

A KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH

Jhn. 8: 32

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Someone said; The reason some people arrive at the truth a good deal more quickly than others is not because of their intuition or superior brain power. They simply ask more questions.
- B. Jesus makes it clear in Jhn 17:17 that God's word is truth.
- C. Jesus said a knowledge of the truth makes one free - free from what?

DISCUSSION:

I. MAKES MEN FREE FROM THE BONDS OF IGNORANCE

- A. "Old man" characterized by ignorance Eph 4:17-24
 - 1. Alienated through ignorance
 - 2. Because of the blindness of their heart
 - 3. They put off the old man by hearing and being taught the truth, thereby becoming anew man
- B. Ignorance is not bliss Acts 17:30
 - 1. It promotes man made religion Rom 10:1-3
 - 2. It promotes worship of idols Acts 17:23
 - 3. It hinders faith, promotes division, makes men susceptible to false doctrine, and hinders obedience
- C. The darkness of ignorance is only dispelled by the light of the truth 1Jhn 1:5; 2:8

II. MAKES MEN FREE FROM THE BONDS OF PREJUDICE

- A. Prejudice = determining without all the facts or to judge before hand.
 - 1. There is a definite relationship between ignorance and prejudice.
 - 2. Remember when people thought the world was flat
 - 3. One reason for racial prejudice is a lack of understanding of differences.
- B. Prejudice is one of the worst enemies of righteousness
 - 1. "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Jhn 1:46
 - 2. It caused Jews to reject Christ
 - 3. Today it causes the rejection of Gospel, perpetuates division, etc.
 - 4. My mind is made up, don't confuse me with the facts
- C. By examining all in the light of truth prejudice can be removed
 - 1. Providing we want it removed
 - 2. Spirit of the Bereans will remove Ignorance and Prejudice Acts 17:11

III. MAKES MEN FREE FROM DOCTRINES & COMMANDMENTS OF MEN

- A. There is a relationship between ignorance, prejudice and such doctrines
- B. Man-made doctrines have a great influence in the religious world today
 - 1. Source determines validity of teaching (from heaven or man) Matt 21:25
 - 2. More people are influenced in religion by what does NOT come from God than by what DOES come from him
 - a. Example Jehovah's Witnesses like to talk about what new earth will be like
 - b. ex. church involved in institutionalism & recreation
- C. Man's doctrine makes our worship vain Matt 15:9
 - 1. Man's doctrine denominates because different groups teach and try to prove different doctrines
 - 2. Man's doctrine dishonors God, doesn't give respect
- D. We must simply "preach the word" 2Tim 2:2
 - 1. That which comes from divine source must be received, honored and applied above that which has its origin with uninspired men.
 - 2. Must continually "prove all things" 1Thess 5:21

IV. MAKES MEN FREE FROM SIN AND DEATH

Rom 8:2; Jhn. 8:32

- A. Sin is the worst & most destructive enemy of mankind
 - 1. Separates from God Isa 59:1,2
 - 2. Wages of sin is death Rom 6:23
 - 3. All have sinned Rom 3:23; 1Jhn 3:4
- B. Only God's truth reveals God's way Rom 1:16
 - 1. Therefore, men need to KNOW IT, (hear and learn) Jhn 6:45
 - 2. Every case of conversion was a RESPONSE TO HEARING AND LEARNING THE TRUTH!

CONCLUSION:

- A. We must learn and apply truth to every phase of our life
- B. In the Biblical sense we do not know the truth unless we have and are making application of it in our lives as well as being willing to teach and defend it at all times
- C. A quote from Ladies Home Journal said: "It is not hard (to find the truth; what is hard is not to run away from it once you have found it." (Etienne Gilson)
- D. "Buy the truth and sell it not" Prov 23:23