

Bible Study Notes

Friday Night Bible Study, November 10th, 2017

Set Apart by God's Truth

John 17:14-17

Jesus educated His disciples. He taught them God's Word. Now, you should ask yourself, "What did Jesus teach His disciples?" You should want that same education that was given to them! Going along with a different attitude, teaching, school of thought, etc. will only lead to darkness of mind, thought and character. God's education - the things of God - are light, they lighten up your mind, thoughts and attitudes.

You want God and Jesus to be teaching you. It probably won't happen directly. That's pretty rare! You may find that God sends a messenger, a teacher, that will give you the right understanding from the Bible. It's the understanding of God's truth, and the character that follows, that sets the Church of God apart from the rest of the world. "Sanctify" in verse 17 means to be set apart. If you don't believe the way that the world believes, it will set you apart. That much is guaranteed!

How do you get God's understanding? You have to work at it, really want it - really put out a lot of effort (Prov. 2:1-6). You have to be willing to count the cost (Luke 14:26-33) by putting God first, ahead of people.

John 17:20-26

This is discussing the church down through the ages. People from the time of Christ and all the way down to the end of the age would believe in God's truth as the original apostles did. Mr. Armstrong was educated by God and on the right track. When people depart from what Mr. Armstrong taught, their word simply doesn't ring true! Avoid being involved with any educational force that will pull you off track and corrupt your thinking. The goal is unity - first with God and Christ through the Holy Spirit and then afterwards with others in the same situation (John 15:1-8). If two people have the Holy Spirit, they'll react properly to God's message through those whom God sends and there will be unity! God the Father loves the true Church just as much as He loves Jesus!

1 Cor. 1:10

We must all speak the same thing that Christ speaks and have no divisions. This doesn't describe the Church of God situation today, does it? Why is that so? The answer is in Ephesians 4.

Eph. 4:4-6

There is only One True God and one true religion. We all have the same goal - to be in the first resurrection at the second coming of Christ. We should not be divided. The true education from God should bind us together. Through God and His Spirit we are able to overcome (Rom. 8:37).

Matt. 12:25

A house divided cannot stand. The Church must be in the 1 Corinthians 1:10 state in order to succeed.

1 Cor. 12:25, 12-21

There must be no schisms in the body! We all need one another as a human body needs all of its parts - the eyes, ears, nose, limbs, etc. We are all members of one body; baptized into it through the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the body.

1 Cor. 2:1-16

When the Spirit of God comes into you, you become a member of the true Church of God. The Spirit of God imparts understanding of the things of God. The people of the world lack God's Spirit and cannot understand God's truth as God's Church can. Paul's converts had the mind of Christ. They could understand what he was teaching.

1 John 5:19-21 says that God's people KNOW they have understanding which the rest of the world lacks.

Luke 8:4-15; 2 Cor. 4:3-4

The parable of the sower and the seed. Notice - verse 11 - the seed is God's Word! Satan tries, if possible, to siphon out God's education from everyone as much as is possible. Satan is a master of deception. God is more powerful than Satan (1 John 4:4), but you have to be close to and connected to God in order to remain on track (John 15:1-8). Stay connected to God. With God's help, you can make it.

See the big picture. You're preparing for eternity NOW during your human lifetime. Jesus' job is to help you through your human lifetime so you can receive eternal life and be resurrected at His second coming (Heb. 4:14-16).

God's messengers simply deliver God's message. They didn't originate it. They are entrusted with the message and are expected to deliver it faithfully. When Mr. Kalliman was a messenger for Twin City Federal (TCF) National Bank, he was frequently entrusted with large amounts of funds to deposit in other banks. The Word of God is the same way. You need to treat it very preciously.

When the Word of God comes to you, it's like treasure (2 Cor. 4:7). Take your job - to preserve the precious education God has given you - seriously. Study "Mystery of the Ages" and "The Incredible Human Potential" again. They are "textbooks from God." Do it! Don't listen to the scoffers and the doubters! Recapture the education God used Mr. Armstrong to raise up Ambassador College to impart to the students. Today's ministers need to be holding on to that education and passing it on to the members. The Church needs to "make herself ready" and overcome these divisions!

Matt. 13:44

This is what the knowledge of God is like - hidden treasure! It's so precious, even if nobody else can see it. You might have to give up friends, family, a career, everything in order to obtain God's education. But, it's worth it and God will see you through. You have to do whatever it takes to achieve the true goal (by following the seven laws of success). It's the same goal for all who are called in this age. It's worth more than anything and everything that you could possibly obtain in this life.

It doesn't matter what you, or I, or any minister from a pulpit says unless it is consistent with God's truth as expressed in the Bible. God's teaching will "ring true" to those who "have an ear to hear." When liberal ministers come along and say, "Mr. Armstrong was a good man but he made mistakes," just ignore it. He was a faithful messenger of the things of God. He taught the Word of God faithfully and spoke with real conviction. They don't. Their preaching

will cause division and has about as much life as a speck of dust. It will cause you to fall asleep spiritually. It's NOT "alive" as Mr. Armstrong's teaching was. God's Word is a living thing - as Hebrews 4:12 says.

Bible study by Matthew Kalliman

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