

Truths Which God Expects Us To Know And Practice

Introduction

A. Truth is one of our most important possessions. The source of all truth is found in the general and special revelation of God (John 14:6). God's promise is that the practice of the truth will make one free (John 8:32) so that we may possess "The light of Life" (John 8:12). Jesus Christ is the Truth (John 14:6) and in Him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2:3).

B. Failure to know the truth and our refusal to practice what we do know is one of our most serious hindrances to progress of any kind. The human race is described as those who "Hold down the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18). God has promised to bless those who will practice the truth (Revelation 1:3).

I. The Christian is Identified with Jesus Christ in His Atonement, Romans 6:3.

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?

Observation: When Jesus Christ came into the world He came as our Representative. All believers were identified with Him in His Death, Burial, Resurrection and Ascension, This means that the value as well as the responsibility related to these deeds, has been given to the believer. Because of His Death, all Christians have been forgiven and can be free from sin, and are responsible to live that way.

II. The Christian Will Serve that to which He Yields Himself, Romans 6:16.

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?

Observation: God created us with the functions of the mind, emotions and body under our control. Through sin we have lost that control. The Christian can now regain control through the power of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22,23). The key is in the choice of faith, i.e., the use of our will in dependence on God (Rom. 6:11-13). Every Christian largely determines the kind of a person he will be and the kind of life he will live. What we are today and how we live is the result of our past choices (Galatians 6:7,8).

III. The Christian is under the Continual Dominion of the Law, Romans 7:1,

Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law), how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?

Observation: Jesus Christ came to fulfill the law for all believers (Matt/ 5:17). When we received Him as Savior and Lord we were declared righteous and seen as having satisfied the demands of the law (Rom. 5:1; 8:1-4). In this verse we are reminded that the moral law now serves as a blueprint for how we are to express our love to God and please Him (I John 2:3-5; 3:22,24; 5:3). Many Christians live their lives on the basis of their feelings. To do so is to incur frustration and spiritual loss. There is an objective right and wrong and this is summarized in the Bible.

IV. The Christian is the Temple of God, I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19.

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? . . . What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

Observation: These verses state an astounding truth - we are indwelt by God! This ought to affect an astounding change in our daily lives. Who could describe the potential within every believer for godliness love and service? Who could describe the tragic contradiction seen in our selfish, sensual, self-centered, rebellious attitudes and actions? Our lives clearly show that we do not know that we are the temples of God!

V. The Christian must Recognize that Sin will Defile like Leaven, I Cor. 5:6.

Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

Observation: Paul wrote out this principle to illustrate the serious nature of the problem of immorality at Corinth. At least one member of the church was living in sin and the church had not disciplined him. The effect of this, Paul states, had permeated into the life of the entire body. Is this one of the reasons for the weakness in our present day churches? We can only answer "Yes". This truth is also to be applied to us as individuals. That "little sin" which I tolerate (even joking about it publicly) is continually weakening my spiritual life and causing me to grieve and quench the blessed Holy Spirit. We must repent, confess and forsake our sin.

VI. The Christian shall Judge the World, I Cor. 6:2.

Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? If the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

Observation: This verse is a rebuke to those in the church at Corinth who were going to non-Christian judges to have "problems" with other Christians settled. We are here taught that the Christian may be used of God, in the future, to rule over non-Christians. All of this points up the truths that the believer has the ability, in Christ, of wise judgment and that he is responsible to so live.

VII. The Christian shall Judge Angels, I Cor. 6:3.

Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

Observation: The thought here is that if the Christian is to be used of God in the judgment of such mighty personages as angels - then how evident is our responsibility to judge correctly those things which pertain to our daily lives. It is clear from the Scripture that there is nothing more pleasing to God than day by day obedience in all the areas of the Christian life (I Samuel 15:22,23). The people at Corinth were being spiritually defeated and some of them had even died - simply because of failure in the area of daily obedience.

Conclusion: Let us face ourselves with this responsibility to practice the truth.

Victor M. Matthews