

The Brantley Beacon

"...BE YE STEADFAST, UNMOVEABLE,"
ALWAYS ABOUNDING
IN THE WORK OF THE LORD..."
I CORINTHIANS 15:58

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST MEETING IN HOBOKEN, GA

Volume 06

Issue 18

October 7, 2018

www.hobokenchurchofchrist.net

It's Not Doctrine But The Way One Lives That Counts **By E.R. Hall Jr.**

Often the above statement is made by individuals. Sometimes they are heard to say,

"It matters not what one believes so long as he is sincere!" I've often wondered if people who make such statements have really thought about what it is they are saying. Indeed, Satan has done quite an effective job of leading people to believe that the doctrine one believes and teaches has nothing to do with his eternal salvation.

The Bible clearly teaches that it does make a difference what one believes and teaches. The wrong doctrine can make worship vain (empty, meaningless). "*But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*" (Matthew 15:9). We have a charge to teach the right doctrine (truth). "*As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.*" (1 Timothy 1:3,4). We are to attain unto good doctrine. "*If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.*" (1 Timothy 4:6). We have a responsibility to withdraw from anyone who does not teach doctrine which is according to holiness. "*If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord*

Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself." (1 Timothy 6:3-5).

Not all doctrine is sound (true). In fact, many turn their ears away from the truth. *"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 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." (2 Timothy 4:2-4).* Those who teach such things, as commandments that are of man's origin, are to be rebuked. *"This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth." (Titus 1:13,14).* To not remain within the confines of the gospel of Christ is to be without God. *"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." (2 John 9-11).*

Error (false doctrine) will eat our souls like canker or gangrene eats our flesh. *"And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some." (2 Timothy 2:17,18).* Yes, false doctrine grows worse and worse. Those who put the emphasis on moral living and none on true doctrine would like to believe that these men in this passage were guilty of some gross immoral conduct. However, in these verses the reference is to what these two men were teaching; in other words, their doctrine. They were teaching that *"the resurrection is past already"*.

Those who say it matters not what one believes as long as he lives right are absolutely mistaken. It makes a difference whether a person believes and teaches something that is Scriptural or not! Error condemns!

Let us not overlook one other thing in this passage of 2 Timothy 2:17,18. Notice that **BOTH THE TEACHER AND THE FOLLOWERS ARE REJECTED!** What these two men were teaching was overthrowing (destroying) the faith of those who believed the teaching. Hymenaeus and Philetus were condemned and so were all who believed their doctrine. Jesus said it like this, "*Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.*" (Matthew 15:14). Both the blind leaders and the blind followers would suffer the same fate. In Titus 1:10-11 is recorded: "*For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.*" Also in 2 Peter 2:3, we read, "*And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.*" Can we not see from these passages that any who are believing and practicing error are condemned whether they are teaching the error, believing the error, or following (practicing) the error?

For this reason we need to realize the responsibility and necessity of doing what is commanded in 1 John 4:1. "*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*" Let us "try" (put to the test) everything we hear, believe, and are following. God's word, the Scriptures, is the only measuring stick by which we can do such a task. It's not one man's opinion verses another person's opinion. It must be what God has said on the matter.

-E.R. Hall Jr.

Upcoming Gospel Meeting

October 18 – 21 (Sunday – Wednesday)

Speaker: **Bob Myhan** from Macon, GA

The church of Christ meeting in the city of Hoboken, Georgia

5101 Main Street

Hoboken, Georgia

Our Meeting Times

Sunday Morning

Bible Study 9:30a.m.

Worship 10:30a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00p.m.

Upcoming Spiritual Opportunities

Women's Study

10-07-2018 - 5:00p.m.

Men's Study

10-14-2018 - 5:00 p.m.

In Need of Our Prayers and Encouragement:

- Rex + Frankie Hadley and family
- Jeannie's brother & sister in-law - Harold and Penny Blitchington
- Jeannie's Uncle - Bob Ross
- Micah's Parents - Perry & Kay Byars
- Micah's Aunt - Thelma Harmon
- Phillip's Aunt – Sylvia Thrift
- Jason & Misty Thornton & Family
- Tom Edwards – Tebeau Street
- Our Upcoming Gospel Meeting with Bob Myhan
- Our young Christians
- Our Lord's work in Hoboken & Brantley County
- All fellow Christians in the world