



Mighty in the Word

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)
The Wise Still Seek Him *Vol. XIII.08*

of the
Lord
Jesus Christ

Hold Fast

Hold fast to the Word of God, the living Word, Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of the Lord God Almighty by the Holy Spirit. Do not let that which blows in the wind distract you from the Word of God, the Holy Bible.

Examine all that passes before you. Those who have repented of their sins, have asked Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Savior, and desire to live a life of holiness unto the Lord God, must examine everything – no matter by whom the teaching is held, or by what councils it may be ordained; by what venerableness of antiquity sustained; or by what sacredness it may be invested. We are to receive no opinion until we know by the Holy Spirit in our studies that it is true. We cannot allow ourselves to be prohibited from examining that which we do not perceive to be true. We cannot afford to trust any beliefs regardless of the influence by those who may have worldly interests or even by those we trust implicitly.

There are so many new teachings which our friends and neighbors and leaders in "religions" regard as truth, and seek to be and endeavor to be so convincing that many are being led astray.

It is important that people read the Word of the Lord God, the Holy Bible daily, and asking the Lord Jesus Christ to reveal His truth. We need to be careful what we hear and take in for our beliefs. There are many who extrapolate passages of scripture, even just phrases, and make of them a teaching that is not from the Lord God.

Let me share with you one that is so popular and used by the renown persons standing on pulpits.

Jeremiah 29.11 is often used as a means of leading you to think of yourself, of what you want, of tempting you to believe you are going to be financially wealthy. There are individuals and groups that are aware most people do not read the Bible so they use means to get you to listen to them, to listen to what they know you want to hear – rather than seeking the Lord Jesus Christ and what He teaches us in His Holy Word.

Jer 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. KJV

כי אֶנְכִּי יְדַעְתִּי אֶת־הַמְּחַשֵּׁב בַּת אֲשֶׁר אֶנְכִּי חַשְׁבֵן עֲלֵיכֶם נָאָמֵנְתִּי מְחַשְׁבָּת שְׁלֹם
Jer 29:11 וְלֹא רֹעֶה לְתֹת לְכֶם

We are called to Hold Fast to the Word of God, as many are holding fast to deceit. Jeremiah 8.5 describes today to include "church-goers," those standing on the pulpits – all who are listening to the enemy, to Satan, not understanding that is to live death.

We are called to live the Word of God, to give forth the Word of the Lord in Truth that others shall come to know Jesus Christ Who is the way, the Truth, and the life. Holding Fast to the Word of the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus is to live a life of holiness unto the Lord Jesus Christ. Holding Fast to the Word of the Lord God is to walk with the Lord on *The Way*, *The Via Dolorosa* – and all for His glory, that His Name shall be glorified in us and through us.

**Hold Fast to the Word of God,
The Living Word, Jesus Christ!**

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Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

The word in Hebrew for peace is highlighted for you to see. When translating it as prosperity, it is not financial prosperity as is seen in the Book of Isaiah (**תְּבִיא**). Know there are those who use words to allure you to their teaching for their benefit, believing that you will hear their definition of a word according to their chosen usage of the word for their benefit – though incorrect. We must seek the Lord Jesus Christ and when we know the Truth, we must **Hold Fast** to the Truth of the Holy Word, the Holy Bible.

Jer 29:11 I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for. GNB

Jer 29:11 I will bless you with a future filled with hope--a future of **SUCCESS, not of suffering**. CEV

Hear what many are wanting you to hear? prosperity, success . . . People of God, God's plans are to bring us to living for Him, to repent of our sins and ask Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Savior, and living a life of holiness unto Him – and all for His glory.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil (Jn 3.16-19).

Hold Fast to the Lord, to that which is good, that which is of the Lord Jesus Christ, with all your heart, mind, and soul; it is necessary that you adhere to the Truth of the Lord God firmly, and be willing to suffer the loss of all things, of all friends and family – rather than turning away from the Lord God.

I am reminded of a passage of scripture in Revelation 3.11 that behooves us to take notice of the times in which we are living

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

We live in a world of individualism, of being taught that life is about the big ME – and who cares about living a life of holiness unto the Lord God.

So, with some of the newer versions of the Bible, people are able to misappropriate the Word of God in Christ Jesus to the level of those who hunger for the world and the ways of the world, who have grown to love the world (I Jn 2.15; 3.17).

I think of the Magi who turned neither to the right nor to the left, but knew they had heard from the Lord God Almighty to follow the star to Bethlehem to see Jesus. Though King Herod and, of course, many others were against them, they **held fast** to what they knew to be from the Lord God. Their hearts were surrendered to the Lord, and they heard the Lord tell them to return to their country another way; and though perhaps longer and more dangerous, they trusted the word of the Lord. They knew they had heard from the Lord God and were obedient – not caring the return journey might be more dangerous and longer through the desert.

Oh! What faith in the Lord! What trust they had in the Lord! They knew they heard from the Lord and never looked back, thinking, "What if we are wrong in our decision to follow the star in the East?"

They were not listening for a goodly word from the world. They went on the journey seeking Jesus at any cost. They knew they had heard from the Lord and were obedient – willingly they made the journey, but more than willingly. I believe they had a hunger for more of the Lord and were willing to obey that they might accomplish whatever it was the Lord God wanted of them.

How does one know the Truth?

Then 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 the truth, and the truth shall make you free (Jn 8.31, 32).

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (Jn 14.6).

Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice (Jn 18.37).

Jesus Christ is the Truth. Jesus Christ is the living Word, the Truth (Jn 17.17)

Oh, let us Hold Fast that which is godly: the Word of God, faith in the Lord, all that edifies us in living a godly life, that brings us closer to the Lord in living the life to which we are called - within the context of the body of Christ, that we might become one in Him.

Let us hold fast the profession of *[our]* faith without wavering; (for he *[is]* faithful that promised;) (Heb 10.23).

Again, the passage of scripture in Revelation 3.11 that behooves us to take notice of the times in which we are living

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Paul writes to young Timothy the same admonition as is in I Thessalonians 5.21.

Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us (II Ti 1.13, 14).

Let me clarify the word good in the Greek. There are many definitions of this term, but I believe that Paul is referring to that which is "beautiful by reason of purity of heart and life," that which is of the Lord Jesus Christ, a life of holiness.

We wrote a *Message* a number of years ago, "Can So Many Be So Wrong?" The answer is, YES! The word of God makes clear that the multitude is rarely on the side of Truth. Did not the Scribes and Pharisees and rulers of the people reject the Lord Jesus Christ? Did not they falsely accuse Him and crucify Him? There were charges in the biblical days as has been all through the centuries against those whose lives have shown forth their love for the Lord Jesus Christ. The followers of the Lord God have suffered much persecution for their love for the Lord, for Holding Fast to that which is Truth, the Truth of the Lord God.

The Word of the Lord has come to us because of their love for the Lord Jesus Christ as they obeyed the Word of the Lord to Hold Fast the form of sound words (II Ti 1.13).