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# Words of Truth

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## “Thou Art An Offence Unto Me”

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In March, on a Saturday, I had a conversation with a man calling himself an elder among a group of people identifying themselves as the church of Christ. The next day some of our brethren here noticed I was having an elevated heart rate. My “smart watch” was indicating such with warnings while I was preaching that day. I do have heart problems and of course such is a concern. However, I want you to understand the Scriptural causes for the rise in my heart rate. When people teach or live error, they are an offense unto me.

This unqualified elder was using the unscriptural human logic of “Generic Authority” (a concept not found in the Scriptures) to argue that a pitch pipe is not an addition to the Scriptures. Those of us whom are sound in the faith know that, in the New Testament among saints, we only find authority to sing songs, hymns, and spiritual songs to each other and our Lord (Matthew 26:30, Mark 14:26, Acts 16:25, Romans 15:9, I Corinthians 14:15, Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16-17, Hebrews 2:12, and James 5:13). We know that there is not a command, approved example, or implication that we are to pitch those songs. For us whom understand the milk of the word, we know that pitching a song is an addition to God’s will. That makes such sinful (Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30:5-6, Matthew 7:13-23, Matthew 28:20, Luke 6:46, Galatians 1:6-12, Ephesians 5:6-11, Colossians 2:4-23, and Revelation 22:18-19).

I talked with this elder and discussed this information amongst other things. He gave the human arguments that we have all heard and know to be error. He could not see that his reasoning was not the Lord’s reasoning (Proverbs 14:12 and Proverbs 21:2). During my conversation with him I was trying to help him for the sake of those following his lead. However, throughout that conversation and correspondence thereafter, it was clear that his traditional thinking was going to keep him far from the truth. In such a state, our Lord’s example is to let them alone (Matthew 15:1-14). More could be written, but I want to get back to the point of this study. Why did this cause me emotional and physical troubles? My love for the truth and pure hatred for error is the cause. If you don’t understand why, I hope you will after this study. As you read, note who else is personally offended by those in error.

### The Scriptural Reaction To Error

The Psalmist said: *“I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers. I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked... Ye*

*that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked... I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me... O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way... Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way... Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies” (Psalms 26:4-5, Psalms 97:10, Psalms 101:3, Psalms 119:97-104, Psalms 119:127-128, and Psalms 139:21-22).*

Jesus displayed what the Psalmist said: *“From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: **thou art an offence unto me:** for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men... And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves” (Matthew 16:21-23 and Matthew 21:12-13).* If you were to go and read what Jesus said of the Scribes, Pharisees, some of His own countrymen, and the chief priests; you will see the pure anger and hatred He had towards them (Matthew 23:1-36, Mark 6:1-6, and Mark 7:1-13). Jesus even wept over such things (Luke 19:41-44; cf. Matthew 23:37-39).

Paul, like the Psalmist and Jesus had strong reactions to error and those whom promoted it. He struck a man blind for attempting to turn some away from the truth (Acts 13:4-12). He gave place to such men not even for an hour (Galatians 2:1-5). He rebuked a fellow Apostle (Galatians 2:11-17). On the list could go, but the point has been made. If you love the truth and want the lost to be saved, you’ll have a strong response against error.

## Conclusion

When I see false doctrine I get angry, hateful, sad, etc. These are all proper responses to such (Psalms 5:4-6, Proverbs 28:4, Proverbs 29:27, Romans 9:1-3, Romans 12:9, and I Peter 3:10-11). What happens to you when you see sin, false doctrine, etc.? If your emotions stay calm, something is wrong with your spiritual mindset. This study proves that!