

THEY WERE ALL RIGHT

One of the perplexing views of modern denominationalism is the idea that they can all be right. You hear things said such as, "one church is as good as another" or "choose the church of your choice" or other such nonsense. How in the world can two differing and conflicting doctrines both be right? It's just not possible. However, with this said, let us note a couple of times when two individuals or groups had conflicting views and they were both in fact right.

The first of our examples comes from the time in the history of the Jewish nation when they first came out of Egypt. In preparation for the taking of the land that God had promised them, God told Moses to send twelve men to spy out the land (Num. 13:1-2). After having done so, they returned with their report that the land was indeed a wonderful land, flowing with milk and honey. However, there was a division between the spies concerning the ability to take the land (Num. 13:30-31). Joshua and Caleb argued that they should go up and take the land, while the other ten spies argued that the people of the land were too mighty for them to overthrow. Both were right. Joshua and Caleb were right because they said, "If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us" (Num. 14:8). All the others had in mind the taking of the land by their own might. They too were right. They could not have even breeched the walls of Jericho without the Lord delivering it to them, but Joshua and Caleb counted on the Lord's help.

Our second example comes from the account of the Philistine champion, Goliath, and his defeat. When the army of Israel saw Goliath and heard the words of his challenge, "they were dismayed, and greatly afraid" and when they saw him, they "fled from him, and were sore afraid" (I Sam. 17:11, 24). However, David, just a young shepherd boy saw and heard the same words and said, "for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" (I Sam. 17:26). He assured king Saul that he would go out and kill Goliath (I Sam. 17:32). David was sure he could defeat Goliath. They were both right. David told Saul that same Lord would "deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine" (I Sam. 17:37). When he faced Goliath, he told him, "This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand" (I Sam. 17:46). The men of the army thought only of defeating him with their own might, while David considered it to be God's battle. We can be victorious only if we use God's help. *Robert*

WHAT IS THE TRUTH ANYWAY?

After Jesus had told Pilate that he had come into this world to bear witness to the truth, Pilate asked the question, "What is truth" (John 18:37-38). It would seem that there is a need among man today to ask that same question, for far too many do not seem to have any idea what truth is. Many assume that whatever they are told by those on television, in the newspaper or read in some book written by mere men is truth. They accept it without ever investigating to see if it is indeed true. That which is true is truth! That which is correct is truth! Truth is not some subjective belief, but that which is factual. As bad as it is for one to be misled with error on the many facets of this physical life, to be misled concerning the truth in the realm of Christianity is far worse.

Concerning what spiritual truth is, Jesus answered that question quickly and easily in His prayer for His apostles. He asked God to "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). As Paul made his defense before king Agrippa, Festus accused him of being mad. Paul said that he was not mad, "but speak forth the words of truth and soberness" (Acts 26:25). That truth, the word of God, is that by which one will be judged in the last day. Jesus said, "...the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). This being the case, it is obvious to any who have average intelligence that it is important to do whatever investigation is necessary in order to know what that truth actually is.

Jesus urged unbelieving Jews to investigate. He told them, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39). Many in Thessalonica openly opposed the truth taught by Paul and Silas. They departed from there and went unto Berea where they entered the synagogue and began to teach that same truth. Luke records, "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11). Nobility was ascribed to these who investigated to make sure what they heard was truth. Paul told Timothy to, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15).

There is only one thing that is more important than knowing the truth. That is to obey the truth! One can hear a lie and obey a lie and burn in hell, or hear the truth and obey it and have eternal life! *RCO*