

“YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE”

The true believer in these days is being tossed and turned with every wind and wave of “new” doctrine. It is bad enough with the Covid-19 problem that is sweeping throughout the world.

However, there is an underlying problem that is facing the Body of Christ. The problem I am referring to is the problem that most believers are having during this time of pandemic. We are being tossed and turned by everyone and ultimately we are left with the question of “Who and/or what do I believe?”

I am not saying that the true believer is necessarily accepting all of these new doctrines. However, there is a great amount of pressure that the true believer needs to endure and plow through in these days. There is a tremendous amount of confusion that has been gripping the true believer in Christ. I know that many do think that there is a problem. However, they are being forced to quietly submit when confronted.

The main reason is because the true believers are not necessarily being out front about their concerns and yes, even their fears. There I said it. There is a sense that we are not to give in to those concerns and yes even those fears but rather simply ignore them and place them “under our feet.” I do not think that we need to ignore them but rather we must confront them “head on” and deal with them.

Some of the pressures I am speaking of other than the Covid-19 pressures are those that concern many of the “new” teachings and “new” doctrines that are being initiated and brought forth in these last days. I guess what surprises me the most is that many within the Body of Christ are listening to, and it seems that there has been a pressure upon them from others to change their position. Yes, even on the fundamental truths and tenants of their faith in Jesus.

Without naming names we have seen many evangelists, televangelists, teachers, pastors and speakers all of a sudden change their whole way of thinking. Now this has happened over the past five to ten years. They have changed their teachings. They have changed their stance and view on the basic truths of the faith in Jesus. Yes, unfortunately, many have bought into the popularity of being popular and being accepted by those who do not accept the truth of the full Bible and the full Gospel.

If you listen closely too many of these “teachers,” you will notice that you are not really hearing things from the Bible but rather you are hearing things that seem to make you feel good and tickle you. We must realize that the Word of God, the full Bible, is to make each of us realize how much we are so far away from being what God wants yet through the blood of Jesus, He accepts us. The Word of God is there to lead us, guide us and teach us in how to be His child.

The simple truth that we must hold on to, believe and then tell others is very simple. Yes, I said simple. Unfortunately, many places are taking these simple truths and “messing” with them. So, what are these simple truths and the main doctrines of our faith?

The most fundamental truth of all is what Jesus taught and what is found within the scriptures. This is that the one and only true God is the same yesterday, today and forever. God never ever changes. In Hebrews 13:8 it tells us about Jesus, who by the way is God. It tells us “*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.*” If Jesus is the same then God is the same; then the Holy Spirit is the same which refers us back to the truth that God who is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and who therefore are one, is then the same yesterday, today and forever.

We can hear all these new preachers and teachers on television, on the computer and their YouTube channels and anywhere else. However, this must be the fundamental truth of the true believer – God has never nor will He ever change. God is the God of love and that will never change.

These last few years and especially these past two years have been somewhat tumultuous within the Body of Christ. The truth that we have known and have been taught and followed is being turned upside down with new doctrines and new and improved ways of knowing God and being one of his disciples.

The truth of the matter is that we are no longer being taught to look at ourselves as disciples of Jesus. No, we are being taught to rather choose to look at ourselves as “gods” and leaders of Jesus and that He must do what we tell him to do. What many have done and taught is relegate their God to being their servant. He must do what we tell Him to do. We seem to think that through the establishment of the New Covenant that God has changed. Unfortunately, I believe, that is totally incorrect. God never changes. By the way it says that in Malachi 3:6, *“For I am the LORD, I **change not**; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.”*

Notice what God Himself tells us – *“...I change not...”* God, the one who is truthful and the one who is faithful, tells us He never changes. However, here we are in the world that we are living in telling everyone that God has changed. Hmmm....

I know what some “believers” may tell me – I am using an Old Testament scripture to refer to a New Testament God. What?? Has God changed in midstream? Unfortunately, that is where many “believers” have come. They tell us and even believe that God has changed. However, God tells us in His own Word that, *“...I change not...”*

The Old Testament and the New Testament refer to and is for each of us and the change in our own personal lives now that we are believers in Christ, not any change that has happened to God. The entire Bible is from God to and for the believer in Christ. It is not for God. It is His manual to us and not the other way around. Thank God He hasn't changed or all of us would be “consumed.” We would all die in our sins and end up in the place of eternal torment.

In Matthew 22:37-40, Jesus said *“Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”* Did you know that Jesus above is quoting from the Old Testament and that these same words were given to Israel right after the Law was given?

In Deuteronomy 6:5 we read, *“And thou shall love the LORD thy God with all your heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”* If Jesus was replacing the Ten Commandments with the two greatest commandments, then how come we also find the greatest commandment in the Old Testament, right after the Law was given?

The truth is that Jesus was showing us the continuation of God's moral law found in the Old Testament and summing it up as the Law of Love in the New Testament, not replacing it. Remember, we are talking about the moral law here, not the ceremonial laws which Jesus fulfilled and thereby did away with at the cross.

We must grasp and comprehend that there were two aspects of God's law to His people. There was the ceremonial law and there was the moral law. However, today, for the true believer and follower of God there is only one aspect of the Law that we are now required to follow and act in the best we can – the moral law.

We no longer need to follow after the ceremonial law. Jesus fulfilled every aspect of it, on and for our behalf when He walked this earth, died on the cross and then rose again. When we place our trust and belief in Jesus and all that He did on the cross then automatically, each one of us has fulfilled all of the ceremonial aspects of the Law. In other words – they are fulfilled and they are no longer needed.

However, that does not eliminate the moral aspects of the Law such as the Ten Commandments. As we know as we are told in Matthew 22:37-40 that Jesus broke down the Ten Commandments (the moral law) into two areas – loving God and loving each other. I do not see the big problem in this. However, today we see more and more problems and incorrect teaching and incorrect doctrinal truth being brought forth.

When we hear many of the people who are on television or the internet or even some of our pastors we do not really hear these very simple and basics truths. We hear all of these things about how to live a good life; how to be a better person; how to grow and become great. However, we never really hear about what it simply means to be a born again child of God.

The one thing I remember in my “growing up” in the Lord is that I when I first received Jesus as my Lord and Savior, the Lord allowed us to truly grasp and understand these fundamental truths of what it truly meant to be a child of God. That time was truly wonderful. Then we slowly but surely got into a whole lot of other things. I am not saying that they were bad, however, it caused us to lose focus on the these basic fundamentals of what it means to truly be a child of God,

Please, believe me that I am not saying that we are not to grow in the things of God. However, what I am saying is that we must never forget or lose focus on the true fundamentals of what it means to be a child of God. Unfortunately, this is what happens over time. We tend to want to “grow” in the things of God – which we should. However, whatever we “grow” in, we must never let the basic fundamentals of our faith be overshadowed with these other things.

Obedience does not lead to love. However, real true love does lead to us to obedience. That may seem a little strange. Think of it. If you truly, really love someone don't you do anything possible to please that person? You may fail at times but that is okay. You simply pick yourself up and continue to express and show forth your unconditional love to that person in the best way you can.

It is the same way with God but yet even to a higher level. God has given all of His love to us. He gave us Jesus. He gave us Jesus to now believe in and through His blood and atoning sacrifice, bring us back into relationship with Him, our everlasting Father. That is done. It is finished. We have now, and are become, His child, a joint heir to the Kingdom of God along with Jesus. The most important thing about our relationship with our God is that God loves us and we are His child no matter what we do – through the blood of Jesus.

If you are His child wouldn't you want to bless Him and please? Now I know these days in the world we are living in that may seem like a stretch. Let's face it. Many kids learn to and most disappointingly they continue to disobey and be arrogant and nasty to their parents - both their mother and father – without any reproof by the parents. This is where many “believers” are in their walk with the Lord. Now, I'm not speaking of being abusive towards children. However, I am speaking of lovingly bringing correction to our children just as God brings His loving correction to His children.

We must know that we, as children of God, are to be different now in this world. We live under different guidelines – scriptural, Biblical standards and guidelines. Yes, the Bible does give us God's guidelines to being His child, not only while we live upon this earth but also forever, even when we are with Him.

There are scriptures that tell us that He reproves, chastises and corrects those who are His. Hebrews 12:6-8 tells us, *“For whom the **Lord loves** he chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives. If ye endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chastens not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then ye are bastards, and not sons.”*

Why does God correct and even chastise us? Simply because He loves each and every one who are His, with His great and awesome unconditional love. That unconditional love sometimes means bringing correction and even chastening to His children. Why? It is because it will cause us to grow in Him so that He can pour out even more of who He is within our lives. It is so that He can express His unconditional love even in a greater way to those who are truly His.

Unfortunately, we are being taught these days that there are no guidelines. No, we are now being told, in many circles, that we are now our own master. That God has now made us into a new race of people. I do not disagree with that fact that we are now a new “race” of people. However, as that “new race” of people – believers in Christ - we have now become His children and He is still, now more than ever, our Father and our God. Yes, He **IS** God – not you or me!!!

We must continually be careful to not get caught up in any new “wind or wave” of doctrine that negates the fact that God is still God. That God is our Father and that we are not in total control but rather God is. We, in today’s world more than ever, must be careful that we do not get caught into “being tossed and turned by every new wind and wave of doctrine.” Ephesians 4:14 tells us, *“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive...”*

No, we must stay the course. We must stand fast in His truth and be careful not to be “sucked into” the course of every new “wind and wave of doctrine.” Times have not changed much. The New Testament writers wrote about this same aspect and attack against the believer back in their day. We see that the same thing is happening. I guess the way these lies and deceptions come our way may change a little but the main scheme is the same. It is a scheme of the enemy to steal, kill and destroy.

Each of us must return, ourselves, to the Word of God. Each of us must take the hard line stand of not yielding to the temptations and wiles of the enemy or to anyone else who is being taken in or being used to spew forth lies and deceptions to draw away even the very elect. We must all watch and pray that we are not caught in the tangled web of being tossed and turned with every wind and wave of doctrine. We must remember that, God is the truth. It is God who is the truth who will make us and keep us free – free from the bondage of the enemy (the devil).

In John 8:31-32 we read very clearly, *“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If you continue in My Word, then you are my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”* If you believe in Jesus then you are to continue in His Word. That full unadulterated and unabridged Word, from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21, which is the truth that shall make each of us free.