

THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

THE WORD OF TRUTH

A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

PART TWELVE OF SIXTY FOUR

In every field man should be seeking the truth. It is error that has led man into most of his troubles. A search for truth in the realm of spiritual affairs will lead ultimately to "the word of truth" (James 1:18). James tells us the word is the means by which we are brought forth or born again. Since man must be born again to see the kingdom (John 3:3-5), "the word of truth of the gospel" (Colossians 1:5) is the most vital possession on earth. For this reason it is called "the word of this salvation" (Acts 13:26).

Peter teaches similarly in I Peter 1:22-25: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned love of the brethren, ...having been begotten again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, through the word of God, which liveth and abideth...But the word of the Lord abideth forever. And this is the word of good tidings which was preached unto you." The word of truth is the instrument the Spirit uses to "convict the world in respect of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment" (John 16:8). "The idea of a direct operation of the Spirit, acting in some mysterious way apart

from the 'word of truth' is not a Bible idea. A confidence that one is 'saved' gained from some subjective feeling apart from obedience to God's word is not the assurance that the New Testament gives of pardon (I John 2:3)." (Roberts)

Listening to sermons is no substitute for obedience. Thus James says, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding your own selves"(James 1:22). Likewise, possessing a copy of the Word is far from letting it abide in our heart. Jesus spake strong words against those who "say, and do not" (Matthew 23:3). He told of the builder who built his house on the rock and said he is the one "who hears these sayings of mine and doeth them" (Matthew 7:24).

We have been blessed with the truth that only God's Spirit can reveal(I Corinthians 2:10-12). The workman for God must give diligence to handle aright "the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15). Let us receive the word with all readiness of mind (Acts 17:11) and with meekness (James 1:21), and be doers of the word (James 1:22).

(B. G. Echols)

CHURCH OF CHRIST

412 East King Street
Shippensburg, Pa. 17257