
-APPROVED-

In the second chapter of 2nd Tim. the apostle Paul gives three examples of how to be approved. He then follows these with the exhortation to study or strive diligently to shew themselves approved unto God. All the everyday affairs of life are the testings and trials which determine the approval.

1. There is first the example of the soldier. He is expected to endure hardness. Which reminds us that the real Christian does not have an easy path at all times. Also the good soldier must not have outside distractions. He cannot carry on a business enterprise and be a good soldier at the same time. The Christian who would have the approval of his Captain must not get entangled with the affairs of this world. They will take his mind from the things that abide and take time from his service. Our Lord asks for first place in our lives.

2. Then there is the example of the athlete. He has to know the rules. He must observe good form. Improper observance of either of these can disqualify and there is no hope of gaining the prize. Our rule book is the Word of God. In it can be found all that we need to know to qualify. In it we can learn what is good form (our daily walk). By prayer and watchfulness we can keep in training, ready for any contest that may come. There is no excuse for the disgrace entailed by an infraction of the rules, and that with the grandstands packed. The world is watching.

3. Finally there is the example of the husbandman. LABORETH is the main word in this connection. There are times when we labor in tears and times when we labor with joy, but if the work is faithfully done there is the promise of partaking of the fruits. There is also the patient waiting till the harvest. How we need to learn the lesson of patiently waiting on the Lord! The hours may seem long and the days dark at times, but after much labor and waiting comes the harvest.

It takes hardness, obedience to the rules, and much labor to get the reward.

-LOVE AND LIFE-

When Adam came under the condemnation of death, it was revealed that life had been provided. The provision had been made some time previous to the fall.

John the Baptist drew attention to the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world. Blood was shed in order to provide a covering for Adam's nakedness. This was a type of the life provided.

To the Romans Paul made it clear that sin and death existed prior to the placing of man in the garden, for by the one came sin into the world and death by that sin. So we must look back a little farther than that for the beginning of ruin.

In Eph. 3:6 is a mention of a promise in Christ and it has to do with Paul's gospel. Again, in 2nd Tim. 1:1 it is spoken of as the promise of life. It, too, is in Christ Jesus. But we find some more about it in the third reference, Titus 1:2. Here it is eternal life which God had promised before the world began (before age times).

Evidently there was a promise of life before death entered the universe. What a comfort that is!

This life is in the Son. Outside of Him is death, which is the direct opposite of life. It is what life is not.

God's love for the world is first mentioned in John 3:16. His manner of loving (not the amount) was the giving of His Son. This was one act. It was at one time. It was for the whole world. But the only ones who will ever benefit by that love-act are those who believe. There is no other way. Life must be accepted as a gift and thru the Son. Rejectors have no other hope. God has not loved the world in any other way or manner. This is the one way and you either take it or leave it. Those who have not the Son have not life. The wrath of God abides on them and there is no life for them.

This is the answer to all the wishful thinking that God must love the world in some other way and so all finally will be saved. Such philosophy is a snare and a lie from the one who said, "Thou shalt not surely die."

-STEPS TO TRUTH- (1)

Nobody wishes to miss a good thing. Many regrets are because of missed opportunities. Untold treasures are being missed and lost today because of a closed Bible. It is just ignorant neglect. Many Christians are choosing lesser blessings when they might just as well have the greater. They are poor spiritually by choice.

Take, for example, Col. 3:4. Have you ever taken that for your hope? Some day the Lord will appear. But where? In GLORY. The word for appear is PHANEROO. According to the Lexicon, it means, "to make manifest, make apparent, show forth." The Lord Jesus is sharing His Father's throne now. Some day He will receive many crowns and will reign over the heavens and the earth. This appearing in glory is the great coronation. What a wonderful time that will be! Will you be there?

I was a Christian for a long time before I changed my place of citizenship or address to heaven (Phil. 3:20). I had little idea of what a saint was and did not dream that I might be one. In fact I was worried no little when I looked in the Word and saw the requirements of a real Christian. But I finally discovered that I was a saint, just as were other believers.

As I studied the Bible, I became aware of the fact that I was puzzled by many questions which I could not answer. I wondered why the church during the period covered by the book of Acts was so different from the church today. Why did we no longer have gifts of tongues and healing? Why couldn't we raise people from the dead? Why do we no longer observe the Passover as they did? Why do Gentiles now take part in church services and not then? Why were folks stricken dead when they lied in the assembly, and now even the preachers can get by with it and not be stricken down? In fact I found over 40 items in which the church of that time differed from the church as it should be today. Maybe you can think of some.

-TRUTH FOUND- (1)

But when I finally found that the church was to go thru the great tribulation and be caught up at the last trump, I saw that I had to find an answer. For how could the church of today be caught up at the last trump when the coronation spoken of in Col. was to take place some time before? Were we to come back and be caught up the second time after being manifested with Him in glory?

But, as is the rule in the Word, the key hung at the door. The key was Acts 26:28. My trouble was that I just did not realize that I was not a Jew. I was trying to steal the blessings of the Jews and was ignoring the wonderful truths that were written for us Gentiles by the Holy Spirit thru the apostle Paul. I had not been rightly dividing the Word of Truth and surely was a workman that needed to be ashamed. I only wish that there was a way by which I might correct some of the Bible teaching I did in those early years. May the Lord grant that I will not be disapproved as was Moses. He led Israel in the wilderness 40 years and yet did not get to enter the land. (No, he was not lost, just lost the reward).

Now being a Christian is a whole lot more than believing that there is a God in heaven and going to church once in a while. It is said in the Word that Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness. But how can a person believe God if he does not know what God has said? It does not say that Abraham believed the preacher or the Bible teacher or some books somebody peddled to him, but he believed God. Do you know what God has said and do you believe it?

There is just one way to find what God has said. That is to read and study His Word, the Holy Scriptures. The apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit said that he completed the Scriptures. I am not looking for any other revelation of any kind for us Gentiles written since 2nd Tim., the last book Paul wrote. The Bible as it is meets every need.

-STUDIES IN JOHN- #17

1. What was the Lord's business? 9:4.
2. Could there be a lesson in this statement for us? What?
3. Did the night come at the death of the Lord, or was it when the dark ages set in and there was no testimony to the truth? (Your opinion)
4. When He was in the world and was the light of the world, did the world walk in that light?
5. How does 9:6 compare with Gen. 2:7?
6. What did the man have to do to demonstrate his faith?
7. What was the result of the act of faith?
8. What did the neighbors think?
9. What did the man tell them?
10. What did he call the Lord in verse 11?
11. On what day had this been done?
12. Who else got to know about it?
13. What was the division among the Pharisees?
14. What fault did some of them immediately find?
15. Now what does the man call the Lord? 17
16. Did the Jews believe his story?
17. How did they seek proof?
18. Did the parents explain?
19. What was to be the penalty if any should confess that Jesus was the Christ?
20. Does that explain the answer of the parents?
21. What did the Pharisees call the Lord? 24
22. What one thing did the man know?
23. What conclusion did the man finally make as to the authority of the Lord? 33
24. What effect did this have on his standing in the synagogue (church)?
25. What did he finally learn about the One Who had healed him?
26. What then was his confession?
27. Can you explain the meaning of verse 39?
28. Were the Pharisees blind?

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS: Barbara Ransom of Joliet, Ill., and James Bennett of Omro, Wis. have joined our Bible Study Club.

Did you know that the GOSPEL was in John 3:16? Well, here it is; God so loved the world, that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him Perish, but have (should not) Everlasting Life.

Notice also that the first three lines are concerning God and what He did, and the last three are concerning us.

I like the way that Rotherham has translated it; For God so loved the world That His Only Begotten Son He gave, - That whosoever believeth on Him Might not perish But have life age-abiding.

If there is any question as to what is meant by age-abiding, it simply means life that will last thru the ages. Before that time is over death will have been destroyed and all in Christ will have immortality. The ages are the time in which there is time. Before and after the ages there is no time. Time is measured by length of life and decay and darkness. Without these no one would be interested in counting days, months, or years. They would mean very little.

Let us also look at 1 Cor. 15:22; As in Adam all Die, even so in Christ shall All be Made alive.

Or it can be outlined thus; A/ In Adam B/ All C/ Die a/ In Christ b/ All c/ Alive

We know both from the Word and from observation that all descendants of Adam die. We are assured that it is just as true that all that are in Christ shall live again. Sincerely in Him, Oscar M. Baker.

- THE EDITOR'S DESK -

Activities include a Radio Bible Class each Tue. nite at 7 in the WRSW studios. This is followed by the Fellowship in the study of the Word at 7:45, same place. Each month, the paper, TRUTH FOR TODAY is sent to all who request it or whose names have been sent in by friends. It is free. Extra copies can be had for distribution.

The book shelf is well supplied now. Books by C.H. Welch as listed in #48. Companion Bibles, buckram, \$12 or leather at \$24. Englishman's Greek Concordance, \$3. LXX with English Translation, \$6.30. Vol. 1 Thy Testimonies, \$2 (out, more coming). New supply from J. Eustace Mills; ALL TRUTH, 75¢, NEW TESTAMENT MINISTRIES, 75¢, HIS WORKMANSHIP, 25¢. Prices are postpaid if money accompanies the order.

The films arrived from Germany, but were not the right size. They are not made anywhere anymore.

We had a short course in intensive Bible study Oct. 3-5. Those taking it were Mr. & Mrs. M. J. Whittleton of Springfield, Mo., and Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Ransom of Joliet, Ill. If any others are interested in such study, please write. Can get in about 12 hours of study by such a week-end arrangement, or can make other plans to suit your convenience. I would like to know as far in advance as possible so as to plan for it.

In the department of Vital Statistics we can announce that Tippy Gene, daughter of Gene Kernal of Ternes Farms, became mother of a male calf Oct. 15th. His sire is Curtis Candy Intrepid Prince of the Curtis Candy Farms. Would like to sell this calf; registered, of course.

** CONFERENCE; Oct. 26 at 10 A M and 3 P M. Place, the Morton Hotel in Grand Rapids, Mich. Speakers, Garret Hazekamp, Elroy Robinson, Orville Bowser, and your editor. All friends in that area should come out to this meeting. Be sure to make yourselves known to me as I am simply TERRIBLE when it comes to remembering names and faces. *****

When the taxes came due, all Peter had to do was to take a fish and find the amount. So we have also had provision made and so, figuratively, I have been fishing a couple of weeks. This has taken time from correspondence and study. We are thankful for the Lord's provision for our needs.

Have gotten a supply of small spools for recording tape so I can make 2 15-minute recordings on one. If you can use some of these studies, let me know. I make no charge for this service. The materials are all paid for.

The quarterly report will have to be postponed because of the fishing (?).

Am so glad for all the fine letters of encouragement you have sent. Also am glad to pray for those who have a need.

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