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# Danger of Counterfeits or Importance of Truth

A "Bible Truth" Tract

## DANGER OF COUNTERFEITS

— OR —

### IMPORTANCE OF TRUTH

In our religious life, does it make any difference what we believe, as long as we are sincere in believing it? False teachers are all around us and error confronts us at every turn, so that we are constantly threatened by counterfeit doctrines. These we are urged to accept as truth, on the "say so" of some man. What, then, shall we do? How may we protect ourselves from the danger of being deceived?

What is truth — Bible truth? Is it not that which is Scripturally correct, or in harmony with what the Bible teaches? But how may we put a doctrine to the test, and thus know whether it is truth or error? The Bible tells us: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20). In other words, if what we are asked to believe contradicts the plain teaching of the Bible it is wrong and, therefore, dangerous for us to accept and believe.

Jesus said: "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Only truth can free us from error. It is the one and only remedy against error. "But," some one may ask, "if we think we are right in what we believe, without really knowing whether it is truth or error, will it make any difference in the end?" The Bible says: "The way of a fool is right

in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise" (Proverbs 12:15). "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12).

How important is the truth? The Bible exhorts us: "Buy the truth, and sell it not . . ." (Proverbs 23:23). To get the truth, will cost an effort on our part. You will have to pay for it in more ways than one, and it may cost you much; but it will be worth all and more than it costs you. And, once possessed, you cannot afford to part with it at any price, or upon any terms. It should become your most precious treasure. "Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee" (Proverbs 4:6). Truth is real protection. ". . . his truth shall be thy shield and buckler" (Psalm 91:4). And note the permanency of truth: ". . . the truth of the Lord endureth forever" (Psalm 117:2). The enemies of truth cannot destroy it. "For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth" (2 Corinthians 13:8).

We should endeavor to realize that it makes a difference whether or not we know the truth. The Bible says: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (truth): because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee . . ." (Hosea 4:6). It is dangerous to reject any Bible truth. Then how may we learn the truth? The Bible says: "Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read . . ." (Isaiah 34:16). And our Lord instructs us along similar lines. He said: "Search the scriptures; for

in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39). And He also tells us that these Scriptures contain the truth. "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). So we cannot afford to turn to other sources which contradict the Bible in their teaching.

Jesus has warned us against the danger of being deceived. (See Matthew 24:4). There are more than 600 different divisions in the religious world, many of them teaching different and contrary doctrines. Which of these should we believe? None. To learn the truth we should turn to the one source of truth—the Bible. (Isaiah 8:20). This divided condition of Christendom is wrong, contrary to the will of Christ and is condemned by Paul. Read John 17:14, 17, 21; 1 Corinthians 1:10. Therefore we should turn to the inspired Word to learn the truth and protect ourselves from error. Note: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11). "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).

Listening to a sermon and accepting it as truth just because the preacher says so, is not exactly safe. Paul says: "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind"

(2 Timothy 3:5). And consider also what the Spirit of God expressly prophesies about many professed Christians in the latter times—today. "Now the spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (Romans 14:5). To be persuaded in the mind of another is not sufficient. What if the preacher is wrong and is not really teaching the truth? If we were to continue to worship under that ministry and teaching, where might it place us before God? Note this: "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9). And if we were to follow that kind of leadership, what would be the result? Read Matthew 15:14. Therefore, what is the only wise and safe course to pursue? "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

The apostle Paul, looking into the future, spoke of a time to come when the truth would not be popular, and said that people would then turn from it and reject it. He said: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:3, 4). Do you not see signs of such conditions today? Do you realize that real Bible truth is decidedly unpopular with many people in this very day?

One of the chief characteristics of the religious world today is described by the following text: "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof . . ." (1 Timothy 4:1). And evidence of this can be seen all around us today. Note the result upon those who turn away from the truth: ". . . Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

Often, when Bible truth is presented to professed Christians, if it does not seem to teach what they have always believed, many of them will refuse to listen, claiming they are not interested. Christ said: "He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God" (John 8:47). Surely this stamps their profession as a mere formality. They do not want the truth. And will their rejection of the truth endanger their salvation? Read carefully the following: ". . . Because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth" (2 Thessalonians 2:13). An acceptance of error may result in the overthrow of faith. "Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some" (2 Timothy 2:18). Jesus tells us what is one of the marks of true discipleship. ". . . If ye continue in

my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31, 32). This He said to those Jews which believed on Him, and He says the same things to all other believers.

We should remember that truth is one, therefore, it cannot teach contrary doctrines. The Psalmist says: "I have chosen thy way of truth . . ." (Psalm 119:30). Of those who do not chose truth it is said: "And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the Lord" (Jeremiah 9:3). If the Spirit of God is the Spirit of truth, and we follow its leading, will we not be led into the truth? "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth . . ." (John 16:13).

Then what about those who claim to have so much of the Spirit, but who reject the truth of God when it is presented? Are they being led by another and different spirit? "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error" (1 John 4:6).

Our God is not a God of error. "He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he" (Deuteronomy 32:4). If we persist in following error, we cannot follow God and worship Him as we should. "Howbeit in

vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Mark 7:7). Few seem to realize that because of playing fast and loose with the truth, and continually resisting it, they may never be able to come to a knowledge of it. They are like those mentioned by Paul—"Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith" (2 Timothy 3:7-8). Then, should we not be open-minded and honest hearted, ready and willing to accept the truth wherever it may be found?

Dear reader, have you found the truth? Will what you believe stand the test of a Bible investigation? Are you sure? Have you ever put it to this test? You cannot afford to be mistaken—there is too much at stake, for it concerns your eternal future.

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