

Tuesday's Touch ...#22

...from Pastor Ed ...June 23, 2009

Receiving Truth... Part 1

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 Tim. 3:16-17

However when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: John 16:13

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. John 17:17

It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught by God. John 6:45

*The ability to read any piece of literature in its original language is an advantage with which few would disagree. This is certainly no less true of the Bible. We owe an enormous debt (sincerely) to those who have (and do) exegete the scriptures from the 'original' texts. That being said, the "average" Christian must not think that his/her understanding of Christ and his kingdom is at the mercy of the 'scholars'- a sort of priestly class who must tell the poor commoners what God has said. We have (in English , at least) more than enough translations to squeeze every nuance of practically every word out of the various texts. We **have** the Word of God! It is the understanding and application we need.*

It is at this point that we must remember that the Holy Spirit is not a Greek grammar or a Hebrew lexicon. He is the living presence of Christ indwelling the believer to open the eyes of his understanding and to lead into all truth. But, knowing this, we must not jump to two seemingly logical, but erroneous, conclusions.

First, we dare not allow this foundational truth of "Christ in us" to lessen our appreciation for the foundational position which the inspired scriptures occupy in the New Covenant dynamic. So plentiful and direct are the New Testament exhortations concerning the indispensable role of the scriptures in our growth and sanctification, that it must be gross ignorance or willful

disobedience to dispute that role. Next to salvation itself, the greatest moment in the believer's life is that moment when the Holy Spirit witnesses to the regenerated heart of the infallibility and authority of the Bible as the written Word of God.

The second error we must avoid is thinking that receiving and understanding truth is not a disciplined, and often difficult, process. It is! Being led and taught by the Spirit is not a whimsical 'go as you feel it' kind of affair. It is a disciplined process. But we must allow the scriptures themselves, not human intellectualism, to define that process. The Bible has some very clear directives concerning its own interpretation. The good news is that one does not have to be an archaeologist, historian, linguistic expert, or theological scholar to receive truth from the scriptures.

So, over the next weeks, Lord willing, I want to examine some of these basic biblical principles that must be kept in the forefront as we approach the Word of God. They are: the pre-eminence of Christ, the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit, the primacy of love, context: plenary and local, the necessity of multiple witnesses, the will and works of the believer, the perennial ministry of preachers and teachers, and perseverance.

I trust that everyone will consider what is said, and may the Lord give us all understanding (2 Tim.2:7).

Blessed Holy Spirit,

Teacher of teachers, Author of the scriptures, open the eyes of our understanding. Living Word within us bear witness with the written Word thou hast given. Sanctify us by thy truth. And we thank you, Lord, for those gifted and called teachers, preachers, and scholars who aid us so greatly in our quest for your truth.

At the feet of the Master,

Amen

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