

Ye Do Err, Not Knowing The Scriptures

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Matthew 22: 29, "Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God."

Jesus said this a long time ago, but it is still very true today. People quote scripture, or try too, and sometimes get it all wrong. Any of us can make a mistake, but if we know the bible and are familiar with what we are talking about, we shouldn't err much, or often. Sometimes I see famous minister on TV get scripture all tangled up. One in particular I have heard him say things that the bible didn't say. He combined two different stories into one. In **1 Chronicles 13** he said that when Uzza touched the ark seventy thousand men died. If you read verses 9 and 10 you see that only Uzza died. The seventy thousand men died when David numbered the nation of Israel as told in **1 Chronicles 21**.

People in general don't seem to read the bible and therefore don't know God's word. As Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also," **Matt 6:21**. That's why folks know all about sports, movies, money, and other things that interest them, but little about the bible. Yet, the things that people know the most about are tem-

porary while that which is about eternity is left to chance. All the knowledge that a person has about this world won't help a person when he stands before the Lord.

Why do people leave out, and even make fun, of the things that God commanded for us to do? We can mention baptism, but it is only one of the things that the scriptures command for men to observe and to keep. Yet I have heard "preachers" mock baptism and other doctrines of the bible. The Lord's Supper, church attendance, forgiveness, humility, love, and many other things that the Lord said for his children to do are left out and even ridiculed by some who say that they are following Jesus.

The cause is the same that Jesus spoke of to the Jews of his day. The error came about because they didn't really know the scriptures and the power of God. Taking what some Rabbi said in preference to what God said placed them on the wrong path. People of today make the same mistakes when they take some person's word over what the bible says. People have said, "Read the book by this preacher, it'll tell you why you don't have to do this as it's said in the bible." Some people are so weak that they will follow such foolish advice, but if God says to do something no man can change it and be right.

It seems to me that the reason that these things happen

is that some folks don't want to put the effort into studying the scriptures for themselves. It is easier to let someone tell them what to believe. Then they can give more time to doing the things that satisfy the flesh. Many people had rather be entertained than taught the truth of the scriptures. We know that to learn takes some effort on our part. It was true in school and it is true in our spiritual life as well.

God could have given us complete knowledge of his word when we confessed Jesus as our Lord. He did not do it then or now. If we want to know about his word and how to live for him we must seek to learn. He will help us, but we have to make the effort and do what we can for ourselves. When a person truly believes in the Lord and desires to know him and his will, he will read the bible and pray for understanding. We must seek the truth and not just take some person's word for what the Lord meant. I have had some to get upset at me when I didn't take their explanation for some scripture. We can listen to people and learn from them, but learn and know that we are on the right path.

As someone once said, "We must know what we believe and why we believe it." How true that is. If asked why we believe something, don't say, "That is what my preacher said, or grandpa said." Believe it because God said it.

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WAITING AT THE WELL
THE WELL WAS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE PEOPLE IN ANCIENT BIBLE LANDS. WELLS WERE OFTEN SCOOPED OUT OF THE SANDY SOIL BY THOSE WHO KNEW OF THE PRESENCE OF WATER. OTHER WELLS WERE DUG OUT OF THE LIMESTONE ROCK IN THE HILLY PALESTINE COUNTRY. NO MATTER WHERE THE WELL HAPPENED TO BE, IT WAS THE CENTER OF ACTIVITY FOR THE PEOPLE, WHO NEEDED ITS WATERS TO LIVE. BECAUSE ALL PEOPLE HAD TO COME TO THE WELLS THEY BECAME A COMMON MEETING PLACE. A PERFECT ILLUSTRATION OF THIS IS THE ACCOUNT OF ELIEZER, ABRAHAM'S STEWARD, WHO WAS SEARCHING OUT A BRIDE FOR ISAAC, ABRAHAM'S SON. (GEN. 24) BEING IN A LAND NOT HIS OWN, ELIEZER KNEW HE COULD ASK DIRECTIONS, OR INQUIRE AFTER THOSE HE WANTED TO MEET AT THE COMMUNITY MEETING PLACE --- THE WELL! AS ON A CERTAIN DAY.....



ELIEZER AND HIS PARTY WAIT WITH PATIENCE FOR THE WOMEN TO COME AND DRAW THE EVENING WATER, FOR IT IS STRICT ETIQUETTE OF THESE ANCIENT DAYS THAT A STRANGER NEVER TAKES WATER FROM A WELL THAT DOES NOT BELONG TO HIM, BUT WAITS UNTIL IT IS OFFERED TO HIM AND HIS ANIMALS!

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