

Recognizing the TRUTH

“How can you determine whether the teaching you get is the truth?”

I suddenly asked one of my spiritual pupils this unexpected question quite out of the blue one day.

The answer came back, “By the Word.” I replied, “You’ll get no argument from me with that answer, but still it’s not the answer I am looking for.”

The Yardstick

The answer I was looking for at that moment was, “The place it gives to the triune God.”

Let me recommend that you listen to your pastor and Christian radio and TV, and read Christian books with this measuring stick constantly in mind.

But far more importantly, measure every thought you have personally concerning your Christian life and how you live it by that yardstick. You will be surprised how much attention you give to yourself, how little to the Lord, how much responsibility you place on your own shoulders, how little on the Lord’s.

Why, oh, why do we pay so much more attention to our weakness than we do to His strength?

Give Him the Preeminence

I may question the accuracy or adequacy of any part of my instruction to the people of God except for my instruction that they look constantly to the Lord for all things.

To give Him the preeminence can never be ill-advised. To look away from ourselves to Him can never be other than the best of wisdom. To hope in Him, to trust Him, to love Him, to look expectantly to Him, to long after Him, to desire Him, to seek to know Him, to place all our confidence in Him, to rest in Him, to praise Him, to worship Him, to adore Him, to thank Him, to find in Him our comfort, joy, and peace: when could these ever be inexpedient?

Knowledge of God’s Word, correctness of understanding and doctrine, the wonder of sweet experiences, important as they may be, pale into insignificance by comparison.

To look to ourselves, whether in hope or in hopelessness, is rather a hindrance to our spiritual growth than a help. To look to Him never.

The Center & Focus

No matter how we perceive the means of grace in connection with our growth in the deeper things of God, sooner or later they are going to lead to a dead end and utter disappointment unless the Lord Himself is their center and focus, their author and finisher, unless He is to them and of them the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

If you get discouraged in your pursuit of God, get as disappointed as you will in the methods and means of approach to Him, but in Him Himself there can be no disappointment.

He is infinitely perfect in every dimension you can imagine. And best of all He is perfect in love. He has promised never to leave us or forsake us. He has committed Himself to work ALL THINGS together for our good. And He is infinitely capable of doing it. He has promised that He will complete the good work in us that He has begun. Then, just go to Him and rest in His promises.

He Is No Disappointment

There find that no matter how long the outward disappointment may continue, He is keeping His Word and doing His work.

To run back to self-effort and self-dependence is the devil's desire for you.

Please, oh, please don't listen, don't yield.

Run rather into His arms and rest you there safe and secure in Him and His love.

He will, in the long run, do more than you dare ask or think.

Just stay there.

We acknowledge with appreciation that this message appeared first in its original form in the Christian World Report.

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