

Bible Study
December 10, 2021
Doctrine
Proof & Reproof

We have a very important Bible Study today, it concerns our High Calling, and the “doctrines” or “teachings” that we believe in, and follow. Doctrine is defined as: “a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a church, political party, or other group”.

Today’s study can help us know if the doctrines or teaching in which we follow and believe, are correct, or incorrect. This is a very important study, because according to the Word of God, many (not some, not a few, but many) even in the cog are following false doctrines, incorrect teachings that are mixed with fables and errors. And, according to the Word of God, ones salvation is at stake here.

Now please, hear me out, let us not fear this study, because it’s Truth that we are in search of. Remember, the True church of God is defined as: “***The church of the Living God, the Pillar and Ground of the Truth***”.
(1Timothy 3:15.)

Truth is so important, it’s what sanctifies us, or sets us apart. It’s what makes us free, and it’s also the way that our Heavenly Father wants us to worship Him.
(John 17:17.) (John 8:32.) (John 4:23-24.)

Now we all know the Scripture tells us to: “*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” But there is another Scripture that I want to bring to our attention today that elaborates on just how to properly do that studying, and properly divide the Word of truth.

The Scripture I’m speaking of tells us how we can be “sure” even “positive” whether the teachings, yes the doctrines that are being taught from the pulpit where we attend services, are correct, and in accordance with the Word of God.

Many in God’s church neglect to take advantage of this advantageous (and crucial) instruction given in the particular Scripture that I’m referring to. Yet this instruction will not only verify all teachings on all subjects, whether they are

correct or not, but would also put us in accord with one another, and most importantly, with our Heavenly Father, and our Lord.

Before we go to that important Scripture, I'd like to go to the book of 2nd Peter, because many (too many) in God's church today are a bit too content, thinking they have all the truth and proper doctrines and beliefs.

Now the book of 1st Peter deals with problems from the outside, but 2nd Peter deals with problems inside the church of God, and inside the church of God today. And let us realize, Peter wrote this warning to us a long time ago, and he wrote it in the "future" tense. But to drive home the point that I'm trying to make, and for us to better comprehend the Truth in Peter's warning to us, and the sobriety of it, we need to read Peter's words today in their proper "present" tense, because what Peter has warned us about is not a future event, it's all ready history, and has been for a long time now.

*(2nd Peter 2: 1-2.) But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there **are** false teachers among you, who privily **have** brought in **damnable heresies**, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And **many** (not a few, not some, but **many**) **are** following their **pernicious** ways; by reason of whom the way of truth **is** evil spoken of.*

That word "*pernicious*" means = ruin or loss, destruction, die, perdition. Brethren, what Peter is addressing here, pertains to salvation.

Now this warning about being led astray by men, not only comes from Peter, but others too. Like our Lord who made the following statement after being questioned by His disciples concerning the end of the age and His return: "*And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many men shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many*". (Matthew 24:4.)

And how about Jude, the one who gives the most stern and forceful warning and admonition for us concerning our beliefs. Jude tells us to: "*Get Back to the Faith once delivered to the Saints*". Brethren, let us not be deceived by men, the pulpits in the church of God have been "incorrectly" teaching for years, that we have already gotten back to that Faith that was once delivered, that we have already

returned to the correct doctrines, that the truth has already been restored. But, nothing could be further from the Truth. We need to return to that Faith, that level of Belief where the church is alive with those powerful gifts from the Father.

Let's ask a question here, why did the church of God lose that faith that was once delivered in the first place? Well we don't have to go far to find the answer, it's in the very next verse: "*Because there are certain men crept in, unawares, ungodly men*".

Faith and Belief go hand in hand. And Faith and Belief are quite lacking in these end times in which we are living, just as our Lord referred to when He questioned if He would even find faint at His return.

Now if you don't think there is a "Belief" problem in the church of God today, just go to chapter 16 in the book of Mark where it says: "*These signs shall follow those who Believe*". The casting out devils, the new tongues, the picking up snakes and not being hurt drinking anything piousness, and the recovering of the sick after laying on of hands. These "sign follow" are lacking in God's church today, why? Because there is a belief problem in the church of God today Brethren. We are the Church of God, But these signs will only manifest if we know, and teach, and walk in Truth.

Yes, it takes teaching and believing Truth, (not truth mixed with fables) for these "signs follow" to be there. Look at what it says in the last two verses: "*So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, He was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God* (That's where He still is today) (And look at what it says in the next verse: "*And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the Word with "signs following"*". (Notice, they weren't helping our Lord in their preaching, He was helping them, and He was "confirming" the "Word" (The Truth) that they were preaching, with "signs following").

Aramaic Bible in Plain English says it like this: "*But they went forth and they preached in every place, and our Lord was helping them and **confirming their words** with the signs that they were doing.*"

Good News Translation put it like this: "*The disciples went and preached everywhere, and **the Lord worked with them and proved that their preaching was true by the miracles that were performed.***"

Our Lord is Not going to confirm the preaching, unless the preaching consists of Truth. He will only confirm the “Word” that is being preached if it is “Truth” (Correct Doctrine.)

Now many of our beliefs are correct, but there are also many that are false (clearly false) and not Scriptural. And what I’m trying to push in this message is the importance of studying, like those Nobel Berean’s who wouldn’t swallow Paul’s words until they checked the Scriptures for proof.

Now when we were called into God’s church, many of our false beliefs were corrected as we began to read the Bibles and look into the Scriptures for correct doctrines. But in order to verify that what we believe is totally correct, there is another step that many in God’s church neglect to take. It’s found in that Scripture that I have been referring to.

(2nd Timothy 3:16.). “All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for “**Reproof**”, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thought furnished, unto all good works.

When it comes to correct doctrines, to correct beliefs, the word “**reproof**” here is extremely important. The Greek is Strong’s # G1650 proof, conviction: -**evidence**, **reproof**.

Evidence = the available body of facts of information indicating whether a belief is true or valid.

To obtain evidence, one has to investigate, and that takes time, that takes effort on our part. We have to individually search out Truth. And for many of us, we are at the stage where we need to anoint our eyes with that Laodicean eye salve, because our Lord is at the Door, and He detests the lukewarm.

The problem with the “**many**” (Yes, the “**many**” in God’s church) as 2nd Peter 2:2, and Matthew 24:5, and numerous other places states, is that the majority of the brethren in God’s church don’t study, don’t search the Scriptures for Truth, don’t look for proof or reproof. Apparently don’t have a love for the Truth, but instead, many are busy taking their pleasure in unrighteousness. We could add to the excuses made in Luke 14:18-20: because many in the church of God today are saying (present tense again) I’m too busy with this present world, and actually quite content with it, please have ne excused.

Now I'm not here today to make a list of which church doctrines I believe are fables. But I do encourage you not to turn your ear away, as many "leaders" (men in pulpits) try to enforce you to do. But rather when you hear someone preaching or teaching something different (its called heresy.) don't turn away, but do check it out. Truth stands on its own two feet, and remember, (Iron still sharpened Iron) And please understand, heresy is a good thing, even Paul was a preacher of heresy, and he was proud of it.
(Acts 24:14.)

Its "**damnable**" heresy we want to stay clear of. But Be Careful Here, because it's **damnable heresy** that the **many** in God's church today **are following** according to the verses we have already read, including (2nd Peter 2:2.)

Brethren the only True Teacher, the One we need to be close too, is our Lord and Savior, and our Father above. But to be close to them, and to learn from them, we have to be obedient, we need to be walking upright.