

heretics dwell upon mystery, the necessity of knowledge and wisdom. Theirs was persuasiveness of speech and philosophical presentation of doctrines held and propagated, but among the members of the churches of the pastoral Epistles it is only once referred to as a gnosis, with the qualifying epithet falsely so-called, once is the word mystery used, and then explained what the mystery is. Here it is rather occupied in discussing endless genealogies, carrying on strife about words, giving heed to fables, doting about questions, and indulging in profane babblings. In the Colossian heresy there is the charm of secrecy, the attraction of mystery, and the glamour of a philosophical system presented in persuasiveness of speech, while in the pastoral Epistles it descends to the low level of wrangling discussion about words, terms and stories, seemingly a mere system of logic chopping, very similar to that which characterized much of the philosophic speculation of the middle ages. The method and motive of these men are presented to us in the pastoral Epistles in a very unenviable light. Paul, in speaking of the evils of the last time, which evils Timothy was to guard against as if the last time were already present, describes the heretics as creeping in houses, leading captive silly women, ever learning and never coming to the truth. They are vain talkers and deceivers, men who speak lies and deceive as a result of their dispute about words, envy, strife, evil surmising, wranglings of men corrupted in mind and bereft of the truth. Their motive was of the lowest type. These are men who suppose Godliness is the way of gain. They teach things they ought not, and that for filthy lucre. (See I, vi, 5. Tit., I, 11.) Nothing of this is mentioned in the Epistles to the Colossians. Either these detestable features were not present, or Paul did not desire, for certain reasons, to present them to us. As a result of this, we find no mention of a falling away in the Epistle to the Colossians, while in the pastoral Epistles we find "that some have made shipwreck concerning the faith," "men have erred concerning the

faith, and have turned away from the truth into abominable, disobedient, reprobate lives." Note that Paul does not make any specific attempt to establish the supremacy of Christ in the pastoral Epistles as he does in the Colossian letter. He states and enforces the leading doctrines respecting the divinity, eternity, humanity and atonement of Christ, but does not deal with them from an argumentative standpoint. This may be accounted for by two reasons. Either Paul, in writing to Timothy, did not feel the need of this, or because he felt the tendency of this heresy was practical rather than theoretical. To sum up, the Colossian heresy is philosophic, mystical, contemplative, Ascetic; that of the pastoral Epistles argumentative, professional, practical, touching more directly the life of the Christian and leading him not only to deny Christ, but into a form of life most base and sinful.

3. As to Stages of Development.—It has been felt that the pastoral Epistles must belong to a much later date than the Colossian letter, in order to allow the time necessary for the development manifest in the pastoral Epistles. This is assuming that the heretics of Crete and Ephesus began just in the same way, and proceed in the same manner, as those at Colosse. The assumption is that the men of Crete and Ephesus received the truth thus germinated in their minds, and brought forth the product outlined in the pastoral Epistle. This may be true, but I am inclined to feel that such persons have failed to recognize the fact of difference in the temperament and mental power of different people. The people of Crete and Ephesus may have been an essentially different type of people in mind and feeling from those at Colosse. The heretical teachers may have gone to work in a vastly different way. In fact, we have seen from the foregoing discussion that the method was quite different. In recognizing certain forms, more developed than others, we need to take into consideration not only that a certain amount of time was necessary for this development, but the conditions and en-