

Seek the Truth

Scripture

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV)

Thesis

Believers need to protect themselves from error by careful study of God’s Word.

Commentary

The devil often comes as an angel of light using truth, but twisting it, that he might deceive.

Nowhere is the depravity of man and the enmity of their minds against God more terribly displayed than in the treatment which His Holy Word receives at their hands. By many it is criminally neglected, by others it is wickedly wrested and made to teach the most horrible heresies. To slight such a revelation, to despise such an inestimable treasure, is an insult which the Most High will certainly avenge. To corrupt the sacred Scriptures, to force from them a meaning the opposite of what they bear, to handle them deceitfully by picking and choosing from their contents, is a crime of fearful magnitude. Yet this, in varying measure, is what all the false cults of Christendom are guilty of. Unitarians, Universalists, those who teach the unconsciousness of the soul between death and resurrection and the annihilation of the wicked, single out certain snippets of Scripture but ignore or explain away anything which makes against them. A very high percentage of the errors propagated by the pulpit are nothing more or less than Truth itself, but the Truth distorted and perverted—Arthur Pink.

With this knowledge in hand, it was prudent that Paul encouraged Timothy to be a diligent study. This is true for you also. The world and the organization called the church are full of distortions, half-truths and deceptions. It is critical that you are able to discern error, and there is only one sure way to do this.

You must know the truth well enough that error stands out. They teach money handlers to recognize counterfeit bills by teaching them what the real thing looks like. They become so familiar with the real bill that a fake one is easy to spot. Therefore, you must know the Word of God so that error stands out to you.

This may seem like a daunting task, but it is not as difficult as you might expect. It takes work that is why Paul tells Timothy to be diligent, but the process is not one of endless memorization. Rather, it is the process of knowing the heart of God.

Scripture is consistent because God is consistent. As you study God’s Word day after day, you will begin to know His heart. The more you know Him the easier it will be to spot something that doesn’t align itself with His heart. You will hear something that sounds possible because Scripture has been quoted to support it, but a red flag will go up in your mind. This is the bell ringing saying it’s time to get to class and search out the truth.

The Word of God is your final authority for life. It’s not wrong to learn from preachers and teachers, but to take them at face value as if they are infallible is a reckless mistake. Only the Word of God is infallible. Therefore, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Prayer

Father, as we open your word, let it speak to our soul. Imprint upon our hearts your will. Transform us into the image of your Son. Then we will know the truth. Then we will be protected from those who seek to deceive us, amen.