ill: cannot not compromise in “mode” of baptism, but can on place for baptism.
B. Compromising truth is Satan’s most effective weapon.
   1. Draws little attention - just silently erodes truth away (1 Cor. 5:6,7)
   2. Make one happy with lesser of two evils.
   3. One can plow – if he will just look back (Lk 9:62)
C. Compromising keeps one from giving all to the Lord (Mk. 12:30)
   1. Must be “unmoveable” (1 Cor. 15:58)
   2. Must refuse to offend in one point (Jas. 2:10; 2 Cor. 2:9
   3. Must learn difference in stubbornness and firmness.

III. We Can Protect it by Refraining from Personality Worship (2:6)
A. Paying more attention to who said it, than authority by which he said it.
B. Paying more attention to personality, accomplishments, and abilities than content of preaching.

IV. We Can Protect it by Realizing the Fickleness of Brethren.
A. Even strongest of brethren will disappoint at times (2:11-16)
B. Even closest of brethren will turn on us at times (4:12-17)

Conclusion:
A. We can protect the truth of the gospel, if:
   1. We will face reality about our brethren.
   2. We will deal realistically (firmly and kindly) with all brethren.
   3. We will seek to help all brethren rather than becoming bitter and quitting.
B. We can protect the truth of the gospel by always preaching and obeying it ourselves.