

# Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



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Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Monday, March 16, 2015

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## Article # 2 - Learning To Discern

# Truth? or Opinion?

Truth! Truth! Truth! Truth! Truth! Truth!



## No Opinions Please

According to the dictionary an opinion is “a view or judgment formed about something, or someone, not necessarily based on fact or knowledge.” Let’s examine that definition.

### 1. Forming a View or Judgment

- A view is “a particular way of considering or regarding something.”
- To form a judgment is “to make a considered decision or come to a sensible conclusion.”

### 2. Fact


- “A thing that is indisputably the case.”


### 3. Knowledge

- “A true, justified belief of something as opposed to an opinion.”

## How Can We Know The Difference Between Truth And Opinions?

In the icon above, we have six men preaching. Are they preaching the truth or their opinions?

 “I am a fundamental independent Baptist. I believe it is necessary to repent in order to be saved. The Bible says, ‘God...commandeth all men every where to repent’ (Acts 17:30). Jesus said, ‘I tell you, Nay; but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.’”

 “I am a fundamental independent Baptist. I believe in order to be saved you need only to believe. Jesus said, ‘But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name’ (John 1:12).”



"I am a fundamental Bible Presbyterian. I believe in Calvinism. I believe God has predestined some people to be saved and others are predestined for Hell."



"I am a fundamental Bible believing Brethren. Our doctrinal statement would differ with both the Baptists and the Presbyterians."



"I am a Pentecostal preacher. I believe speaking in tongues is evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit."



"I am a no-named preacher. I think denominational tags are unscriptural."

## How Can I Know The Truth?

There are many sincere Christians preaching and teaching what they believe to be the truth. Is it possible for the sincere Christian to determine the truth? **Yes it is!**

### 1. Claim The Promise - "Ye Shall Know The Truth"

#### **John 8:31-32,**

*"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

#### **Notice The Conditions Mentioned In This Verse**

1. **Jesus was talking to people who "believed on him."** It is impossible for an unbeliever to know the truth about spiritual things.

#### **Unbelieving Believers?**

- a. In **Mark 16:14** we read, "Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and **upbraided them with their unbelief** and hardness of heart, because **they believed not** them which had seen him after he was risen."
- b. In **John 20:25** Thomas said, "I will not believe."
- c. Let us not be too quick to think we are not guilty of the same sin.

### 2. "Continue In My Word"

The second condition for knowing the truth concerning the things of God is that we must "continue" in His Word. The Greek word translated "continue" here is "meno." It has been translated "remain" sixteen times and "abide" sixty-one times. We are plagued today with compromisers in our pulpits who no longer believe what they once believed. Unbelieving Believers need not pray "Teach me thy way, O Lord" (Psalm 86:11).

#### **First John 2:24 warns us,**

*"Let that therefore abide ("meno.") in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain ("meno.") in you, ye also shall continue ("meno.") in the Son, and in the Father."*

### 3. “Receive The Word”

**Acts 17:11,**

*“They received the word with all readiness of mind.”*

The term “readiness of mind” is translated “a willing mind” in Second Corinthians 8:2. It means to be eager, and prepared to do something.

### 4. “Searched The Scriptures Daily”

**Acts 17:11,**

*“And searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”*

They were in the Word of God, “daily.” The Bible says, “Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors” (Proverbs 8:34). They were checking to see if what they heard from the preacher was “so.” A. W. Tozer said, “It is no sin to doubt some things, but it may be fatal to believe everything.”

A more detailed process for knowing the truth is given to us in Proverbs chapter two.

**Proverbs 2:1-9,**

*1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;*

*2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;*

*3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;*

*4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;*

*5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*

*6 For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

*7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.*

*8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.*

*9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; (Trans. “right things” 3x) yea, every good path.*

## The Seven-fold Process For Understanding The Truth

### “If” And “Then”

“If” is a conjunction that introduces a conditional clause. The Word “if” occurs three times in four verses here, and presents a seven-fold process to understanding the truth.

**Verses 1-2,**

*“My son, if thou wilt (1) receive my words, (2) and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou (3) incline thine ear unto wisdom, and (4) apply thine heart to understanding;”*

**Verse 3,**

*“Yea, if (5) thou criest after knowledge, (6) and liftest up thy voice for understanding.”*

**Verse 4,**

*“If (7) thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;*

Then means “after that.” God’s promise is “**Then**, (after that) shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God” (Verse 5). Again, in verse nine we read, “**Then** shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; (Trans. “right things” 3x) yea, every good path.”

## Result - “Knowledge Is Easy”

Twice we read, “Then shalt thou understand,” and in Proverbs 14:6 we read, “Knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.”

### 5. Pray For The Truth

**James 4:2,**

“Ye have not, because ye ask not.”

**Psalm 25:5,**

“Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.”

**Psalm 86:11,**

“Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth.”

**Psalm 119:66,**

“Teach me good judgment and knowledge.”

**Psalm 143:10,**

“Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me...”

The Psalmist prayed “teach me” fourteen times in the Book of Psalms.

### 6. Seek The Guidance of The Holy Spirit

**John 16:13,**

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into **all truth.**”

“All truth” is “all truth.” We are without excuse! The only reason we have the confusion rather than “all truth” is we are too carnal to follow the process to the truth.

In Hosea’s day God’s people were destroyed for lack of knowledge. The reason they had a lack of knowledge was because they rejected knowledge.

**Hosea 4:6,**

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”

### The High Cost of Rejecting The Word

In the verse above we read, “because thou hast rejected knowledge, **I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.**”

Let us not pass over those words too quickly. In Second Samuel 15:23 we read “Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee...”

In Jeremiah 8:9 we read, “They have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?”