

Some quotes worth pondering . . .

“A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both.”

“Here is the test to find whether your work on Earth is finished: if you're alive, it isn't.”

“He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever.”



October 17, 2010

ARE YOU A TRUTH SEEKER? *Jim Stauffer*

We all like to think we are looking for the truth in all aspects of our lives. Obviously there are some things in life where the truth is more important to us than others.

We all have a very natural interest in our health. When we learn something is true it often brings changes in our daily practice.

For instance I can remember some time back there was an outbreak of e coli infection. Many restaurants responded to this by immediately cooking all meat very well done. Almost beyond recognition for those of us who like beef cooked medium rare to rare.

Sometimes we are not necessarily following what is the actual truth but rather what some people are currently peddling as the truth. In some cases they profit from such a message. This is just another way we continue our search for what is really the truth.

Searching for the truth in temporal matters such as health issues or financial issues can often be difficult. The truth can be elusive mostly because most of the sources we have are fallible at best. Therefore, we all have to make our individual judgments as to what we will practice in those areas.

DO YOU BELIEVE JESUS IS THE AUTHOR OF TRUTH?

Jesus told Pilate shortly before His crucifixion He came into the world to bear witness unto the truth. Pilate responded as many do today. He asked “What is truth?” Men often are doubtful there is any reliable source of truth. Jesus told the Jews of His day, “Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.” They failed to even

Lenexa church of Christ
7845 Cottonwood
Lenexa KS 6216
913-631-6519

Send a Copy to a Friend

Lenexa church of Christ

Cottonwood Street

79th Street

Lackman Street

Mill Creek Elementary School

Pflum Street

87th Street

95th Street

435 35

Evangelist:
Jim Stauffer

MEETING TIMES
Sunday - Bible Classes: 9:30AM
Worship Services 10:20AM & 6:00PM
Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00PM

understand their need for freedom. Jesus further explained their bondage was to Satan through sin. The point is they were not serious truth seekers. They were not even serious enough to give thorough and fair consideration to One who did things in their presence that could only be done by the power of God. (John 20:30,31)

Jesus said just prior to His ascension into heaven following His resurrection, "All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth." (Matt. 28:18) Now this is the source we are all looking for. The question is do we believe this statement by Jesus?

John the Baptizer said Jesus was "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29) He also said, "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." (John 1:17)

It therefore is incongruous for anyone to believe in Jesus and not be a truth seeker. Just for consistency sake we must follow His teaching or admit we are not interested in the truth.

Jesus claimed His words were the same as those of His Father, God in heaven. (John 14:23,24) He then promised to send the Holy Spirit to comfort His Apostles in His absence after he returned to heaven. He said the Holy Spirit would bring to their remembrance all he had taught them and would guide them into all truth. (John 14:26) This assures us that not only can we rely on Jesus' words but also the words of his Apostles. All of these writings are the words of God and can and should be relied upon as such.

Paul tells us this Holy Spirit revealed unto the Apostles the wisdom of God that had been foreordained before the worlds. He said the Spirit searched the deep things of God and revealed them to the Apostles to be written for all men to read. (1 Cor. 2:6-11)

Now in our search for the truth we know where to go. We study and search through the Bible for instruction and guidance for our lives.

One of the principles Jesus taught in His Sermon on the Mount is that the way of truth is narrow and is rigid. (Matt. 7:13,14) It is difficult because it restricts our freedom to determine right and wrong. Rather it calls for us to exchange that freedom for the freedom he provides from the bondage of sin. So when Jesus tells us He is the way, the truth and the life, (John 14:6) He is telling us it will be a difficult and rigid way that will ultimately lead to life eternal.

Do you every hear people teach things that are not taught in the Bible? Do you recognize when you hear this you are listening to the false prophets of Matt. 7:15? These are the same people Jesus condemns in verses 21-23 of Matthew chapter 7. He then goes on to delineate between those who hear His words and do them as wise and those who hear His words and do them not as fools. (Matt. 7:24-27)

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THE TRUTH?

The question for all of us is what will we do with the truth. An actor in a movie said in a challenging tone of voice, "You can't handle the truth." Sometimes we cannot. Sometimes following the truth is very difficult.

How important is the truth? The answer is contained in Heb. 5:9 which says, "and having been made perfect, He became unto all them that obey Him, the author of eternal salvation." If we follow the rigid path of Jesus we will have eternal life. How much more important can it be? It cost Him His life and guarantees ours.

Paul says in Romans 10 that all who hear His word and believe and call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. John says those who believe on His name and receive Him are born not of blood, nor flesh, nor will of man, but of God. These he says are the children of God. (John 1:12,13) Jesus explains to Nicodemus in John 3:3-5 that being born of God is being born of the water and spirit. Paul then says in Gal. 3:26,27 that we become sons of God through faith and baptism. In fact in the life of Paul, himself we learn that he went through this very process as he was instructed by Ananias who told him, "Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16)

Now, again, are you a truth seeker? If you are not you will be denied the benefits of the truth. You will not be freed from the bondage of sin. You will not be following the rigid path of Jesus. Your ultimate result will be as those of Matt. 7:21-23 who Jesus tells, "I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

The truth and its benefits are available. Will you accept it? It will be your choice whether you become a truth seeker or not.

Trends . . .

Roughly six-in-ten of the religiously unaffiliated (61%) favor same-sex marriage, including fully 78% of atheists and agnostics . . . Slightly fewer than half of white mainline Protestants (48%) and white Catholics (49%) favor same-sex marriage . . . By contrast, just 22% of white evangelical Protestants favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry . . . Roughly one-quarter (24%) those who attend worship services at least once a week favor same-sex marriage, but that rises to 49% among those who attend monthly or yearly and 57% among those who attend seldom or never.

via The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 "Do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God."