

# Words of Truth

---

## Jesus Expects Action

By: Brian A. Yeager

Very often we discuss how that we need to study the Scriptures. That is true (John 5:39, Acts 17:10-11, and II Timothy 2:14-18). Very often we are reminded that we need to grow in understanding and knowledge. That is true as well (Ephesians 5:15-17, I Peter 2:1-2, and II Peter 3:15-18). We learn and have been taught that not having knowledge is shameful. That too is a true Scriptural point (I Corinthians 15:34). Outside of the instructions to study and grow in learning, why do we need knowledge?

For some, having knowledge is some sort of trophy. Those are the type of individuals that get puffed up from having knowledge (II Corinthians 8:1). For some, having knowledge is important because they want to be able to answer biblical questions that may be asked of them. Those individuals misunderstand Scriptures such as I Peter 3:15 and think we are just to be rapid fire Scripture machines. Is that what the Lord wants? Does the Lord want us to know the Scriptures so that we can put our knowledge on display? Is knowledge of the Scriptures only about answering questions or just defending the truth against error.

Before I proceed, let me clarify some things before they are questions I get asked. We are supposed to be capable of defending the truth (Philippians 1:17 and Jude 1:3-4). I am not suggesting otherwise. Also, those of us whom are able to teach, should have the knowledge necessary to be capable of teaching those sincerely looking for answers (II Timothy 2:23-26 and Titus 2:1-8). However, those two reasons are not the most important reasons why saints should have knowledge of the word of God. The most important reason for Christians to know the truth is so that we can do what is pleasing to our Lord.

## So That We May Please Him

Amongst the many things Paul, Silvanus, and Timotheus wrote to the congregation in Thessalonica, they wrote about why they were teaching them. Notice what was written: *"Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus"* (I Thessalonians 4:1-2). Were they writing to the Christians in Thessalonica so that the Thessalonians could defend the truth or answer Bible questions? NO! Paul, Silvanus, and Timotheus were teaching so that the Thessalonians could please God. This is similar to the reason why Paul said he was praying that the saints in Colosse would receive the spiritual gifts of wisdom and understanding (Colossians 1:3-11). Knowing the truth is only beneficial to you and I if we do something with that knowledge (John 8:31-32 and James 1:21-27).

## **Do Something With What You've Learned**

Consider something that Jesus taught: *“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great”* (Luke 6:46-49).

Jesus taught that men and women need to do more than just what is necessary to know the truth. We must properly do what the teachings of our Lord reveal (Matthew 7:21). Our relationship with God does not rest upon what we know, but rather what we do or do not do (Matthew 12:46-50). When individuals are taught properly they are taught to observe what the Lord says (Matthew 28:20).

Over the years as I have taught repeatedly that we have to be doers of God's will and not just hearers (Romans 2:13), I have notice a trend. I notice that many who hear such lessons some how convert those lessons in their minds to something other than what was said. For some reason, many I have taken note of think that doing the will of God means “go and teach”. Brethren, pay close attention to what we are about to look at, WE CANNOT TEACH WHAT WE ARE NOT ALREADY DOING.

## **You Have To Practice It Before You Can Teach It**

If you teach something that you yourself are not doing, the Scriptures call you a hypocrite (Matthew 7:1-5 and Romans 2:1-29). Even those of us whom are evangelists have to study to first live the truth before we proceed to teach it (I Timothy 4:12-16). Every single disciple of Christ must study each thing we look at in the Scriptures FIRST for our own benefit. We have to study the Scriptures and look to ourselves regarding the things we learn (II John 1:4-9). When the congregation in Corinth was instructed to consider lessons recorded in the Old Testament, they were supposed to learn from those lessons (I Corinthians 10:1-12). The things written aforetime were written for our learning (Romans 15:4). Do you think on the things you learn (Psalms 1:1-2 and Psalms 119:15)? Do you apply them (Philippians 4:9 and James 4:17)?

## **Conclusion**

What Paul said to Timothy sums up all we have studied here: *“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 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, throughly furnished unto all good works”* (II Timothy 3:14-17).