

ALWAYS LEARNING

February 28, 2016

Paul warned Timothy, “But know this, that in the last days, perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! For of this sort, are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was” (2 Tim. 3:1-9).

Many in the world today want to hear or learn every new thing except for the old truth! Those people, of which Paul spoke, were “always learning” but like many in today’s time they never came “to the knowledge of the truth.” Why? Why were they unable to come to an understanding of the truth? After all, Paul said that God was not a God of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33). The only reason that people are unable to come to understand the truth properly is because they resist the truth which God has given to us (2 Tim. 3:8). In order to come to the truth, the truth must be taught and accepted, just like error. No person has ever been born with the truth; they had to learn it! That isn’t surprising though, because that is how it is with all things that we learn and come to know. Paul reminded Timothy how he came to know the truth of God, “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 3:14-15.). Timothy owed a great debt to his mother and grandmother for rearing him in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (2 Tim. 1:5; Eph. 6:4).

We should always honor those that helped to bring us to the truth of God. Without those people in our lives, we may not have been able to see our way out of the darkness of sin. The Ethiopian Eunuch needed someone to help him in his search as well (Acts 8:31). However, honor to our earthly teachers is only a small part of the debt we owe. Once we come to the proper understanding of the Gospel, it becomes **our responsibility** to teach others what we were so fortunate to have learned. After sending the disciples out to evangelize the world, prior to His ascension, Jesus said concerning the converted, “**Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen**” (Mt. 28:20).

As we go about teaching the Gospel of Christ, we are going to encounter those that resist it. Our reaction to their resistance will affect their future interactions to those that are members of the New Testament church. If we are rude, or act as if they are not intelligent for believing the way they do, they will likely never give another member of the Lord’s church an opportunity to study with them. Even though Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, he was still a child of God and conducted himself as such (2 Tim. 3:8; Cf. Ex. 7). When we are given the opportunity to help others see the way to Christ, we must be prepared to do our very best. Paul encouraged Timothy to “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15). If our study of God’s word is neglected, then those that are unable to find their way will remain lost in a world of denominationalism if they depend upon the unstudied to help them find the way. Christ warned “**if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch**” (Mt. 15:14).

It is absolutely necessary to be in pursuit of spiritual knowledge, but if we ignore the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, that pursuit will end in fruitlessness. It isn’t that it will take longer to come to the proper knowledge, Paul meant that it is impossible to come to the proper understanding without Christ and His teachings, which are the waters of life to all those that thirst for salvation (Rev. 22:17). Hopefully, the world will one day set aside the denominations of men and accept Christ and His church only, and then many will be able to come “to the knowledge of the truth.”