Bible Study on August 13, 2017

Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Your answer better be a resounding "I do!" A good witness does not attract attention to himself but to the person or facts which he represents. As a witness, you are there to say what you know, saw or did.

Today, we focus on a person, John the Baptist, who had a reputation for telling the truth, the job of any good witness. John the Baptist was a cousin of Jesus and recognized Jesus as the Messiah, the Chosen One. And John the Baptist recognized the fact that his job was to point others to the One who was the true light-bearer. He led the way.

John the Baptist had his own disciples. And we know that he was the forerunner. He was passing the torch. For many, relinquishing control to someone else is not an easy thing to do. Allowing someone to increase while we decrease at the same time does not come naturally. John the Baptist exercised great humility by lifting up Jesus as the Light of the world. He was quick to give Jesus praise, honor, and glory.

We must follow the example of John the Baptist. He pointed people to the true Savior, Jesus. John knew that he was not the light, but was a witness to the light. So should we.

Now, a bit of good news/bad news. Jesus was sent by His Father to the Jews, God's chosen people. But in spite of centuries of preparation, the Jewish people did not recognize Jesus as their Messiah. There's the bad news.

But the good news is that although the majority of people did not acknowledge Jesus as Savior, some did. Jesus has made salvation possible to anyone who believes in Him. The good news is that the Savior's message of salvation in Him alone resonated with some people. Those people would become His disciples, who would take on the role of John the Baptist and continue being witnesses to Jesus, the Truth.

How could you and/or your family focus on Christ in their everyday life? Who in your family or circle of friends has not understood "it"?

Thank Jesus for coming into the world to save us. Ask the Lord to help us be witnesses to Jesus. Ask God to give us courage to openly talk about Jesus to our friends, family members, and co-workers. As witnesses to Jesus, ask the Lord to help us accurately and honestly tell what we know about Him to others who may never have fully understood the message of the gospel.

Like most things in life, there is a right way and a wrong way to respond to God. The right way (and the only meaningful way) is to believe the gospel, receive the Savior and accept new birth as a result. The wrong way somehow links a relationship to God with human qualities such as physical birth, self-determination, or the choice of another person.

Or, as Patrick Henry once said, "The most cherished possession I wish I could leave you is my faith in Jesus Christ, for with Him and nothing else you can be happy, but without Him and with all else, you'll never be happy." Amen.

So, don't worry, be happy! Pass "it" on.

**This week's Scripture is John 1:6-13.**

**If you need someone to talk to or discuss issues, please reply. Also please respond to this email if you do not wish to receive God's Word. Remember God loves you.**

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