

-WHAT IS TRUTH FOR TODAY?-

There is an increasing interest in this question these days. Men and women everywhere are beginning to realize the fact that what may have been truth at one time may not be TRUTH FOR TODAY. But the main question is how is one to know what is and what is not for the present time. There has been so much confusion and various sects and denominations have built up a Babel of mixed doctrines till some wonder if any of it is right. There must be a solution.

The purpose of my ministry is to help folks clear up these things and get out of the confusion. Here are some simple rules you can use and work out the problem for yourself.

1. First of all try to find out just to whom the particular book of the Bible you have in question is written. That is usually pretty easy if it is an epistle. For an example the epistle of James is written "to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad." That is at the very beginning of the book. It is just a little more difficult when we come to Ephesians. There at the beginning it is addressed "to the saints which are at Ephesus and to the faithful in Christ Jesus." That is still a little indefinite, but just read on and when you get to the first verse of Chap. 3 you find the words, "for you Gentiles." For Colossians, look at 1:27.

2. Second, find whom the book is about. What people or group is the subject of the discussion. For example, look at Acts. It opens with the apostles asking if Christ will at that time restore the kingdom to Israel. That is the theme of the entire book and at the end Israel has rejected the re-offer of the King and the kingdom, so the salvation of God is sent to the Gentiles. Notice in that book the opening words of all the addresses of the different apostles. They begin with such expressions as, "Ye men of Judaea," "Ye men of Israel," "let all the house of

Israel know," "Ye are the children of the prophets," and many others which show beyond the shadow of a doubt that this book concerns the Jews. Some of it is about the Gentiles, but it is to the Jew first. The position of the Gentile is being grafted into the olive tree. A closer study reveals that God had two main purposes in Acts; to save a remnant of Israel, and to call out a few Gentiles as a people for His name. Both these purposes were completed and ended during the Acts period. Likewise 1 Cor. is about a people whose "fathers were under the cloud, and all passed thru the sea."

3. Third, find out as near as you can the time of the writing of the message in question. It may have a great deal to do with your enquiry. Paul wrote 7 epistles during the time of Acts and of course they would be to the people that Acts is about. Since all the 12 were commissioned only to the Jews, it is easy to place their epistles too. They all belong to the time of Acts and are to the Jews. Paul wrote 7 epistles after Acts. He was a special apostle of the Gentiles. We have just noticed that Eph. and Col. belong in that group. They teach doctrine that belongs to the present dispensation. Phil. and 2 Tim. take up the out-working of this doctrine in our lives. This of course is relative to our position.

The great fundamentals of salvation are to be found in Rom. which was written during the Acts period. But since Jew and Gentile both were sinners and there was no difference in that respect, the salvation is the same.

So we may conclude that all Scripture is for us, but not all is about us. The Old Testament from Gen. 11 to the end is about Israel, but there is plenty of rich and valuable material there for you and me. In fact we shall never be able to properly understand the New Testament without some study of the Old. If you rightly divide the Word, confusion will disappear.

-AT HIS WRATH THE EARTH
SHALL TREMBLE. Jer. 10:10-

For the wrath of God is revealed
from heaven against all

UNGODLINESS and UNRIGHTEOUSNESS
of men, who suppress the truth in
unrighteousness;

BECAUSE

that which may be known of God is
manifest in them;

For God hath shewed it unto them.

For the invisible things of HIM
from the creation of the world are
clearly seen, being understood by
the things that are made, even HIS
eternal power and Godhead;

SO THAT THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE;
BECAUSE

that when they knew God,

- A. They glorified Him not as God,
- B. Neither were thankful,
- C. But became vain in their
imaginings,
- D. And their foolish heart was
darkened,
- C. Professing themselves to be
wise,
- B. They became fools,
- A. And changed the glory of the
uncorruptible God into an image
made
 1. like to corruptible man
 2. and to birds
 3. and fourfooted beasts
 4. and creeping things

WHEREFORE

God also

- I. GAVE THEM UP TO UNCLEANNESS
thru the lusts of their own
hearts, to dishonor their own
bodies between themselves;

WHO

exchanged the truth of God for
THE LIE, and worshipped and
served the creature more than
THE CREATOR.

For this cause God

- II. GAVE THEM UP UNTO VILE AFFEC-
TIONS.

And as they did not like to re-
tain God in their knowledge, God

- III. GAVE THEM OVER TO A REPRUBATE
MIND,

to do those things which are not
convenient;

BEING FILLED WITH

1. All unrighteousness,
2. Fornication,

3. Wickedness,
4. Covetousness,
5. Maliciousness;

FULL OF

1. Envy,
2. Murder,
3. Debate,
4. Deceit,
5. Malignity;

1. Whisperers,
2. Backbiters,
3. Haters of God,
4. Despiteful,
5. Proud,
6. Boasters,
7. Inventers of evil things,
8. Disobedient to parents,
9. Without understanding,
10. Covenant breakers,
11. Without natural
affection.
12. Implacable,
13. Unmerciful

WHO

knowing the judgements of God,
(THAT THEY WHICH DO SUCH THINGS
ARE WORTHY OF DEATH),

Not only do the same,
BUT HAVE PLEASURE IN THEM THAT DO
THEM.

THEREFORE THOU ART INEXCUSABLE.....

-oOo-

The foregoing, which begins at
Rom. 1:18, is a picture of the na-
tions at the time of Gen. 11. It
tells us why God gave up the nations
at that time. This was a dark era
for the world and all seemed hope-
less. But immediately God called
out a man from Ur of the Chaldees
who was to be the father of a na-
tion which would be an example and
blessing to all the nations.

A careful consideration of this
passage will bring to mind that
human nature has not changed much
in the 4,000 intervening years.

Notice that neither Satan nor
the world is mentioned here. All
these things come from the wicked
heart of the natural man.

There is no salvation for such
a one unless he puts off the old
man, puts on the new man, and be-
comes a new creature in Christ.

If you are without God, this
passage is your picture.

-TONGUES-

In Acts 2 we have the account of the apostles speaking in tongues. The word TONGUE means LANGUAGE. My mother tongue is English.

The apostles were able to speak in at least 12 different languages. Why did they speak thus?

The answer is easy to find. The commission that was given to these 12 was to go out and teach all nations. If Israel would accept the King and re-offered kingdom, the time would be short until He would come again. There was no time for the apostles to go to school and learn all the languages. So the One Who confounded the tongues of men at Babel and Who knew all the languages, gave the power by the Holy Spirit to the apostles to speak all the languages of that day so that they might immediately go out and fulfill their task.

It was a marvel to those assembled that day at Jerusalem to hear their languages spoken by these Galileans. But it was a sign to them that the restoration that was spoken of by Joel the prophet was at hand.

It was also notable that only Jews were in the audience at Pentecost. That of course could be explained at first by the fact that these events occurred in the temple where Gentiles could not enter. But it must also be remembered that the Lord Himself was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. His ministry did not include the Gentiles at all. Further He told the apostles that He sent them as He had been sent. So it is evident that they were to go out among all the nations and teach the Jews the gospel.

It was only after continued rejection of the gospel by Israel that the gospel was taken to the Gentiles. This was to provoke the Israelites to emulation. The first instance of the preaching to Gentiles was at the house of Cornelius about 8 years after Pentecost.

It is sad to note that in a little while the members of the church of God were using this wonderful

gift to SHOW OFF in their assemblies and Paul had to especially correct those at Corinth for this practice.

The speaking of tongues was for Jews, except that some Gentiles received the gift at the house of Cornelius. This gift was a preparation for receiving the kingdom by Israel. It was to enable apostles to speak to people in their own languages. When Israel was set aside at Acts 28:28, this, along with the other gifts, was discontinued.

Today the theme of the gospel is the church, not the kingdom. It has no commission such as the early apostles had. There is no necessity for speaking in tongues, so the ability to speak in tongues is not given by the Holy Spirit. Any attempts to imitate the Jews of Pentecost only results in failure today. The imitation of tongues only ends in an unintelligible gibberish which no one can understand, not even the one who produces it. The result is Babylon, not Pentecost.

Another side of this imitation is the physical and mental wreckage that follows in its wake. For in the vain attempts to reproduce what they think happened at Pentecost, these deluded folks work themselves up into a nervous state accompanied by shaking and twitching of various parts of the body. This nervous condition finally may become permanent. Mental breakdowns and other terrible conditions follow.

These things are of course very noticeable in the mental and the physical spheres, but the spiritual wreckage which follows trying to follow the things of a past dispensation is not so apparent. But it is true that those who try to hold to the truths and ordinances of a dispensation that is ended suffer great loss and leanness of soul. Much of the powerlessness of the professing church today is from this very cause.

I do not mean to be critical or unkind. But I beg of you that you search the Word for TRUTH FOR TODAY.

-TRUTH FOR TODAY-

This is a threefold ministry for the purpose of preaching among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ (Eph. 3:8). These riches cannot be grasped unless there is a right dividing of the Word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15) and a realization of the position and office of Christ in relation to the church which is His body. We endeavor to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in them, the hope of glory (Col. 1:27).

So by word of mouth in classes, by printed page, and by weekly radio broadcasts, I, who am less than the least, try to make known the super-heavenly calling which God so graciously offers today to those who will receive it by faith.

The class which meets at my home on Sunday afternoons is still working in Genesis and Acts. Some very interesting questions have come up.

May 17 I gave my 34th radio program, finishing the first 3 chapters of Eph. It will not take so long to do the last three chapters, which are practical, rather than doctrinal. I am certainly grateful for the voluntary fellowship of several in the expense of this project.

This little paper is now going

out to almost 300 regular readers. I sent out approximately 150 sample copies last month. If your copy is marked SAMPLE and you wish to continue receiving it, let me know. A postal card will do. There is no charge for it. 32 copies went out last month to various foreign countries.

If you have any friends you would like for me to send it to them, give me the names and addresses and I will see to it. That is the purpose of this ministry. We want new readers from everywhere. It is not my purpose to compete with other larger printed Bible study magazines, but to blaze a new trail among those who have not heard of the dispensation of the mystery.

I drove 246 miles down to Gila, Ill. April 19 and held a meeting in a country school house near there that evening. The interest was good and several were out. I enjoyed this fellowship very much.

May 15 I spent with the Bible Fellowship of Muskegon, Mich. My daughter Ruth went with me on this trip. This group has always been very attentive and considerate when I have spoken to them. I value their friendship very highly.

Have received letters from good friends of Montrose, Jewett, and Washington, Ill. during the last few weeks. Keep on writing.

TRUTH FOR TODAY
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