

Guarding God's Truth

1 Timothy 6:20,21

Introduction:

- A. The truth about truth
 - 1. A high percentage of American adults believe that truth is r_____, that there is no absolute truth.
 - 2. Some truths are relative – some things may be w_____ for some but not for others (e.g. alcohol as a beverage).
 - 3. Some truths are absolute – some things are objectively true regardless of anyone's personal b_____ (e.g. the earth is spinning).
- B. God's truth - has been preserved for us in w_____ (the Bible).
 - 1. The Old Testament
 - a. During the time that Jesus was on earth, the Jewish people had the entire Old Testament and called it God's w_____ (Ps 119:11 – the books of Moses; Heb 1:1 – the Prophets).
 - b. Jesus summed up the entire Old Testament as the L_____ and the Prophets (Matt 5:17) and stated that God's word is t_____ (Jn 17:17).
 - 2. The New Testament
 - a. Jesus o_____ spoke God's word (Jn 12:49,50)
 - b. Jesus told His apostles that the Holy Spirit would cause them to remember all the words He taught them (Jn 14:26).
 - c. The New Testament is Jesus's words preserved for us.
 - 3. The entire Bible is God's truth preserved for us through His apostles and prophets and is the f_____ of the church (Eph 2:20).
- C. Today's lesson – it is the responsibility of every believer to guard God's truth. Are you guarding it?

Why should we guard God's truth?

- A. This is not the responsibility of spiritual leaders alone
 - 1. In verse 19 Paul assumes that Timothy knows what was entrusted to him.
 - a. Timothy was left in Ephesus to deal with the false teachers and false teachings (1 Tim 1:3)
 - b. Timothy was commanded to instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines (1 Tim 1:3) – these men were the spiritual l_____ of the churches in Ephesus.

- c. The spiritual leadership was expected to instruct the rest of the believers in the churches to do the same so they could g_____ God's truth.
2. God has entrusted every believer with His truth.
 - a. The Greek word that is translated, *entrusted* or *committed to your care*, was a banking term referring to a d_____ (see v. 19 in the ESV which preserves this metaphor).
 - 1) You deposit money in the bank, t_____ the bank to guard your money.
 - 2) Each bank account is insured up to \$_____.
 - b. Just as you trust the bank to guard your deposit, God is trusting us to guard His deposit of the truth.
- B. Two reasons why we are to guard God's truth
 1. Because God has d_____ His truth in our hands.
 2. Because no person can d_____ God's truth on their own.
 - a. Some truth can be discovered by ex_____ (e.g. gravity will pull you down).
 - b. Some truth can be discovered by a_____ (e.g. penicillin as an antibiotic).
 - c. Some truth can be discovered by r_____ (e.g. the area of a triangle).
 - d. God's truth can only be known by Him telling us.
 - 1) God had to reveal His i_____ (Rom 3:11 – no one understands or seeks God on their own).
 - 2) God has fully revealed Himself in J_____ (Heb 1:1,2; Jn 1:1,14).
 - 3) God had to reveal the truth of every person's n_____ of Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
 - a) Salvation is not by w_____ (Eph 2:8,9)
 - b) Every person's own righteousness is like a dirty r_____ to God (Is 64:6)
 - c) God says that our salvation can only come through Jesus (Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12).

How should we guard God's truth?

- A. A_____ or turn away from the arguments of false knowledge (v. 19)
 1. Paul had in mind a cult group known as the Gnostics (a word that means k_____) – they taught a lot of false doctrine (e.g. Jesus was a created being).
 2. Those who entertain the arguments of false knowledge s_____ from the truth (v. 21).
- B. P_____ God's truth.

C. Practical application

1. Jehovah's Witnesses – teach that Jesus is Michael the archangel, became a human, died to make salvation possible, and rose from death in a different body than what He originally had.
 - a. Do not put up with their reasoning (2 Cor 11:4)
 - b. Point them to Jesus's identity using God's truth.
 - 1) Jesus is G_____ in the flesh (Jn 1:1,14)
 - 2) Jesus is the I _____ of the Old Testament (Ex 3:14; John 8:24,28,58).
 - 3) Jesus demanded the same h_____ be given Him as the Father (Jn 5:22,23)
 - 4) There is only one God, but somehow the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are distinct yet one being.
2. Evolution – all things came into being by chance and all living things gradually developed from one common organism.
 - a. Do not put up with this false reasoning
 - 1) If you have vulnerable kids in the public school, find out when they are teaching evolution and pull them out of that classroom.
 - 2) If your kids are grounded, teach them how to stand up for the truth.
 - b. Stand up for the truth
 - 1) Fact#1 – Evolution is a t_____ not an objective truth.
 - 2) Fact#2 – There is only ____ eyewitness of the origin of all things – God
 - a) Gen 1:11,12,21,24 – God created everything and the living things reproduced after its own k_____ ; they did not evolve into another kind.
 - b) Gen 1:27 – the first man and woman were c_____ ; they did not evolve.

Conclusion: - *What are you doing with the deposit God has given you?*