

The Oak Grove Oracle

(Family News & Views of the Oak Grove Church of Christ)

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Do You Really Love The Truth?

There is a passage of Scripture that ought to scare the socks off every lukewarm Christian, who is lackadaisical about studying, learning, and obeying the truth. It says, "...and with all deceit of unrighteousness for them that perish, because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God sendeth them a working of error ("strong delusion" - KJV), that they should believe a lie: that they all might be judged ("damned" - KJV) who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thess. 2:10-12, ASV).

Through the years, I've heard many different ideas about the meaning of this phrase "a working of error," or "strong delusion," that God sends to those who fail to love His Word. Despite various ideas about the interpretation of this phrase, the implication is undeniably frightening. Those who fail to love the truth will ultimately be overcome by evil. If you don't "hunger and thirst after righteousness" (Mt. 5:6), you will end up partaking of and enjoying unrighteousness. If you don't take a stand for the Truth of God's Holy Word, then you will eventually fall for error of one kind or another.

It all comes back to the foundational principles of the Gospel, concerning the attitudes, desires, and motivations of the heart. In the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7), Jesus taught that a yearning for God and righteousness, and a love for the truth, will ultimately lead men away from evil and error, in order that they might find truth and God. If the "Beatitudes" teach us anything, they teach us to work on our heart. Clean up the inside and the outside will naturally follow. Change your heart, and your dress, speech, and actions won't be far behind.

We readily observe the secular world does not love the truth, but rather takes pleasure in unrighteousness. From the commanding view of our ivory towers, we even find it easy to spot the wholesale acceptance of error in the doctrine and practice of our denominational friends. But, are we as willing to scrutinize our own lives for inconsistencies between affirmation and action? Do we really love the truth ourselves, like God desires, or only that part of the Truth that fits our agenda for life?

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For instance, do we show our love for the truth, or lack thereof, when we fail to assemble with our brethren on Sunday and Wednesday evenings? Are we honest when we claim to love the truth, but our Bibles gather dust from lack of use? Do we really love the truth when we dress, talk, or act in ways unbecoming of a Christian? Do we think God believes we love the truth, when we'll spend an hour reading the newspaper, but won't give five minutes to read a bulletin article written for our edification?

What does it say about our love for the truth when we'll gladly waste hours in front of the "idiot box" watching an extra-innings baseball game, but it infuriates us for the worship service to run ten minutes overtime? Are we not the worst kind of liars when we say we love the truth, but never share the truth with anyone? For those who fail to love the truth, a "strong delusion" is on the way. Maybe it's already here! Do you really love the truth? Think about it!

David A. McCain