

“Buy the Truth, and Do Not Sell It”

Proverbs 23:23

Introduction:

- A. Truth in religion has become a minor consideration in modern churches.
 - 1. More concerned with performance than truth in the pulpits.
 - 2. More concerned with external growth than truth in the evangelism.
 - 3. More concerned with personal relationships than truth in membership.
- B. Truth must be bought at all cost and sold for no price (Text)
- C. The text contains four implications about truth in religion.

Discussion:

I. There Is Such a Thing as Truth in Religion.

- A. It is divinely revealed, not humanly discovered. (2 Pet. 1:21; John 16:13).
- B. It is spiritual, not secular in nature (2 Pet. 1:3)
 - 1. Truth governing our relationship and responsibilities to God. (cf. 2 Thess. 2:10-12).
 - 2. Truth in other areas found in Bible, not all truth in all areas, only all spiritual truth.
- C. It is absolute, not relative — all truth is absolute only knowledge of it relative.
- D. It is objective, not subjective — not merely what each thinks is truth (cf. Acts 26:9).

II. Truth in Religion Is Exceedingly Important.

- A. As seen by what it does. (John 8:32; 1 Pet. 1:22,23; Rom. 2:5-8; 2 Thess. 2:12).
- B. As seen by the apostles' attitude.
 - 1. John (2 John 1-4).
 - 2. Paul (Gal. 2:4,5, 11-21; 3:1; 5:7).

III. Truth in Religion Must Be Obtained at All Cost.

- A. The cost to those who brought it to us. (Jesus, Apostles, preachers, etc.).
- B. The cost to us in terms of:
 - 1. Study and research (Acts 17:11).
 - 2. Attending events where it is taught.
 - 3. Putting it ahead of earthly pleasure and ease.

IV. Truth in Religion Must Be Retained at All Cost.

- A. We must not neglect it — let it slip away (Heb. 2:1-5).
 - 1. By ceasing to grow (Heb. 5:12-14).
 - 2. By failure to remember (2 Pet. 1:12).
- B. We must not sell it out!
 - 1. For money (1 Tim. 6:10).
 - 2. For popularity (Gal. 1:10).
 - 3. For peace and unity (cf. Lk. 12:49-53).
 - 4. For ease (cf. Matt. 5:11,12).
 - 5. By compromise (Gal. 2:5)

Conclusion:

- A. Are you ready to buy the truth?
- B. Are you ready to reclaim the truth after having sold it?