

The Attackers: Differences with Fellow Believers Are to Be Resolved Immediately, Eph 4:26 cf. v. 32; Apologies with “If” Clauses Shift Blame to the Injured Party: Archie Leach’s Almost Perfect Apology to Otto West; the Development of a Good Conscience: the Divine Decree Insures “Shipwreck” to Those Who Do Not, 1 Tim 1:19

20. Failure to do so means that justice from God is preempted by the offended believer who does not have the authority to address the issue from the standpoint of judgment.
21. The requirement, clearly stated and illustrated in the two passages just noted, is prompt reconciliation and the performance of gracious acts.
22. There are those with delegated authority from God to manage those who do not take direction from Scripture or from the pulpit. Timothy must personally confront those who espouse false doctrine and, if they remain obstinate, to remove them from the fellowship.
23. Here is an important guideline regarding the fulfillment of Ephesians 4:26b, “do not let the sun go down on your anger.” If you are guilty of wrongdoing toward others and reconciliation is sought by means of an apology, here is what you do not do: you do not say or write, “I apologize if I may have offended you in some way.”
24. The use of an “if clause” is conditional and is not a confession of wrongdoing. It is a subtle way of avoiding admission of committing a harmful act—verbal or overt. It transfers the issue to the injured party since the word “may” indicates a possibility, not a confirmed fact.
25. The proper way to apologize is to say, “Look, I was wrong. I did ‘thus and so,’ which was completely out of line. I trust you will consider forgiving me of for my poor judgment and hurtful act.”
26. To put this in a lighter vein let’s critique Archie Leach’s apology to Otto West in *A Fish Called Wanda* as Otto dangles Archie, head downward, out a window:

Archie: All right, all right, I apologize.

Otto: You're really sorry.

Archie: I'm really, really sorry, I apologize unreservedly.

Otto: You take it back.

Archie: I do, I offer a complete and utter retraction. The imputation was totally without basis in fact, and was in no way fair comment, and was motivated purely by malice, and I deeply regret any distress that my comments may have caused you, or your family, and I hereby undertake not to repeat any such slander at any time in the future.

Otto: OK.¹

27. Archie did a great job with the exception of that one word “may,” which casts doubt on whether Otto and his family were really distressed over his comment.

¹ Charles Crichton, *A Fish Called Wanda*, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, 1988.

28. This movie was voted one of the fifty best comedy movies of all time, but offending people is not funny and all believers should take steps to correct their social faux pas immediately, which means before sundown.
29. At Ephesus, Timothy is being instructed by Paul to maintain a good conscience which some have not been successful in doing.
30. Paul now builds a case against those who have rejected the development of a good conscience. This is introduced by the pronoun **ὅς (hós)**: “which,” and followed by the indefinite pronoun **τις (tis)**: “some.”
31. What these people have done is indicated by the aorist middle participle of the verb **ἀποθέω (apothéō)**: to push away from oneself, to push aside, to reject, to repudiate; implies a violent rejection.²
32. Rejection of truth is common among the human race. Most have no interest and simply refrain from further involvement but allow those who do subscribe to a biblical lifestyle the courtesy of free exercise.
33. On the contrary, there are those who not only reject truth but become verbally abusive by not only denouncing the Bible as a source of truth but criticize and belittle those who place their faith in it.
34. Such types are not satisfied with the principle of live and let live, but are obsessed with destroying all things spiritual from the commonwealth and silencing all who express biblical principles.
35. Negative volition has morphed into hateful opposition which can only be explained by Progressivism’s involvement in the Gramscian agenda to include the elimination of Christianity as part of the long march through institutions.
36. This becomes especially apparent when it is also observed that Progressives have no such animosity toward Islam whose doctrines are in complete opposition to many of the sacred cows cherished by their ideology.
37. Because of this worldview, the Progressives of the twenty-first century will suffer the same result as those who opposed Paul and Timothy in the first century.
38. What both opponents have done is repudiate the faith: **πίστις (pístis)**: doctrine.
39. The result of such repudiation is that they have suffered divine discipline, noted by the aorist active indicative of the verb **ναυαγέω (nauagéō)**: have suffered shipwreck.
40. The two verbs *apothéō* (rejection of truth) and *nauagéō* (shipwreck) remind us of the divine decree. Here’s why.
41. *Apothéō* (rejection of truth) is an aorist middle participle. The aorist tense is constative which takes the status of reversionism and regardless of its extent or duration gathers it into a single whole.
42. The middle voice is indirect which emphasizes the reversionistic believers with a bad conscience as the ones producing the action. The participle is circumstantial for reversionism.

² Cleon L. Rogers, Jr., and Cleon L. Rogers III, *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing house, 1998), 489.

43. *Nauagéō* (shipwreck), the main verb, is an aorist active indicative referring metaphorically to the tragic end that comes to those believers who reject truth. The aorist tense is culminative which denotes a process and the attainment or end of such a process.
44. The active voice indicates that reversionists produce the action by becoming involved in evil from the source of bad norms and standards in the conscience.
45. The indicative mood is declarative which views this process from the standpoint of reality.
46. Grammatically, the action of the aorist participle – *apōthēō* (rejection of truth) – precedes the action of the main verb – *nauagéō* (shipwreck).
47. Those who reject truth and entertain evil will ultimately encounter the system set up in the divine decree that manages such things.
48. PRINCIPLE: God will not put up with this crap!
49. The expanded translations of the two verses we have addressed so far read this way:

1 Timothy 1:18 - I am depositing this order with you, student Timothy, on the basis of previous prophecies taught to you in order that by these same inculcated doctrines you might have honorable combat experience,

v. 19 - holding doctrine, and a good conscience which some having emphatically repudiated have suffered shipwreck concerning this doctrine. (EXT)