

Let the Word Uphold You

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

In 2 Corinthians 13:8, the Word of God says we can do nothing against the truth, but only *for* the truth. Many of us have witnessed the veracity and preciseness of God's truth through the trials of our faith. Those trials worked in us patience, in time. That allowed God, who inhabits eternity, to act through our human volition with His mercy.

Yet with all God has revealed about the Finished Work, some people seem to think they can do something harmful against the truth of grace, of love, and of mercy. But they never can. When it's all said and done, what anyone seems to do against the truth will work out for the truth.

This booklet will instruct us in the value of applying the whole counsel of God to every endeavor. When we let the Word of God uphold us and not our own strength, we will be quickened for the next moment by the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead.

Chapter One

“DOTH THIS OFFEND YOU?”

“When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?...The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:61, 63).

“For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth” (2 Corinthians 13:8).

The words that God speaks are eternal. They were settled in heaven billions of years ago for this very hour. Every time we hear the Word of God preached, it is a fountain of life that renews, refreshes, and rekindles the spirit within.

People are drawn to churches that teach grace because of the nature of the grace message. Yet some of those same people go against the grace message, mocking it as they leave the assembly. They come because of unconditional love, and then they go against it because they cannot live up to the message. They are drawn

to it because of the Finished Work, and then they try to “unfinish” what Christ has completed. They come because they believed in unity, and then they cause disunity. Still, these people can do nothing against the truth.

We can do nothing against the truth. If we try to hurt another brother or sister, we are going against the truth. If we make comments against a brother or sister, we are going against the truth—but ultimately, none of us can do a thing against the truth. What we say against a brother will sometimes come back on us in some form of chastisement (though we will probably never acknowledge it because of deception, intellectual pride, and a life that has not been crucified).

Offended by the Truth

In Mark 3:21, His “friends” said that Jesus was out of His mind. In John 6:53-61, many disciples were offended when He told them, “Eat My flesh and drink My blood, or you will have no life in you.” The Word of God says they were offended. Jesus “knew in himself” that they were murmuring, and He said out loud, “Does this offend you?”

Yes, it did.

In Mark 6:3, when He went back to His hometown to teach the Word of God, His countrymen were offended. “Where did *he* learn these things, and where did he get his authority? Isn’t this the carpenter?” they said. The Bible says, “They were offended at Him.”

When they finished eating what became known as the Last Supper, Jesus told His disciples, “Ye shall be offended because of me this night” (Mark 14:27).

It is an amazing thing to consider, but that is the Lord Jesus. He was constantly offending people. He was despised and rejected because people were offended by Him (Isaiah 53). Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, full of grace and mercy, became an offense to “good” people.

Offended by the Cross

But according to Galatians 5:11, the greatest offense in the history of Christianity is the Cross.

In counseling, for example, people may communicate for nearly forty-five minutes on a problem, and the compassionate pastor will love them, take their hand, and say, “I understand. I identify with how you feel....” And in cases where the people are well taught, the pastor who hears from heaven will add, “...But your

solution is Calvary.”

People do not want to hear that. The flesh gets offended. We are offended by the Cross because Calvary means we must lose our life. Calvary means that we are buried with Christ. It means that we have a new nature and that we need the filling of the Spirit with love shed abroad in our heart. Many times we do not want to hear about the Cross.

The Cross has always offended people who try to impress God with their works. It has always offended the “relative righteousness” crowd who compare themselves with others (2 Corinthians 10:12-14). The Cross is always offending those who complain. The Cross always offends the crowd who think they are not liked as much as others, who feel they are not loved and that they don’t have the proper attention given them. Calvary is the greatest single offender in the history of the world.

Offended by the Blood

With Calvary came the shedding of the Blood, without which there is no remission of sin. Redemption required the shedding of Christ’s blood. The Blood is so offensive. Many theologians deny that the shedding of the literal

blood of Christ atoned for our sins. They deny the ability of Christ's blood to deliver and its absolute power to cleanse. They say that spiritual death is all that was needed for our redemption.

So many Christians lack discernment on the fundamental doctrine of the literal Blood. They will hear a message that compromises this truth and never know the difference, because the messenger still preaches the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ—they just leave out the Blood.

The Blood offends. It doesn't make sense to the natural mind that the shedding of Blood could cover a person's sins forever. Yet, God's plan began to unfold when He shed the blood of an animal to cover Adam and Eve. In Exodus 12:13, before He sent a deadly plague through Egypt, God told His people, "...When I see the blood, I will pass over you." And He did. But only a perfect Sacrifice has the power to save the souls and cleanse the hearts of sinful men. Perfect redemption would be accomplished through the sacrifice of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Chapter Two

“GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD”

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

When God calls you to a church, go where He leads. Leave the old things behind you, and become a faithful member in particular. As you go forward, you will fall in love with everything God is doing. Still, many are offended when the pastor teaches on soul winning. They are offended because they never go.

So, if the pastor teaches what the Bible says about soul winning (in Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:44-49, John 20:20-22, and Acts 1:8), he will offend people with that message. If he teaches John 4:28-30 about the woman at the well who went soul winning as soon as she was saved, he will offend people.

In Luke 9, Jesus sent out the twelve disciples. In Luke 10, the seventy went out. Yet, if the pas-

tor teaches that the last words Christ spoke before He ascended were “Go...and preach the gospel!” people get offended. They will tell you they believe in soul winning, but they never go, and their behavior is wrong! It is wrong not to go. James 4:17 says that “to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” If I do not go soul winning regularly and on purpose, I am backslidden, because that verse says we are to do what we know is right.

Grace Teaches Us to Go

Jesus didn’t “suggest” we win souls; He commanded it! We go because we are told to go by the One who made us, the One who bought us, the One who paid for our sins, the One who lives inside us. His Word is filled with His heart toward the lost. He went, the twelve disciples went, the seventy went, the women went—and we go.

The people who do not have a conviction to go soul winning are the same people who often have unresolved conflicts hindering their lives. Many of these people tend to come to church late and seldom fellowship with other believers. So much in their lives has not been crucified and buried with Christ; therefore, the casual life of

Laodicea rules. Because their attitudes are not right with God, they do not have attitudes of grace and mercy.

Grace teaches us to deny ungodly attitudes like intimidation and slothfulness that would keep us from going (Titus 2:12), and grace teaches us to go. We may have a very rigorous schedule, yet if we know it is right, and we do not do it, that is sin.

Satan, the accuser, would like you to think you are being led in a system of works. Seeking the lost isn't "works" for those of us who love God. But if you don't love God, do not go, because *that* would be works.

We Can Do Nothing against the Truth

We cannot do a thing against the truth; the Bema Seat will tell the story. Jesus offended the disciples. Peter meant well when he said, "Though all men are offended because of You, Jesus, I will never be offended." But Jesus knew the truth of the matter (Matthew 26:31-34).

Jesus Christ always offended the Pharisees, and He offended the scribes. Even as a child, He offended Joseph when He said after being gone and apparently lost for a day, "I am busy doing My Father's business" Jesus was reminding

Joseph in so many words, “*You* are not my Father.” Mary and Joseph were probably offended, because basically Jesus was saying, “I didn’t tell you what I planned to do, because I am the Creator.” Again, He offended His mother and His half-brothers and sisters when He said in Luke 8:19-21, “My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.”

We must not patronize carnality. We must not lower our standard to appease the guilty. No one can do a thing against the truth, only *for* the truth. If you try to do something against the truth, the truth will come back to you later—if not in this lifetime, then at the Bema Seat of Christ.

You will look into His eyes, and He will say, “What happened? Were you busy? You did know that I said these things, didn’t you?”

“Yes.”

“You did know that just before I ascended, the words that I spoke were recorded in all four Gospels and in the Book of Acts: ‘Be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth.’ Did you know that?”

“Yes.”

“Did your pastor teach it?”

“Yes.”

“Did other people in the church go soul winning?”

“Yes.”

“Well, why didn’t you do it?”

And you will stand there, ashamed, with no answer.

“Was it because you didn’t love the Word? Was it because you didn’t love Me? Yes, that was why you didn’t obey Me. You were glad that I saved you, but your love was limited; and that was revealed by your limited obedience to the Cross. When I said to you in Mark 8:36-37, that one soul is worth more than all the world, I meant it.”

From 1 John 2:28, we understand that many who are saved will be ashamed when they face Jesus. Let’s purpose to trust God and know the unspeakable joy that comes from seeking the lost (Psalm 126:5).

Chapter Three

“WHOSOEVER SHALL LOSE HIS LIFE...”

“For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it” (Mark 8:35).

We cannot do a thing against the truth but only *for* the truth. Jesus gave His life away for others. He simply gave Himself away.

“I want to ask You a question, Lord. You are the Creator, You are our Redeemer. You are eternal, with no beginning and no ending except in Your humanity. As You worked with disciples, as You were born in a slum area, I want to ask You a question. How did You conduct Your life?”

I believe He has already told us: “First, I became like the least (Luke 9:48).

“Second, I became the last (Mark 9:35).

“Third, I came to minister and not to be min-

istered unto (Matthew 20:28).

“Fourth, because of love, I came to die for every man’s sins (John 10:11).

“Fifth, I did not open My mouth to my accusers, even when I justifiably could have, because I gave My life away for people and to satisfy My Father’s justice” (Luke 23:9).

The greatest Christians give their lives away. If a man is great, it is because he has given his life away. It is not something that he does just once in a while, when his schedule permits it. Seven days and seven nights, week after week, year in and year out, he gives his life away.

Of course, vacations are legitimate and right. God encourages His people to come away and rest awhile (Song of Solomon 1:7; 2:10-13, Mark 6:31). But we should carefully consider the timing, in terms of what is going on in the eternal plan of God.

Also, a godly servant is willing to trust people. We can’t distrust people because some have hurt us. We have to make up our minds that we will believe the best about people. While we must use wisdom (Matthew 10:16), we shouldn’t suspect a person’s motives without cause.

Every servant of God, man or woman, who knows the Cross, knows Resurrection, under-

stands the Ascension—that kind of person makes a decision to give his life away. He knows Bible doctrine and understands how to internalize precise illumination, inspiration, and information from God. A true servant recognizes his place in the Body of Christ and the value of his presence as a member in particular.

Do All to the Glory of God

As a Christian, whatever job you have, do it for God's glory. When you give your life and glorify Jesus, you will be quickened in your mortal body (Romans 8:11). When the Spirit flows in you, and when the Spirit flows out of you, somehow your exhaustion level is limited to a minimum, because you are being quickened by a power that isn't human power.

Likewise, when you go soul winning for Jesus, when you witness for Jesus, when you help people, the thing to remember is 1 John 3:16: Give your life away.

When you truly give your life away, you won't become offended by the people to whom you give it. In Psalm 119:165, if a person loves the Word of God, they do not get offended, and they do not become paranoid by what people do. Instead of evaluating people, they study the

heart of God and understand that behind acts of willful disobedience are areas of unresolved sin.

A man of God who is upheld by the Word is led by the Spirit of God. When he speaks, he ought to be diverse in his presentation. On one day, he will weep as he pleads for men's souls. The next day, he will teach academically, with phenomenal precision. Another day, he may give a devotional message with tears. Yet another day, it will be heart-to-heart. The Holy Spirit may anoint him to preach an old-fashioned message, to reprove and exhort with divine authority. But he will always be motivated by love that changes people's lives with a desire to honor the truth (2 Corinthians 5:13-14).

We can do nothing against the truth. We are responsible for the words that we speak. Every word is recorded, and we will face God to give an account for them all.

Be Led by Every Word

Don't be a coward when it comes to God's will in your life. Get some fortitude. Let His Word uphold you and direct you so you will not stagnate in God's permissive will.

If this message has touched you, make up your mind that you will always accept correc-

tion instantly, be transformed immediately, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind. By the grace of God, the power of God, the love of God, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit, determine to be illuminated with a permeation of divine light that places you in favor with the eternal purpose of God for your individual destiny.

Someone asked, "What do you do when you give your life away and people turn against you?"

That's simple. You just keep on giving it away. You keep right on giving it. That's what the Savior did.

Jesus said, "I have laid down My life for you. You ought to give your life away as I have (see 1 John 3:16). And when you do that, you will know beyond a doubt that you are truly saved (1 John 3:14), because of the love of God that motivates you and causes you to lay your life down."

Amos 5:6 says, "Seek the LORD." It doesn't say, "Seek something about Him." It doesn't say, "Seek a place." It says, "Seek the LORD." Seek Him where you are. *Seek the LORD*. It is the Lord we seek. It is His Person we are after.

Take advantage of God's provision for rebound if you need it. Take advantage of God's

Spirit. Take advantage of God's plan. Take advantage of having the truth. Take advantage of grace, mercy, and love. And take advantage of becoming obedient.

A Christian never has to be moody. We never need to become strange. Why should we when God is inside of us?

If God Almighty is in you—and if He is greater than everything in the world—you don't need to be depressed or become discouraged. Anytime those projections come in, just say, "No, Satan! God is in me, and He is greater than anything you have."

God upholds us by the Word of His truth (Psalm 119:116)—and we need never be ashamed.

CONCLUSION

This kind of message offends people. But a God who cares, who loves His people, and has given His life for His people doesn't care whether or not He offends their flesh. He only cares about what His people need.

If God convicts us with His Word, we don't need to be offended; we just need to get right. If God tells us that we can be overcomers, *we can!* If He tells us we can always triumph, then we will (2 Corinthians 2:14).

When the Word of God is preached, it is not the word of a man. It is eternal. We are not bigger than an eternal Word being communicated on any given day. Show reverence for the old-fashioned Book that was settled billions of years ago. Though the pastor studies and plans his messages as part of his schedule, remember this: God planned the message for the very hour it was given. We are to receive it as the truth, communicated by His servant.

Father, we love You. Bless each one who receives this message. Give them eternal benefits that come from your Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.