

Prove All Things

Int.

1. Aim: To prove that we must prove all things by the scriptures in religion.
2. 1 Thes. 5:21 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."
 - a. We have the obligation to ask questions about religion
 - b. 1 Peter 3:15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"
 - c. The statement "You can prove anything by the Bible" is false.
 - d. If it were true then this verse in 1 Thes. 5:21 would mean nothing.
3. This verse denies the teaching that it does not matter what a person believes.

Discussion

I. WRONG WAYS OF PROVING

- A. Cannot prove by assuming
 1. Many assume things in religion and expect us to take their word
 2. Example: It is assumed that because there are morally good people in all churches that all churches are good in God's sight.
 3. Matt. 7: 21-23
- B. Cannot prove by supposition
 1. Some on Pentecost supposed that the apostles were drunk. But Peter denied it: "For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day." Acts 2:15

2. Some supposed Jesus said that John would not die
 - a. They started telling it as if what they supposed proved it.
 - b. But Jesus says: "Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?" John 21:23

C. You cannot prove by accusation

1. Jews accused Paul of being a pestilent fellow, a mover of seditions, a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. Acts 24:5
2. They could not prove one of those charges - Acts 24:13

D. You cannot prove by Misrepresentation

1. The Jews set up false witnesses to misrepresent Stephen
2. Accused him of blaspheming God and Moses
3. They did not prove it, only proved they could not answer his arguments.
4. Acts 6:13 "And set up false witnesses,, which said. This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:"

II. RIGHT WAYS OF PROVING

A. Prove

1. Webster = "To demonstrate by reasoning or evidence caused to be accepted as genuine."
2. Thayer = "To test, examine, try - scrutinize [to see whether a thing be genuine or not]"

B. Test

1. Luke 14:19 "And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused."
2. Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."
3. VEDNT = "To test, prove with the expectation of approving."

C. To Examine

1. 1 Cor. 11:28 KJV "But let a man examine himself and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup."
2. 1 Cor. 11:28 ASV "But let a man prove himself, and so let him eat of the bread, and drink of the cup."

D. To try

1. 1 Jn. 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world."
2. Rev. 2:2 "I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil; and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars;"

III. PROVE ALL THINGS

- A. Must prove all things
 - 1. Not just some things
 - 2. If proof is needed for some things it is needed for everything!

- B. Probably true that all religious groups do some things right
 - 1. Any group could give proof for a part of his practice
 - 2. He is still short of the obligation commanded by this verse

- C. Some things proved is not enough
 - 1. In 1 Sam. 15 Saul could have satisfied Samuel and God in this manner
 - 2. Apollos could prove some things
 - a. That Jesus was the Christ
 - b. But he could not prove his teachings about John's baptism
 - c. Acts 18:24 "And a certain Jew named Apollos born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus."
 - 3. Every act and every step needs proof
 - a. Heb. 11:6
 - b. Rom. 10:17

IV. WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF PROOF ?

A. Wrong sources of proof

1. Feeling

- a. Proverbs 28:26 "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool; but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered."
- b. By this standard the publican would be condemned and the Pharisee justified - the Pharisee felt that he would be all right. Was his religion therefore all right?
- c. Suppose you feel that you are saved and I feel that you are lost. Whose feelings are you going by - mine or yours ???

2. Parents

- a. This would have proved the Jews right who stoned Stephen
- b. Acts 7:51 "...as your fathers did, so do ye."
- c. Their religion was like their fathers - but it was wrong.

3. Popularity

- a. Numbers do not prove a thing to be right.
- b. Ex. 23:2 "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment;"
- c. Popularity would have required God to save the world and drown Noah and his family - Gen. 6
- d. If numbers determine right then a man would have to change his religion when he changed communities:
 - (1) A person might live in some cities where the Baptist was the largest group.

(2) But if he moved to Utah he would have to become a Mormon

(3) If he moved to Italy he would become a Catholic

(4) If we moved to Africa we would become a heathen

4. Conscience

a. Some have a defiled conscience

b. Titus 1:15 "Unto the pure all things are pure; but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled."

c. 1 Timothy 4:1-4 Seared conscience

5. Other people

a. Some say "I will get so and so to prove it."

b. 2 Cor. 10:12 "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves; but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves are not wise."

6. An Abolished Law

a. Law of Moses was abolished

(1) Col. 2:14 "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;"

(2) 2 Cor. 3:11 "For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious."

(3) Cannot prove Sabbath binding today

b. Baptism of John was abolished and Apollos could not prove it - Acts 18:24

- c. Miracles ceased - 1 Cor. 13 — cannot use this to prove miracles today.

B. RIGHT SOURCE OF PROOF

1. Bible

- a. 1 Thes. 5:21
- b. 1 Pet. 4:11
- c. 2 Tim. 3:16-17

2. We can know the truth

- a. Jn. 8:32
- b. Is it raining? Can know whether it is or not.
- c. Bible says $B + B = S$. Mk. 16:16 That is something I Know.
- d. When Christ came and gave us the great commission he did not say. Go out and persuade men to be religious. They were religious long before he ever came. He came to give man the opportunity to be right religiously. He gave them the truth.

3. What is Truth?

- a. You cannot come to know that which is false. You can believe it, but you cannot come to know it. There is no such thing as false knowledge! But there is false belief. You can be convinced a certain thing is true but it is really false. But if you really know something, then it is true.
- b. The Bible is the truth as far as God's will for man is concerned.
- c. It is not correct to say that the Bible has some truth in it.
- d. Probably the case that all books have some truth, but they do not consist of truth.
- e. The Bible contains all truth. Every word is inspired.

- f. The word of God is the only truth that will save!!
4. Truth is essential for our salvation
 - a. Suppose you see a man drinking poison and giving it to others to drink. What are you going to do? Do you say, I have so much love for that man and the others who are drinking that poison that I cannot bear to tell them that they are drinking poison?
 - b. Application — if you love people you want them to learn and obey the truth. You will try to persuade them to not drink poison but take the pure waters of life.
 5. Truth is absolute
 - a. Truth does not depend upon the mental state of the person.
 - b. If truth is subjective then it would mean that each person would decide about everything and he could not be wrong. Everybody would be right, no matter what they decided.
 - c. We are to preach the Gospel.
 - d. The gospel is a definite body of doctrine. The truth or Gospel, is not changed by what we believe about it.
 - e. We must preach no other gospel
 - (1) Gal. 1:6-9
 - (2) When you change the truth you are leaving it.
 - (3) That person who taught another gospel was condemned
 6. All claim to use the Bible as their source of authority
 - a. Just because a person claims to use the Bible does not mean he is using it correctly.

- b. There is a possibility to misuse the Bible.
- c. 2 Tim. 2:15
- d. 2 Pet. 3:16-17 "As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things? in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. 17. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness."
- e. Examples of some who misuse:
 - (1) Grandmother - thought it was wrong to play with marbles - why? Verses say marvel not!! Jn. 5:28 1 Jn. 3:13
 - (2) Roy Matlock - wrong to sell a dog- Deut. 23:17-18 "There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel. 18. Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the Lord thy God for any vow; for even both these are abomination unto the Lord thy God."
 - (3) Satan misused scriptures - Matt. 4
- f. They used the Bible, but they misused it to prove things that the Bible did not teach!!!

V. HOLD FAST TO THAT WHICH IS GOOD

- A. Should not hold to what you cannot prove by the Bible
- B. Shows that you should not give up what you can prove by the Bible.
- C. It shows that what you cannot prove by the Bible is not good
 - 1. It may look good - Your intentions may be good
 - 2. But these do not prove it to be good!!
- D. Buy the Truth and Sell it not - Prov. 23:23

CONCLUSION

- 1. We will be judged by the Bible - Jn. 12:48
- 2. 1 Thes. 5:21 - Prove all things hold fast that which is good.
- 3. Plan of salvation
 - a. FAITH - not faith only
 - b. Repentance -
 - c. Confession
 - d. Baptism - immersion, for remission of sins
- 4. Worship as God desires
- 5. Live as he has directed
- 6. Serve as he has commanded.