

## REACHING FORWARD - Part 1

### To Please Christ

#### Int.

1. Aim: To show that in reaching forth we must defend the truth, live for the truth, and spread the truth.
2. Text- Phil. 3:12-14
  - a. Paul had not completed his race
  - b. He was not perfect
  - c. But he was pressing on or reaching forth
  - d. He would forget the past and not look backward
  - e. He would reach forth toward the goal of pleasing Christ
3. We like Paul must do the same
  - a. We have not completed our race
  - b. We are not perfect
  - c. We must forget the past:
    - (1) Achievements
    - (2) Failures
  - d. And reach forth toward the goal of pleasing Christ.
4. What's involved in reaching forward to please Christ?
  - a. It involves the "truth"
  - b. Jn. 14:6 - Jn. 8:32
  - c. At least three things are necessary to please Christ:
    - i. Standing up for the Truth
    - ii. Living for the truth
    - iii. Spreading the truth

## Discussion

### I. STANDING UP FOR THE TRUTH

- A. A person who would reach forth toward the goal of pleasing Christ must stand up for the truth.
- B. Basic Scriptures
1. Rom. 1:16 - not ashamed "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
  2. Jude 3 - earnestly contend "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."
- C. We must be willing to stand up for the truth about:
1. Plan of salvation -
  2. Worship
  3. Organization
  4. Oneness of the church
  5. Marriage Divorce and Remarriage - Morality

## D. Some will compromise in these areas

1. There is only one plan of salvation -
  - a. Acts 4:12 - "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."
  - b. Every person is saved in exactly the same way
  - c. The truth about salvation does not depend upon the person or the place -
  - d. H.B.R.C.B = Salvation - baptism is essential - 1 Pet. 3:21 - just as Confession, Repentance and Faith are essential
  
2. Worship -
  - a. Jn. 4:24 -
  - b. Guidelines do not change with the years
  - c. No women preaching or teaching in mixed audiences - I Tim. 2:11-12
  - d. No instrumental music - no pie suppers, or bingo parties for raising money -
  - e. I Cor. 16:1-2
  
3. Organization - Elders, Deacons, members - no pastor system, or evangelist in control of congregation - neither are elders to lord it over the congregation - I Pet. 5:3
  
4. Oneness of the church -
  - a. No denominationalism in the N.T.- Eph. 4:4-6
  - b. Some would have us believe that the N.T. church is a denomination just like all the others.

- c. The N.T. Church is not a man made denomination but is the blood bought institution we read about in the N.T. Acts 20:28
- 5. Morality - Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage - Matt. 19:9
  - a. The rules apply to all men, does not change
  - b. Some have a new belief or practice and no longer stand up for the truth about Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage - pre-marital, extra marital = SIN
  - c. Some think that with the passing of time this rule does not apply, but it does.
- E. Reaching forth to please Jesus means we will stand up for the truth, all the truth, all the time, with all people.
  - 1. Some will stand up for truth in certain places
  - 2. Some will stand up for truth in the presence of certain people
  - 3. Phil. 1:27 "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;"

## **II. LIVE FOR THE TRUTH**

- A. A person who would reach forth toward the goal of pleasing Christ must live for the truth.
- B. Some believe the truth but do not live it
  - 1. Jn. 12:42-43 "Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."

2. Jas. 2:17-20 - faith without works is dead
- C. Some believe the truth and will even defend the truth - but will not live it
1. Known of people who will argue and discuss truth
  2. But they do not live by the truth
  3. I Cor. 9:27 NKJV "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."
- D. A person who knows the truth but will not live by it hurts the cause of truth
1. Many of these are backsliders - once known and practiced
  2. II Pet. 2:20-22
- E. A person who is reaching forth to please Jesus will live by the truth
1. Rom. 12:1-2 "A living sacrifice"
  2. Doers of the word not just knowers of the word will be pleasing - Jas. 1:22 "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

### **III. SPREADING THE TRUTH**

- A. A person who would reach forth toward the goal of pleasing Christ must spread the truth.
- B. Scriptures teach us to teach others
1. Mark 16:15
  2. Matt. 28:19-20
  3. Luke 19:10 "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

- C. Spreading the truth involves not only teaching the plan of salvation
1. Matt. 28:19-20 teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you
  2. The new convert must be grounded in the truth or they will fall away
  3. Baptism is just the beginning not the end

D. Other things that help in spreading the truth:

1. Good example - Matt. 5:16 - others see us "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
2. Hospitality - friendliness
  - a. I Pet. 4:9 - NKJV "Be hospitable to one another without grumbling."
  - b. Rm. 12:13 "given to hospitality."
  - c. Elders - I Tim.3:2, Tit.1:8

**Conclusion**

1. We must reach forth to please Jesus - Phil. 3:12-14
2. Reach forth not backward - go ahead
3. In order to reach forth we must:
  - a. Stand up for the truth
  - b. Live for the Truth
  - c. Spread the truth
4. Press forward
5. Phil. 3:13 "...reaching forth..." = in the ASV is "...stretching forward..." In the ESV it has: "straining forward to what lies ahead"

6. This is the Lord's Church... It is composed of people just like me.
    - a. It will be friendly if I am.
    - b. It will do great work if I work.
    - c. It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am generous
    - d. It will bring others into its fellowship if I bring them
    - e. Its seats will be filled if I fill them
    - f. It will be a church of loyalty and love, of faith and service.
    - g. If I who make it what it is, am filled with these
    - h. Therefore, with God's help, I dedicate myself to the task of being
  7. All these things the church should be
  8. WILL YOU ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE?
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