
Words of Truth

“Meddle Not With Them That Are Given To Change”

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Things are changing around us all of the time. Not all change is bad. Changing of seasons is good and natural (Genesis 8:22). Even spiritual changes are not always bad. You'd hope to see that people grow in the Lord and the knowledge of the truth (II Peter 3:18). Repentance is change (Acts 26:18-20). Repentance is part of some things someone must do, if they have sinned, to receive forgiveness from God (Luke 13:1-5, Acts 3:19, and Revelation 2:5). We could go on, but you can see that not all change is bad.

There are some things that cannot be changed. There are some things that will not change regardless of anyone's efforts. God is unchanging (Numbers 23:19, Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8, and James 1:17). His word, though able to be perverted in the sense of someone teaching it falsely (Galatians 1:6-9), by itself does not change (Psalms 119:89, Psalms 119:152, Matthew 24:35, and I Peter 1:23-25). That is to say, God's word itself doesn't change. Men do twist it (II Peter 3:15-17), but His word does not change in and of itself (Psalms 119:160).

What we are going to talk about in this study is a kind of change that is not natural, acceptable, or good in any way. The change we are going to talk about occurs in those who find the truth, obey it, and are willing to change back to things they ought never return to or seek after. It is these people to whom this Scripture most certainly has application: *“My son, fear thou the Lord and the king: and **meddle not with them that are given to change**: For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both”* (Proverbs 24:21-22)? Let's engage in our study with the principle of not turning away from the truth.

A Change That Is Not Good

God has always expected His people to stay the course of the truth without wavering. Notice the Scriptures as they state this clearly: *“Ye shall observe to do therefore as the Lord your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess... Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest... Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed... If ye continue in the faith grounded*

and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister... Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him... For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire” (Deuteronomy 5:32-33, Joshua 1:7-9, John 8:31, Colossians 1:23, Hebrews 10:35-38, and II Peter 2:20-22).

We can see that God expects us to start in the faith and not walk away. We are expected to obtain the truth and not give it up (Proverbs 23:23). The fact is, there are people who do so (John 6:60-66). There will be Christians that we know that will fall away (Luke 8:13, Acts 8:12-24, Galatians 1:6-9, Galatians 5:7-9, I Timothy 4:1, Hebrews 3:12-13, Hebrews 6:4-6, Revelation 2:1-7, and Revelation 22:18-19). We've read the instruction in the book of Proverbs not to meddle with them. What does that mean? Why not? Let's examine those to questions.

Why Shouldn't We Meddle With Them?

Why shouldn't we meddle [intermingle, be a security for] someone who is given to change? Think about some things. What type of person is given to change? Wouldn't that be someone who is unstable (Ephesians 4:14 and James 1:8)? Wouldn't that describe a sinner (James 4:8)? Seeing that such is the case, we should realize that individuals such as that need to be avoided for our sakes and theirs.

They need to be avoided for our sakes so that they do not have influence over us (Proverbs 4:14-16 and Romans 16:17-18). Now, don't think for a moment either that you are above being influenced by someone given to change. Remember this Scriptural warning: "*Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners*" (I Corinthians 15:33). They need to be avoided because God commands us to do so (I Timothy 6:3-6 and II Thessalonians 3:6). They need to be avoided so that they will become ashamed of their changes (II Thessalonians 3:14-15). You see, not meddling with those who change has multiple reasons behind it. Commands and wisdom both apply. Therefore, be sure you are doing the will of God regarding this.

Conclusion

As Christians we should be a constant, a standard of unwavering faithfulness (Proverbs 4:25-27, I Corinthians 15:58, Colossians 2:5-7, and Hebrews 10:23). As unwavering saints, we should surround ourselves with like-minded brethren who are likewise unwavering (Philippians 1:27; cf. I John 1:3-7). Why or even how, could you stand to be in the company of those who are not steadfast in the faith (Proverbs 29:27)? Brethren, put yourself in check to be a person of the faith who does not find themselves in the company of change-agents.