

HOW MUCH DO I LOVE TRUTH?

By Keith Greer

Every gospel preacher at one time or another has been asked this question. Seems like a simple question, doesn't it? Still, many will give the right answer, but fail to show it in their preaching.

"Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air." {1 Corinthians 9:26} Preachers of necessity must be fighters! What type of fighters? Spiritual warriors! All gospel preachers who love truth, must hate error! "Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way." {Psalms 119:104}

What was Paul's advice to young Timothy? "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life,..." {1 Timothy 6: 12} "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching." {2 Timothy 4:2} Does this sound like Timothy was to just "skirt the issues of the day"? Could he just take the "high road?" Some would even say we should "just learn to disagree and get along."

God well understood that all men would not love truth. Even those who would claim to be His children! Read the following passages very carefully.

"For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock, also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves." {Acts 20:29,30}

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and will turn their ears away from truth, ... " {2 Timothy 4:3,4}

"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber." {2 Peter 2:1-3}

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because false prophets have gone into the world." {1 John 4:1}

Where will the trouble come from-- without or within? God told us through these inspired writers the biggest dangers would come from "**among us!**" How right He was!

Today, listen to some of the "**uncertain sounds**" coming from our own brethren.

"Jesus was a man on earth, and nothing more." What of His deity? Read John 1:1-3.
"We need to reevaluate the role of women in the Lord's church, if we are going to compete with

other religions in the 21st century." What did Paul say to the church in Corinth in 1 Corinthians 14:34,35? "**We do not have to be doctrinally right to be in fellowship with God.**" Guess we just forget 2 John 9-11.

Can this be our brethren speaking? Sadly, I must admit, all these quotes came from those who call themselves gospel preachers! Can someone please explain to me how these people can still claim to love truth? "And with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie."{2 Thessalonians 2: 10,11}

Yet, some would tell us not to combat these errors, just ignore them. In my humble opinion, those who state such a course, also do not love truth! My brother, **do you love truth?** ***