

Prove All Things

No. 114

Introduction.

- I. On one occasion Jesus said. (Matt. 7:15).
 - A. In Matthew 24:4 Jesus also warned.
 - B. In 1 Thessalonians 5:21 Paul admonished his readers to “prove all things.”
 - C. In 1 John 4:1 the apostle said.
- II. These scriptures and many others found in the word of God emphasize that we must not believe everything we hear because there are many false teachers and false doctrines in the world.
 - A. We are admonished to “prove all things.”
 - B. On the basis of these scriptures I would like for us to carefully examine four statements that are currently being made in the realm of religion.

- I. **Truth Is Unattainable** - One statement that is being made today is “truth is unattainable.”

There are those in the world and a few in the church who would have us accept the view that we can only seek truth; that we cannot, in fact, ever find it.

- A. Jesus refuted this statement by saying. (Jn. 8:32).
 1. Jesus here gave a plain and simple answer to the falsehood that truth is unattainable.
 2. He affirms that we can know the truth, and His answer should settle the matter with any person who really believes Christ and the Bible.
- B. But it is not unusual to hear someone argue along this line, “**You surely do not claim to know everything.** You surely do not claim to be infallible. Since you do not know everything and since you are not infallible, how can you claim to be absolutely certain about anything? When people differ, how can anyone ever be certain that he is right?”
- C. **This argument sounds good, but it uses absurd reasoning.** This argument says that since no one knows everything that no one knows anything at all. This is fallacious reasoning. It certainly does not follow that because I do know everything, that I do not know anything at all. There are many, many things I do not know, but there are at least a few things which I do know.
 1. I know, for instance, that I am at this moment standing before an audience of people and speaking. I know there are at least 200 people in the audience. I know if I stick my hand in a fire and leave it there, it will be burned. There are many other like things which I know.
 2. **There are also some things I know about the Bible.**
 - a. I know the Bible teaches **God is love.** (1 Jn. 4:8a, 9).

- b. I know the Bible teaches **Jesus was and is the Son of God**. (Matt. 16:16).
- c. I know the Bible teaches **salvation is by grace**. (Rom. 6:23).
- d. I know the Bible teaches **Jesus is the only way to heaven**. (Jn. 14:6).
- e. I know the Bible teaches **faith and baptism are necessary for salvation**. (Mk. 16:16).
- f. I know that **all of us are accountable to God**. (2 Cor. 5:10).
- g. There are many other things in the Bible that I know.

D. If someone should deny what I am saying, then I should reply that the denial is self-contradictory.

1. This is the case because in denying that I know even one thing about Bible teaching, the denier would be claiming to know at least one thing; namely, that I do not know everything or anything.
2. If the denier can come to have even this little bit of knowledge, his premise that man can know nothing is destroyed. For if a man can know one small bit of knowledge, then it is possible that he might add another bit and another bit and another bit until he can finally know many things.
3. Truth is attainable, and we must never let the devil or one of his angels deceive us into thinking otherwise. (Eph. 5:15).

II. We Cannot Understand The Bible Alike - A second statement that is often made is, "We cannot understand the Bible alike."

There are many things in the Bible that should cause us to doubt the truthfulness of this statement.

- A. If men cannot understand the Bible alike, **why did Jesus pray for unity?** Jn. 17:20, 21.
- B. If men cannot understand the Bible alike, **why did Jesus warn against false teachers?** Matt. 7:15.
- C. If men cannot understand the Bible alike, **why did the men on the day of Pentecost all see it alike?**
 1. Luke said. (Acts 2:41).
 2. Later Luke said, "the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and soul." (Acts 4:32).
 3. That does not sound like men cannot understand the Bible alike.
- D. If men cannot understand the Bible alike, **why did Paul appeal to the Corinthians to be united?** 1 Cor. 1:10.
- E. If men cannot understand the Bible alike, **why did Paul say there is, "one Lord, one faith, one baptism."** Eph. 4:4.
- F. If men cannot understand the Bible alike, **why did Paul condemn those who perverted it and changed it?** Gal. 1:6-9.
- G. If men cannot understand the Bible alike, **why did John say.** (2 Jn. 10, 11).
- H. These scriptures force us to conclude that we can understand the Bible alike.

1. God is not a God of confusion, but He is the God of truth and peace.
2. We will see the Bible alike if we will honestly and diligently search the scriptures for the will of God.

III. **The Church Is Unimportant** - A third statement made today is that the church is unimportant.

- A. Many suggest that it is sufficient just to live a good moral life. Others affirm it is sufficient to accept Christ. Both groups maintain the church is unimportant and salvation can be obtained without being a part of the church.
- B. This teaching has gained wide acceptance, but it is foreign to the teaching of Christ and the apostles.
 1. Jesus promised **He would build His church.** (Matt. 16:18).
 2. Paul taught **Christ and the apostles are the foundation of the church.** (1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20).
 2. The New Testament teaches that **Christ is the head of the body, the church.** (Eph. 1:22, 23).
 3. The New Testament teaches **Christ died for the church.** (Eph. 5:25).
 4. The New Testament teaches **Christ is the Savior of the body, the church.** (Eph. 5:23; Acts 20:28).
- C. These scriptures force us to take a harsh look at the statement the church is unimportant.
 1. We have learn Jesus is the builder of the church, He is the principle part of the foundation of the church, He is the head of the body, the church, He died for the church, He is the Savior of the body, the church and He shed His precious blood for it.
 2. These awesome truths show the church is important, and one must be in it to be saved. No one can be saved who rejects Christ and the church.

IV. **You Do Not Have To Be Baptized To Be Saved** - Still another statement that is being made today is, "You do not have to be baptized to be saved."

Let's examine the scriptures to see if this is true.

- A. If this statement is true, it means that **one can be saved without putting on Christ.** Paul taught we put one Christ through baptism. (Gal. 3:26, 27).
- B. If this statement is true, it means that **one can be saved without having his sins forgiven.** The Bible teaches that baptism is for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:28; 22:16).
- C. If this statement is true, it means that **Jesus, Paul, and Peter did not know what they were talking about** and told a lie. (Mk. 16:16; Tit. 3:5; 1 Pet. 3:21).
- D. Since none of these things are true, it means that baptism is essential for salvation.

Conclusion.

- I. Let us always heed the admonition "prove all things." Let us never accept a statement without searching the

scriptures to see if it is true.

- II. **Some years ago a man stood in an art gallery** in Toronto, looking at a wonderful picture of Christ. Soon he whispered, “Oh, how I do love Him!” Another man who was standing nearby said, “Yes, friend, I love Him also, and I am going to give Him my very life.”
- III. Won't you do that today? We urge you to come, confessing your faith in Christ and then be baptized for the remission of your sins, emerging to live a new life. Will you come as we sing?