

Guided Only By Truth
By Greg Rangel

It has been said by many that anyone appreciates a piece of juicy gossip. Even though that gossip might not be true, people are so quick to believe what they heard without ever truly investigating for themselves such rumor. That is why some have such of a misunderstanding of others. Not to mention that unfair judgments and actions are made and taken because of the mistake of just believing such false rumors. People will believe what they choose, regardless if it is true or not.

Unfortunately that is the same way people treat religion. On Sunday morning's people throughout the world attend church, but too often they will not open up the Bible for themselves to study it and to see if what is said goes in accordance to the Bible. Unfortunately they go back home believing someone else's words.

Due to that many have a blind and ignorant attitude towards religion because they believe that their religion is the true religion because they received it from their parents, who in turn received it from their parents and so forth. And how could their parents believe in something that is not true?

But if Lawyers are so quick to investigate cases to bring the truth out, and if Doctors perform so many medical exams on a patient to see what is causing their sickness, and if accountants are always reviewing their numbers to assure themselves that they are not over or under in their finances, why can't we apply that same drive for the truth to spiritual issues? Why can't we pick up the Bible and read it and study it to see if what we hear in the church is true or not? Once again, unfortunately that does not happen.

It is a biblical fact that many will believe many false teachings because they seem to be true when they are not. A church attendee or anyone who "believes" in whatever spiritual truth that they might believe in must be open to the fact that there might just be a possibility that something if not all of what they believe in might not go in accordance to what the Bible says.

Quite too often people become closed minded to what others have to say about the Bible and think at the same time that it cannot be true because it does not with their beliefs. But once again, we must test "everything" that we believe about God to what the Bible says because even though we might sincerely believe in something, we might be sincerely wrong. We must always take heed to the repeated warnings of Scripture about the existence of false teachings and false doctrines of demons.

Paul the Apostle wrote in 1 Timothy 4:1-3 *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats,..."* He also said in 2 Timothy 4:1-4 *"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 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.”

So how do we know if what we believe is true or not? How do we know if what we believe goes with the teachings of Scripture? Answer: by looking at Scripture itself. There is no way around that. We **MUST** study the Word of God for ourselves so that we will not be deceived.

We must all follow the example of Acts 17:11 which says; *“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched** the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”* The truth of God is in the Word of God and not in what religion or what man says. Jesus said in John 5:39; *“**Search** the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”* The truth of God is in the Word of God.