

Seeking the Truth

by Barney Keith

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simply revealed to humanity what was in the mind of God. He **knew** what God desired. He communicated this to the special ambassadors chosen by the Lord. He also gave these men the spiritual words with which to express spiritual truths to men. Read very carefully Paul's discussion of this matter (1 Cor. 2:6-16).

Never be guilty of trying to make God say **more** than He has said in His revealed word. Nor, for that matter, should you be content to do **less** than He has said. It is a fearful thing to pervert or corrupt the word of the gospel (Gal. 1:6-9). If you want to know how to be converted to Christ, read what the Scriptures reveal. Nothing else is needed. Anything different from the Bible will condemn rather than save. If you want to know the truth about how to worship God, the same Scriptures will supply that information. The Bible alone makes known God's will to you. Steer clear, then, of any disposition to alter this divine revelation. **It** is perfect; you are not.

5. Do not allow anyone to hinder your obedience to the truth. A soul (yours) is too valuable. The gospel of Christ is God's power to save (Rom. 1:16). Your concern must be, "What does **Christ** teach me to do to have remission of sins?" Read carefully such passages as Mark 16:15,16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 10:10; Acts 22:16; Rom. 6: 3, 4. The simple requirements of Jesus Christ are faith, repentance, confession of faith, and immersion for the remission of sins. Let no one stand in your way to dissuade you from obeying Him who is the "*author of eternal salvation*" (Heb. 5:9). **Believe** the truth to avoid condemnation (and because it **IS** the truth). **Obey** the truth to have your soul purified (1 Pet. 1:22).

Such devotion to the truth as described above must necessarily produce the results that our Lord promised. There is nothing wrong with the truth. The trouble is with man who finds so many excuses, so many interferences. How much do **YOU** want the truth? Is any price too great to pay for it? Surely there is nothing as important as obeying Him who said, "*I am the way, the truth and the life*" (John 14:6.) All who seek salvation in the Lord's way will find it and the **truth will make them free**.

A Final Word

In the New Testament we can see clearly the attitude that certain men had toward the truth of God. Some of these we need to imitate; others we need to reject. A marvelous example is found in the Ethiopian eunuch described in Acts 8:26-39. He was completely without prejudice. He really wanted to know what the prophet Isaiah meant. He was willing for another to teach him. In fact, he "*desired*" that Philip teach him. He knew that he needed instruction (Acts 8:30-31). It is no wonder that he obeyed the truth just as quickly as the opportunity was afforded. He was a sincere seeker of truth.

Then there is the remarkable spirit manifested by the people in Berea (Acts 17:11). They were not gullible, but they did receive the word "*with all readiness of mind!*" They searched the Scriptures to find out "*whether these things were so!*" They knew what the standard of truth was, and they used it. They were not resentful, but receptive.

How different was the reaction of the people of Antioch in Pisidia, as described by Luke in Acts 13:44-46. They were not truth-seekers. They were bound by human traditions and their personal prejudices. Consequently, when the truth was preached by Paul, "*they were filled with envy and spake against those things., contradicting and blaspheming.*" How sad a spectacle! They seemed not to care that they were putting the word of God from themselves and judging themselves "unworthy of everlasting life" (verse 46). This is what anyone will do unless he is very careful to cultivate the five principles enumerated earlier in this article. Let all of us search our hearts on the matter of attitudes toward the word of God and then be sure to "*let the word of Christ dwell*" in us richly (Col. 3:16). — via Gospel Guide [vol. 1, #1] **323603**