

# The Grapevine

Number 150

September 9, 2007

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth. II Timothy 2:15*

## Let's Live It!

by Jack Northart

There's a lot of wrong teaching going on around our world. Any topic could be named and several different approaches and ideals could be discussed about it. The fact of the matter is that they can't be all right, in fact, perhaps none of them are right. In most cases, the relevance of each opinion is insignificant in light of what is truly important.

When it comes to Christianity, there is also a great deal of wrong teaching. On this particular topic, the relevance of different opinions can mean the difference between death and life. So it is vitally important to get it right. The problem that most Christians have is the unwillingness to change when confronted with error that they may have in their life. They have developed an internal recognition system of what is right and wrong, namely their conscience, and when anything crosses that system, they close off hearing anything to the contrary. It's nothing new. The Apostle Paul dealt with this sort of problem back in the first century.

### II Timothy 4:3-4

**For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;  
And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

Paul was not telling Timothy about the state of the world, but rather the state of the Church. It was during, and shortly after this epistle was written that you begin to see various opinions in Christianity popping up. The power and ability that God had given His born-again ones as demonstrated in the Book of Acts, was being replaced with the commandments and doctrines of men. Creeds and edicts were rising to be commonplace, rather than the truth of God's Word. Unfortunately, many of these creeds are still with us today, and are accepted as truth. As Paul stated to Timothy, "... they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." This is not the last word.

Today, there is a rise once again to study, explore and learn the truth of the original revelation of God and His Word. Irrefutable evidence of the accuracy of God's Word and the power of God is back again in plain sight. There are a number of ways to learn the foundational truths of unlocking scripture that before seemed impossible. Instruction on how to operate the power of God as a Christian is available. As a result, many of the signs, miracles and wonders that were evidenced in the First Century Church are happening again on a grand scale. The sick are being miraculously healed. People with incurable diseases are being completely delivered. The dead are being raised to life, and many other miracles are happening. For some Christians however, this is too much change to fathom. They would rather keep their heads buried in the sands of tradition and error, than grab on to the greatest life on earth that God intended. It's time to change.

### Colossians 2:8

**Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.**

To be "spoiled" means to be carried off as booty. Our lives are like a treasure trove because of what God has made us to be in Christ, and there is a constant demand by the world to hand it over. Intellectualism and plain nonsense, along with men's crude notions about God and the universe try to steal us away from our true calling in Christ. The vast richness of our lives in Christ is asked to be traded for self-abasement, conceit and superstitious behavior, rather than walking with God's power.

It is our responsibility to take action to learn the truth of God's Word. It doesn't come by osmosis or photosynthesis. It takes effort to learn it. It takes effort to change our minds to what it says. Then it is each believer's responsibility to carry out this great ministry to which God has called us.

**II Corinthians 5:18**

**And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.**

There are no excuses for not carrying out our true calling that is spoken of here in II Corinthians. It doesn't matter if you are a pastor, evangelist, teacher or not, this ministry is given to all of us in the Body of Christ. Furthermore, God gave us the means to carry it out with the word of reconciliation.

**II Corinthians 5:19**

**To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.**

Our means for carrying out the ministry of reconciling men back to God is with His Word of reconciliation. It points the way to salvation, Jesus Christ, and spells out the greatest of all that God has made us to be. Of course He wants us to have salvation, but He also wants us to have answers.

**I Timothy 2:4**

**Who [God] will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.**

To come unto THE knowledge of the truth is God's will for all mankind. Of course everyone has freewill and not everyone will believe, (I Corinthians 14:38). It's not our job to make people believe it, we just lovingly present it to them on a silver platter and make our lives available to them. Every need will be different in people's lives. Some may need healing. Some may need to know THE truth about salvation. Some may need to know how to operate the power of God. Whatever the need may be, our job is to be accurate on the Word, and to make it available to them and do whatever is necessary at that moment with them.

**Philippians 2:13**

**For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**

We look back on the life and ministry of Christ and how he walked this way. The Gospels show many records of Christ teaching and ministering, both to his disciples that were close to him, and to the multitudes. They all had different needs that had to be dealt with. He chose to take action and do what needed to be done in all instances. Our conviction should be the same as his.

**Philippians 4:9**

**Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.**

This verse implies that we must learn, receive, listen and watch so that we can act. Paul was telling the Church at Philippi that they needed to remember what he taught them and practice the power that he demonstrated among them. (See Acts 16:11-40).

This is simply the ministry that we have been called to. This is our joy and privilege. This is how life was intended to be lived. Let's live it, and watch God give the increase!