

Truths Which God Expects Us To Know And Practice (2)

Introduction

- A. God, in His mercy, has revealed Himself to us. Truth, in spite of the present day teaching, is absolute. His Word does not change (Psalm 100:5). God can be trusted to keep His Word (Romans 4:21).
- B. It is clear, as one reads the Bible, that there are some truths which are more important for daily success than others. It is important for the Christian to recognize the truths and to practice them daily. It is quite contradictory to say that we believe that which we do not practice (James 2:17).

I. The Truth That The Unrighteous Shall Not Inherit The Kingdom of God, I Cor. **6.9.**

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind.

Observation: This is a most important truth for Christians to understand as well as non-Christians. The latter must recognize that there is no way he can get to Heaven by his own efforts nor by the performance of religious deeds. Nicodemus, a deeply religious man, was told by the Lord Jesus Christ he had to be born again to enter Heaven (John 3:3). The Christian will be greatly helped by understanding this verse. It reminds us that the new birth produces an inner transformation (II Cor. 5:17) which is manifested in one's daily life (I John 2:3-5). If unrighteousness is a dominate characteristic of one's daily life it indicates that one has not experienced the new birth. A final message in this verse is related to witnessing. If people are to get to Heaven they must be told the Gospel message.

II. The Truth That The Body of a Christian is Holy And Belongs To God, I Cor. 6:15.

Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid!

Observation: The Christian has a constant tendency to exalt his spirit and to debase his body. While it is true that we have been created in the image of God and are primarily spiritual beings, this does not mean that our bodies are unimportant. The Christian's body is holy and sacred. We may not use our bodies as though they belonged solely to us. Many of us are deeply out of the will of God by the misuse of our bodies.

III. The Truth That Immorality Defiles The Total Person, 1 Cor. 6:16.

What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two saith He, shall be one flesh.

Observation: Corinth was a very immoral city. it would seem that immorality had cultural acceptance. The Christians there were rebuked by Paul for their weak stand on this subject. In quoting Genesis 2:24 the Apostle reminds us that immorality is not simply a temporary, incidental, innocent act. Such a sinful deeds defiles, the total person. It was Augustine who said, "Sin is its own punishment" (Confession 5, 8, 16.

IV. The Truth That The Servants Of God To The Church Should Be Supported **By** The Church, I Corinthians 9:13.

Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? And they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

Observation: Here we are taught that the Christian has a responsibility, even to a financial way, to those whom God has appointed to be his spiritual leaders. Many churches have brought weakness and judgment upon themselves by neglecting their pastors. This verse also reminds the pastor that he is to minister about "holy things", that should be his goal, and he should not have his eye on money.

V. The Truth That One Must Have Goals In Order To Succeed, I Cor. 9:24.

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

Observation: The Apostle Paul is here reminding the saints in Corinth of the will of God. We are expected to have goals for our **daily** lives and to work to achieve those goals. Many of the problems in this church would not have arisen if the people had examined their daily and corporate goals.

VI. The Truth That One Can Know That He Is A Believer, II Cor. 13:5.

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith, prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Observation: Spiritual self-examination, according to the Apostle Paul, should result in clarity regarding one's relationship to God. This verse could be paraphrased ". . .Don't you recognize yourself? . . ." The Christian can easily compare himself and his daily life with those passages in the Bible which describe the genuine believer. It is possible to be self-deceived. It is the will of God that we have the assurance of our salvation (I John 5:13).

VII. The Truth That Friendship With The World Will Bring One Into Enmity With God, James 4:4.

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Observation: The world system of culture which is predominately self-centered and which is ruled over by Satan (I John 2:15-17; Eph. 2:1-3; II Cor. 4:4) is under the judgment of God. The Christian has been delivered from the world (John 15:19; 17:14-16). The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ has brought the Christian out of the world and stands between him and the world. For the Christian to choose to live as a member of the world - is to violate all of these great truths. This verse is very emphatic. To live for ourselves is to break or violate our relationship with God - as one who is married and is immoral - and we thereby make ourselves as an adulterer or an adulteress before God. We must live for God not ourselves!

Conclusion: We must choose to practice these important truths.