



Today's Sermons

Morning: "Strange Fire"

Evening: Thou Hast Searched Me & Known Me


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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	36
Sunday AM Worship	51
Sunday PM Worship	33
Wed. Bible Study	36
Offering	\$2319

The Divine Nature of the Church

▶ ORIGINATED IN THE DIVINE MIND	■ Ephesians 3:10-11
▶ PLANNED BY A PERFECT ARCHITECT	■ Revelation 22:18-19
▶ BUILT BY A DIVINE GUIDANCE	■ 2 Timothy 3:16-17
▶ BUILT UPON A DIVINE FOUNDATION	■ 1 Corinthians 3:10-11
▶ HAD A DIVINE HEAD	■ Colossians 1:8
▶ COMPOSED OF DIVINE MATERIAL	■ 1 Peter 2:5
▶ HAS A DIVINE MISSION	■ Matthew 28:19-20
▶ HAS A DIVINE FUTURE	■ 1 Corinthians 15:24



"... Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body." Ephesians 5:23

Barnes' Bible Charts



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Times of Services:
Sunday
 Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship:...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm
 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
 Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKS
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A
 Warm & Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO "PROVE ALL THINGS?"
 Roger D. Campbell

The familiar message of 1 Thessalonians 5:21,22 is composed of three instructions for all Christians: (1) "Prove all things"; (2) "Hold fast that which is good"; (3) "Abstain from all appearance of evil." Which of these three commands would you think is important for God's children to heed? That is correct: each of them is essential.

In the expression "Prove all things," what does the word "prove" mean? It means to put to the test. The same Greek word from which "prove" is translated in our text is found in Luke 14:19, where we read that a man said, "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them." We find the same word in 1 John 4:1, where it is written that Christians are to "try the spirits whether they are of God" [all emphasis mine, rdc]. Again, this proving points to the idea of putting things or beings to a test.

In the context of 1 Thessalonians 5:21, what would be included in the "all things" that are to be proven? In verse 18 "the will of God" is mentioned, in verse 19 the message is, "Quench not the Spirit," and verse 20 is, "Despise not prophesyings." So, when it came to the will

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of God and claims to be led by the Spirit or speak prophetic utterances, the early saints were to “prove all things.” Claims of miraculous power were just that – claims. Was there proof in the form of signs to substantiate the claims (Mark 16:19,20)?

What about today? Just as God said they would, true prophecies and all other miraculous manifestations of the Spirit came to an end after the complete revelation of God’s truth to mankind (1 Corinthians 13:8-10). When a modern-day person or group claims to possess miraculous powers, we put their statements to a test by examining the Bible’s message and pointing out the falsehoods of Pentecostal fantasies. In fact, any time that a person teaches a religious message, we need to turn to the Book and test/try the spirits to see if they harmonize with the genuine will of God that is recorded in the New Testament (1 John 4:1).

Let us look further. “Hold fast that which is good.” This reminds us of the exhortation to “cleave to that which is good” (Romans 12:9). To hold fast or cleave indicates that we grab on to it and do not let go! Again, to what are we to hold fast? Answer: “that which is good.” Well, everybody’s got their own opinion about what “good” means, right? That may be true, but the only One whose assessment of good counts is God’s! It is to God’s standard of good that we must hold fast. Just as God told the Israelites to do that which was right and good in His sight (Deuteronomy 6:18), so Christians must turn to the Lord’s true doctrine to find God’s standard of good. In order for you and me to hold fast to that which is good, we must (1) Have an adequate knowledge of God’s word, (2) Make a decision/commitment to do what we know is right, and (3) Have the courage to carry out the right action. And what is the right action? Answer: doing that which is pleasing in the sight of God.

There is then the third instruction of our text: “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” The word “appearance” means form, so we are to stay away from all types of evil. Again, it is God that determines what is evil. It is just as wrong to call something that is permissible “evil” as it is to label a sinful activity as “good.” In Isaiah’s day, God pronounced a “woe” on those that confused good and evil (Isaiah 5:20).

Since sin is the only thing that can separate any of us from God and keep us out of heaven (Isaiah 59:2), does it not make sense for us to strive to stay as far away from evil activities as possible? The Lord calls on us to “abstain from fleshly lusts” (1 Peter 2:11), “depart from iniquity” (2 Timothy 2:19), and lay aside the sin that easily besets us (Hebrews 12:1).

Participating in that which God labels as evil is no joking matter. Sin is

destructive from beginning to end. Surely we are wise enough to accept the truth that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

Proving all things, holding fast to that which is good, and abstaining from all forms of evil – these are all excellent practices. We know that is an accurate conclusion because God is the One that gave us such instructions. He knows what He is talking about. May we have the courage to humble ourselves before the Lord and devote our hearts to living for Him.

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"I will extol thee, O Lord; for thou hast lifted me up, and hast not made my foes to rejoice over me. O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me. O Lord, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit. Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved. Lord, by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand strong: thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled. I cried to thee, O Lord; and unto the Lord I made supplication. What profit is there in my blood, when I go down to the pit? Shall the dust praise thee? shall it declare thy truth? Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me: Lord, be thou my helper. Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness; To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever." (Psalms 30:1-12).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- March 4 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Class
- March 11 – Time Change – Set Clocks Forward 1 Hour!
- March 11 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 pm Worship
- April 15-19 – Annual Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Chuck Stewart
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell