

Subject: Ignorance of the Word

Text: Hosea 4:1-7

Method: Textual

Title: The Pathway to Error

General Purpose: To examine the effects of ignorance of the word.

Specific Purpose: Examine and explore corrections for the devastation of spiritual ignorance

Thesis Sentence: Ignorance of the word is self-imposed destruction: physically, psychologically, socially, culturally, morally, and spiritually.

Introduction

- A. Ignorance of the word (Hos. 4:1-7; Isa. 5:20; Jer. 6:16; Lk. 8;12)
 - 1. Ignorance breeds error (Mat. 22:23-33, especially v. 29)
 - 2. Ignorance results from one or both of the following:
 - a. Teaching failure (1 Tim. 1:5-7; 2 Pet. 3:15-16; 1 Jn. 4:1)
 - b. Learning failure (Heb. 5:9-6:6)
- B. Must develop good, organized, goal oriented Bible study habits (2 Tim. 2:15), instill early love and respect for the word of God (Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:1-4)

I. "Study to show thyself approved...(2 Tim. 2:15)."

- A. The idea is to "give diligence:" to put forth a special effort -- To be approved of God, not to be ashamed, to rightly divide; properly handle the Word.
- B. Proper study requires strong application to the task (cf. Lk. 13:24).
- C. A means to win others to Christ.
 - 1. People are saved by the preaching of the Word (1 Cor. 1:21; Rom. 1:16; 10:14; 1 Tim. 4:16) which is the Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17).
 - 2. We cannot teach what we do not know (Heb. 5:12-14).
- D. "Ready always to give an answer (1 Pet. 3:15)."
 - 1. We cannot give an intelligent and convincing answer if we are not students of God's word (Mat. 22:29; Hos. 4:6).
 - 2. We must answer in the proper attitude of meekness (2 Tim. 2:24-26).
- E. The Berean Example (Acts 17:11).
 - 1. True nobility does not come from worldly renown, but from a willingness to study the word of God daily.
 - 2. Much false doctrine is being taught (1 Jn 4:1) so we must weigh what we are taught in the light of the scriptures (Acts 5:29; 1 Cor. 4:6; 1 Thes. 5:21).

II. The Command To Prove All Things -- 1 Thes. 5:21-22

- A. We must prove all things, not some things.
 - 1. All religious groups do some things that are right and any of them could give proof of part of their practice.
 - 2. When one proves some things he still has not filled the obligation of this command.
- B. Right ways of proving (*dokimazo*)
 - 1. Meaning of word -- "To demonstrate by reasoning or evidence caused to be accepted as genuine."
 - 2. The Greek word in our text, translated prove, is used (translated) in the following ways in the New Testament. Examples would be:
 - a. Test - Luke 14:19 -- "yolk of oxen -- go and prove them."
 - b. Examine - I Corinthians 11:28 -- "Let a man examine himself."
 - c. Proved - I Timothy 3:10 -- "Let these also first be proved."
 - d. Try - I John 4:1 -- "Try the spirits."

- C. Wrong ways of proving
1. Feeling is the wrong source of proof. Proverbs 28:26 -- He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.
 2. Parents are the wrong source of proof.
 - a. This standard would have proved the Jews right who stoned Stephen. "As your fathers did, so do ye". Acts 7:51
 - b. Their religion was like their parents, but it was wrong.
 3. Popularity is the wrong source of proof.
 - a. Numbers do not prove that a thing is right. Exodus 23:2
 - b. If numbers proved a thing right then Hinduism would win hands down.
 - c. Popularity would have required God to have saved the world and drowned Noah and his family.
 4. Conscience is the wrong source of proof.
 - a. Some have a defiled conscience. Titus 1:15
 - b. Others have a seared conscience. I Timothy 4:1-4
 5. Other people are the wrong source of proof.
 - a. Even if a thousand people agreed with you it would not be proof that you were right (Exodus 23:2; Matthew 7:13-14).
 - b. 1 Corinthians 4:6 relates to this.
 6. A law that is abolished is the wrong source of proof.
 - a. The baptism of John was abolished, thus Apollos could not prove it (Acts 18:24).
 - b. The law of Moses is abolished (Galatians 3:19-24; Romans 7:6; Colossians 2:24), thus one cannot prove the Sabbath, use of mechanical instruments of music in worship, nor any other thing used under that law.
 7. The exception to the rule is the wrong source of proof.
 - a. Many try to prove that baptism is not for the remission of sins by going to the example of Jesus' baptism in Matthew 3. He was sinless, but baptized.
 - (1) He WAS baptized to fulfill all righteousness (Matthew 3:15).
 - (2) John's baptism was FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS (Mark 1:4), so Jesus' baptism was the EXCEPTION.
 - b. One could just as easily attempt to prove that all will go to heaven in a chariot of fire, but Elijah was an exception.
 1. We cannot use Enoch to prove that no one will die--he was an exception.
 2. We cannot use Jesus' baptism to prove that no one has to be baptized--He was an exception.
 3. Could Jesus have fulfilled ALL righteousness without being baptized? Could He have remained sinless if He had not been baptized?
- D. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3--the Bible provides the only basis for truth.

III. Accept that truth is narrow, or reject truth entirely

- A. All truth, including religious truth, is narrow by nature. John. 14:6; Matt. 7:14
- B. Historical truth is narrow.
 1. When did the USA become independent? 1775 is close, but not correct.
 2. History reveals that the only correct year is 1776. Missing the truth just a little too less or a little too far results in a lie.
- C. We want the teachers who teach our children to be precise. In Arithmetic we want them taught $2+2=4$ not 3 or 5 or 6.
- D. One Can Easily See That Bible Truth Is Narrow.
 1. In Eph. 4 we have: one body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God.
 2. Where there is one, there cannot be more than one.
 3. Do you believe the Bible? Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:6; Rev. 22:18-19

CONCLUSION:

- A. The pathway to error can be avoided and destruction can be escaped!
 - 1. Willing to study to show approved, handle properly word of truth?
 - 2. Put **all** of your convictions to the test? Hold *only* what is good, what can be *proven* by the word?
 - 3. Accept that truth is as narrow as God's word reveals it to be?
- B. The Bible CAN be understood!
 - 1. It is for meditation (Lk. 24:45; Psa. 1:2; 119:97).
 - 2. It can be remembered (2 Pet. 3:1-2; Jude 17):
 - 3. It gives understanding (Psa. 119:105; Eph. 3:4; 5:17).
 - 4. Makes wise unto salvation (2 Tim. 3:15; Psa. 119:98).
 - 5. It MUST be studied (2 Tim. 2:15; Jn. 5:39).
- C. Read prayerfully and reverently. IT IS GOD'S WORD! (Psa. 1:1-6; 19:8-11; 119:18).
 - 1. Study diligently (Psa. 1:2).
 - 2. Systematically (2 Tim. 2:15).
 - 3. Understandingly (Acts 8:30-31).
 - 4. Believingly (Jn. 20:31).
 - 5. Retentively--Memorize! (Psa. 119:11).
 - 6. Daily (Acts 17:11).
 - 7. To save yourself and them that hear you (Acts 20:32; 1 Tim. 4:16).

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