

Truths God Expects Us to Know and Practice (2)

The Christian Will Serve That To Which He Yields Himself

Introduction

- A. Truth is undoubtedly our greatest possession. To know the truth and to practice it -- is the key to success in every area of life. This is particularly true for the Christian.
- B. All truths find their source in the person and work of Jesus Christ. He said that He was the truth (John 14:6), and taught that if anyone would live in fellowship with Him through the practice of the truth they would have the "light of life" (John 8:12).
- C. God expects us to practice the truth He has revealed to us. One of our most serious hindrances is our neglect of learning truth and our failure to practice what we know.
- D. An important truth every believer must accept -- if we are to honor God -- is that the Christian will serve that to which he yields himself!

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? Romans 6:16

I. The Background

- A. Jesus Christ, as our Representative, fulfilled the demands of the law for us. His work is imputed to the believing sinner who thereby becomes righteous and forgiven. Romans 3:24-31; 5:1-11
- B. Through identification with Jesus Christ in the Crucifixion and Resurrection the believer is set free from the penalty and bondage of sin and will no longer be characterized by the dominion of sin. Rom. 6:1-14; I John 3:9

II. The Occasion

What then? Shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Romans 6:15

- A. The Question: "If the law has been fulfilled by Jesus Christ -- why is it so important to live a holy life? Why be so concerned?"
- B. The Answer: "When we sin we not only disobey God, lose fellowship with Him, hinder our spiritual progress, and fail to be a good example -- we become characterized by and enslaved to our sin!"

III. The Principle

A. The example regarding money.

Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth ... But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven ... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also ... No man can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and Money. Matthew 6:19-24 NIV

Comment: God made us to serve Him. When we do -- then we live in freedom. When we become idolatrous, as in serving money, we lose our freedom and become enslaved. The issue is not how much money we have but the place of money, and what it stands for, in our list of priorities.

Many believers today -- serve God only with their lips. But in reality they are in bondage to money. The evidence of this is seen in how we live. We are willing to sacrifice almost everything and anything to gain money.

B. The example regarding error.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They (the Pharisees) answered him. We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man. How sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you. Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. John 8:32-34.

Comment: The error believed by the Pharisees was clear to all but them. They thought they were going to Heaven because they were physical descendents of Abraham. They had missed the truths related to the meaning of grace as well as faith. Galatians 3:6-29

It is also clear that the error believed by the Pharisees had blinded them to the truth taught by the Lord Jesus. This is a part of what bondage means -- error and sin of every kind will bring deception!

C. The example regarding spiritual lethargy.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Romans 6:12

Comment: The context of this verse has to do with our identification with Jesus Christ in His redeeming work. The attitude of non-Christians to Paul's message of grace and faith -- was that it would lead to careless living. In fact some hypocritical believers in Paul's day lived that way -- they were lazy and unconcerned about a Godly life. II Tim. 2:16-26

The Biblical command is clear: "Let not sin reign"

Conclusion: We must not allow ourselves to live a careless life.

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