Buy The Truth

by Bro. Jerry Forsyth
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"Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom and instruction, and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23).

Solomon, other than Christ, was the wisest man who ever lived. He wrote these words under inspiration of the Holy Spirit, warning us to buy, and not sell, the truth. We need to ask, "What is truth?" Something that is true is sure, honest, unchanged, and the opposite of a lie.

The Bible says in Romans 3:4, "… yea, let God be true, but every man a liar." Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." We also read in John 8:31-32, "The 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 t he truth, and the truth shall make you free."

To "buy," we must give up something for something else. We may go to the store to buy shoes. We must give up our money to buy the shoes. Likewise, if we "buy the truth," we must give up something in order to obtain the truth. We must sacrifice time and worldly pleasures to buy the truth. The Bible, God's Holy Word, IS truth! We must give up time fishing, hunting, watching television, or other things we normally do, in order to spend time studying the Bible to buy the truth!

The kingdom of heaven is righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17). It is within us (Luke 17:20-21). One of the parables in Matthew 13:44 explains entering the kingdom of heaven is like a man buying a field in order to obtain the treasure in the field. Another parable about the kingdom of heaven is like a man selling all that he had and buying a pearl of great price. We must give up anything and everything that hinders us buying the truth of the word of God.

Jesus also tells us about the rich young ruler who refused to sell all that he had to "buy" the joy of the kingdom of heaven. This man went away sorrowful, holding on to worldly possessions, loving them more than he loved Jesus and the truth.

Solomon wrote that we are to buy the truth, AND SELL IT NOT! Once you have the truth, do not give it up. Do not compromise with the world or Satan. Do not trade the truth for anything the devil has to offer!

Once we know the truth, we need to hold on to it, and walk in the truth! John said, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (III John 4). May God help us all to BUY THE TRUTH, AND SELL IT NOT!

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For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. 3 John 1:3

Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Ephesians 4:25

What Is Your Testimony?

by Elder Phillip Nichols
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I would like to tell you a story about the forty sons and thirty nephews of a judge of Israel named Abdon. This story begins in Judges 12:14. "And he had forty sons and thirty nephews, that rode on three score and ten ass colts: and he judged Israel eight years." I hope you liked the story, for not only did it begin in verse 14 of Judges 12, but it also ended there. I wish I could tell you more about the 40 sons and 30 nephews of Abdon, but that is all that is recorded in God's word about them. Even though this story is very short, it holds a very big lesson. In this one short verse, we find the testimonies of the 40 sons and 30 nephews of Abdon. Their testimony was that they rode on ass colts: nothing more, nothing less. I'm sure that there are other things that they did in their lives, but the summary of their lives recorded in God's word was that of riding ass colts.

Let us now look at another man's testimony. Enoch was found to have pleased God. Hebrews 11:5 states, "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death: and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation **he had this testimony, that he pleased God."** In Genesis 5:22 & 24, we find that he walked with God. That is all that is said of Enoch's testimony.

What is our testimony? Is it that we are riding around on an ass colt, or is it that we are pleasing God?

The word "testimony" as it is used in this study means any form of evidence, indication or proof that the main thing that stands or stood out about an individual. Our testimony can be good as was Enoch's (pleasing God), or bad as was Abdon's sons and nephews (riding on an ass colt). Let us each look at ourselves and see what stands out most in our life, for whatever stands out the most is the evidence, indication, or proof of the condition of our testimony. So many times we think that a bad testimony would be of one that was a murderer, drunkard, adulterer, or other bad things. However, God's word also teaches us that not only are these things bad, but **to know to do good and do it not, that is also sin!** (See James 4:17). Someone may say "I don't drink, curse, or run around on my spouse." Well, I thank God for that, but what **are** we doing? I heard of one man that had died, and all that people remember about him was that he watered his lawn for hours each day. Well brethren, what would people remember about us. Have we idled our lives away? Have we been so vain that God and other people would say that we rode on an ass colt? Someone might say here, "Well, I go to church every Sunday," and that is good; but if we hear God's word which tells us what else we ought to be doing, and if we don't do It, then our testimony is that we are pew-warmers. We manifest this by being idle and not doing what God has told us to do. As we looked at the life of Enoch, we see that the reason he pleased God, was that he walked with God. In other words, he did those things that pleased God. We also find that Abraham had a good testimony. In James 2:21-23, we see that Abraham had faith with works. Because of this, he was called the friend of God. If we want to be called the friend of God (by God and others), we must do what he tells us to do. John 15:14 states, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

Certainly brethren, we are **not** to do what God instructs us **not** to do; but our lives are to be **full of good works!** Psalm 34:14 states, "Depart from evil, **and do good;** seek peace, and pursue it." Hebrews 10:24 states, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and **to good works**." (See Titus 2:7, 10, 14 also). We know that good works don't save us from eternal hell to eternal heaven (Titus 3:5, 2 Timothy 2:9), but they will help keep us from the chastening hand or wrath of God, and help us to enter into the kingdom of God (Matthew 7:21). Revelations 3:19 states, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent "

God help us to repent, and get off our ass colts, and be zealous of good works, that we might have a testimony that we pleased God with our walk each day.

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