

RIGHTWAY.WPS Donald E. Schmudlach

### Reading

Ephesians chapter 4 verses 11 through 16.

"And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ. <sup>14</sup> As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; <sup>15</sup> but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him, who is the head, *even* Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love"

From the reading we learn that God has given everyone who is a Christian gifts, the ability to carry out some function needed to carry out the duties necessary for the Church to carry out God's commandments. This will help all grow in knowledge and in faith, Christian maturity and unity in the true faith of the word of God. Not tossed about by the trickery of false teachers. Randy Roberts wrote in one of his articles, "When we understand our role as stewards of the amazing grace our worries and hesitations diminishes and our positive impact increases where it matters most - in the lives of people who come to see and glorify Jesus Christ." This will not only help in the spiritual growth but numbers also. Would it not be wonderful if all Christians would hear it said at judgement, "You have used all your talents you were given."

Christians are to carry out God's will, as His son prayed in the prayer He used for teaching how to pray in Matthew chapter 6, Jesus prayed to the Father, "Your will be done," We as followers of Jesus are to carry out the Father's will, for God's will "is good and acceptable and perfect. From God's Word in Romans chapter 12 verses 1 and 2 we read, " I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the

renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

Let us all turn to Titus chapter 2 verses 1 through 15 for the lesson today. All verses are from the New American Standard unless other wise stated.

Verse 1 from the lesson reads, "But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine." This goes back to the saying we used to hear from the pulpit, Christians are to speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent. The only doctrine of the church is the New Testament.

Speak the truth for the word is the truth. Let us look at 2 Timothy chapter 2 verse 23, "Forget "foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife" Forget those things not written down, those things not inspired by the Holy Spirit. For we know from God's word it was all written with help from the holy Spirit, John chapter 14 verses 25 & 26, "These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you.<sup>26</sup> "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

Hebrews chapter 4 verse 12 from God's word states, the word is " living and active, " For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

God's word is living and active. God's words as written means the same and must be followed as the day it was put down, It will be used to judge the living and the dead. Listen to the word of God

from the last chapter of His book verses 18 and 19.

"I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book; <sup>19</sup> and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book."

Hear the word of God from 1Peter chapter 1 verse 23 through 25, it tells us the word abides forever, "for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and abiding word of God. <sup>24</sup> For, "ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF, <sup>25</sup> BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ABIDES FOREVER."

The word is living and active and abides forever and Christians are accountable, Hear the word of God, Matthew chapter 12 verses 36 and 37, "And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment. "For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned." Psalm number 119 verse 160 reads, "The sum of Thy word is truth, And every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting."

Sound doctrine, the word from God's book are the words we teach in following the commandment to preach God's word. Not words, doctrine or theories made by man. All Christians have the responsibility to be grounded in the truth of the Bible and see that, the truth is what is taught.

Charles R. Brewer once wrote "Do not be deceived by the apparent simplicity of the plan. It bears the mark of God's profound wisdom.

Remember my friends the word that Paul wrote to Timothy in 2 Timothy chapter 3 verse 16, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;" The reason for this is in verse 17, "that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." Equipped to carry out God's will. Be able to teach the truth when false teachers come, and come they will my friends, come they will.

Let us go on to verse 2 of the lesson. "Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance."

"sound in faith," grounded in the truth, so one can teach. "in love", Christianity, the state of being a Christian, is built on love, God's love, Christ's love, and the love that Christians must have to carry out the will of God. "in perseverance." as any Christian knows perseverance is one thing a Christian can not be without in doing the will of God in the Madison area.

Verse 3 brings in the needs of Christian older women, my wife likes it when I use mature rather than older, "Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,"

A Christian women needs to be grounded in the truth, needs to be a mature Christian, so they can teach. They need the love that Christianity is built on and all the perseverance that men need and maybe more. Verse 4 and 5 of the lesson states that they are to teach the young women, and as we all know, they do a good deal of the

teaching of all the young. Verse 4 and 5 state, " that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, <sup>5</sup> *to be* sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored."

Verse 6 through 8 of the lesson reads" Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; <sup>7</sup> in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, *with* purity in doctrine, dignified," <sup>8</sup> *sound in* speech which is beyond reproach, in order that the opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us."

In todays society a great deal of the homes are with out one parent or the other. This puts much more pressure on the only parent in the home. In many cases if each has a court designated time to have the children it works against their up bringing unless they are able to work together. Here is a place where Christian love comes in. This is where the Christian family can help. 1 Peter chapter 2 verse 17 tells Christian "love the brotherhood" In chapter 1 verse 22 it states "love one another from the heart" If you see a brother or sister having a problem, lend a helping hand, it's God's will.

There is an old saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." If there is a Church of Christ in that village, that church should be helping that child or if need be raise it if possible. I pray that there is no child, no matter what age in this room that needs help and is not receiving that help. Sometimes the need is not visible and the one in need of help does not ask. Asking, opens awareness of the need. Matthew chapter 7 verse 7 means asking God but also helps when one needs help from fellow Christians,

I have never known a stay at home mother and house keeper, that is only that. Yes they clean and make meals. Most are drivers,

book keeper, teacher, give medical care and love. If Christians they carry out God's will and are also teachers of God's will.

Young Christians men and women need to be trained in the faith so they may take over when the need arises. Every Christian must rise to the need of teaching and know the word of God. And know God's will and how to carry it out. This is the responsibility of both parents but also all of the Christian family. I have never met a Christian that did not have something to teach. Do not be afraid, if you are caring out God's will He will be at your side. Fear often stands in the way of help.

Let us look at verses 9 and 10 of the lesson, "*Urge* bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, <sup>10</sup> not pilfering, but showing all good faith that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect."

Slavery was common when these words were written, what Paul is teaching here is to help, advise slaves and masters to work together to the betterment of all. If they were Christians they should be following Paul's advice in Christian love. Most commentary and most study notes make the statement that Paul did not condone slavery, slavery was a fact in Roman times. If you are a Christian, you are to act as a Christian no matter what your circumstance. No matter what circumstance a Christians is in they must act the same as in Paul's time.

There are two things to remember here, Ecclesiastes chapter 1 verse 9, " That which has been is that which will be, And that which has been done is that which will be done. So, there is nothing new under the sun" Then let us read from God's word, 1 Corinthians chapter 10 verse 13, " No temptation has overtaken you but such as is

common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it."

So my friends, there is nothing new under the sun and as in Paul's days, God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also," Many of the problems and temptations are the same as all the writers of the Bible had to face and gave examples of and had to overcome. Unlike like them, we at this time do not face death for being a Christian in our country. My friends, the word is here, read it, follow it and teach it.

Lets us look at verse 11 from the lesson, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men," God grants Christians all that is needed to live a life, following His son. One has His book, from which you can gain knowledge, thus wisdom to carry out His will. Remember, He has given all, gifts and talents , to be used in His work. He instructs Christians on what to do and what not to do as we read in verse 12 of the lesson,

Verse 12 " instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,"

Let us look at 1 John chapter 2 verses 15 and 16 from the word, " Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world."

Christians are to love God first, above all else. Yes you can love your spouse, your children, others and your dog, but God foremost.

Not the world and worldly things. God gave Christians the promise and it is by God's grace that Christians will receive that promise.

Verse 13 of the lesson tells us of the promises, "the blessed Hope" "looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;" Jesus is coming again. At which time we will all be judged, living and the dead, by Jesus Christ, Let us look at 2 Timothy chapter 4 verse 1, " I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:"

Christ is going to judge all Christians. The dead, the living, all will be judged by their lives, how they lived, how one carried out the will of the Father every little detail. Be prepared.

Let us go on to verse 14 of the lesson "who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds."

Sinners who hear the gospel and believe that Jesus is the Christ, repent and confess the name of Christ. Then are baptized by immersion and then live a righteous life. Following Jesus they will receive that blessed hope that all Christians pray and hope for.

Let us read verse 15 of the lesson, "These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you."

Paul wrote to Titus these words in chapter 1 verses 4 and 5 "to Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. For this reason I left you



in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you,"

Paul is saying to Titus as we are told today, teach the gospel, teach the word of God, that which is written, that which you have heard from a true Christian. "Let no one disregard you." Titus had been working with Paul and others, he knew the word, the truth, although young he had the knowledge to teach and lead. A Christian with the knowledge and wisdom needs to stand up to false teaching and miss deeds. Some times you think your alone, but God is at your side.

Let us read those wonderful words from Luke chapter 15 verse 10, "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Today we looked at the need of use of the strong doctrine we received from God and the principals of Christian living. What older men and Christian women and young Christians need to be taught to live a righteous life to receive the promises, No where does God's word say it would be easy but He does tell you it will be worth it.

In the front of the loose-leaf note book I carry my lessons in there is an article by Jerry Jenkins who some of us know. He and his fellow Christians have helped going door to door in this area. It is called "Just an amateur." It gives one who thinks they do not have the knowledge to share, teach or help others something to think on. He introduced his idea by going back to his rural upbringing, when he and several other boys congregated on a cow pasture to play football. There were no pads, no officials, no goal posts, no salaries which compelled them to play, they were amateurs. He then revealed the origin of amateur. Which comes from amare, French or

amore, Italian. Which means love, which I found in Webster's dictionary. What he is saying is one does not have to be a professional to teach others God's word, you should do it out of love. Jerry was writing about preachers But as you know we all as Christians are told to preach the Gospel.

You who have heard me before know that I would not end with out putting in a plug for Bible reading every day of ones life and the steps to salvation. Hear the gospel, Romans 10:17. you need to know the truth to keep the will of God. Believe in Jesus, John 3:16. believe that Jesus is the Messiah. Repent, change ones way of life,, Acts 2:38. Confess the name of Christ, Romans 10: 9 and 10. Be Baptized, be baptized by immersion, which is the truth of the Bible Matthew 28:19 and 1 Peter 3:21. Live a righteous life, live by God's commandments, the will of God, which you will find in His word. 1 Peter 2:24.

You may wonder why I put this little paragraph in all my lessons. I read many articles written by some of the true believers, those that follow God's word in the Church of Christ. Who are attempting to reform the false teachers of the word. There are many teaching false words about the steps to salvation. There are those that deny the total accuracy of the text of the scripture. They may deny a book, a chapter or a verse or more. God says you must hear the gospel, God can not lie. There are those questioning the deity of Jesus, yet God says you must Believe in Jesus and you must confess His name. There are those that deny the essential nature of baptism, deny it is necessary for salvation. Yet God tells you to be baptized and shows you how it is done. You are told you must live a righteous life to get to heaven. There are those that are denying the reality of eternal punishment. God tells you of hell and the punishment there. There are more false teachings coming from those

who claim to be Christians but are not. We have been warned. There was an article put in the boxes by Baxter, a few weeks ago "A downward spiral into the abyss" it is a very good one to keep for reference. Now you know why I teach the steps to salvation every chance I have. My friends, it is the starting place to salvation, it is God's pattern. Thank you.

I am one of those, taught some years ago to offer a invitation at the end of a lesson. Its not written in the Bible, but it is a great time to offer help to those in need. If there is one here today who has left the fold of God, He is waiting for your return, you heard today of the joy in heaven for a lost souls return. Today is a good Day to return to the fold. If there is one who is ready to be baptized, all Christians here today are willing to help you, and again there will be joy in heaven. Today is a good day, come as we stand and sing.