

Don't Believe a Lie About The Truth

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DID YOU ever attempt to relate some information to a lawyer, an agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or an insurance investigator? Did you become irritated when every time you told a crucial part of the story he repeatedly interrupted and asked, “Now, how do you know that? Did you actually see that happen? Do you know that for a fact or did someone tell you?”

It would seem that he was forever interrupting and never willing just to accept your statement of the way things happened. He insisted on getting to the *ultimate source* of the information. He only wanted the firsthand facts and was never willing to accept your assumptions.

On the other hand, did you ever talk to someone who never bothered to question one iota of your story? To the contrary, whatever was said was accepted with, “Oh! Is that right? Or “Oh! I didn't know that.”

The difference is that in the first case you were dealing with a professional fact finder; in the second case, with a gullible gossip believer.

The professional fact finder has learned through diligent training and experience that the majority of information that people relate is exaggerated, colored, misinterpreted, based on assumptions or just altogether false. He knows that in order to arrive at the actual truth of the matter, diligent inquiry is necessary to sift fact from falsehood. To these professionals, the comment “they say” does not establish the truth of a matter, but usually is a sure indication that the statement is pure gossip.

On the other hand, the gullible gossip believer isn't interested in the facts or the truth of the matter. All he wants to hear is something interesting and exciting. It doesn't matter how false or inaccurate. He wants a story, usually derogatory, that he can relate to someone else. Then he can leave with the feeling that he knows something somebody else doesn't – no matter how erroneous it might be in fact. This elates and inflates his ego and vanity.

A Warning to Beware

In times past, certain people caused some to reject God's truth (2 Tim. 2:16-18; Jude 4, 8, 15, 18). Such people are active today (2 Pet. 2:1-3; 3:1-3; 2 Thess. 2:7). And Christ warns you to take heed, lest anyone deceive you (Matt. 24:4-5). Then, as now, there was a great master professional behind them; inspiring them; using them. That great mastermind is Satan the devil (Rev. 12: 10; 2 Cor. 4:4; 11:13-15).

Satan has deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9). One device he uses is plain, bold-faced lies (John 8:44). He knows human nature and recognizes that one of its proclivities is to be a willing hearer of gossip and falsehoods (Jer. 5:30-31).

There are many biblical examples of how gullible gossip believers fell victim to Satan by believing a lie against the truth. The following are just some of them:

- 1) The angels under Lucifer were duped into believing they could dethrone God (Isa. 14: 12-15; Rev. 12:9).
- 2) Eve carelessly accepted Satan's explanation of the situation in the Garden of Eden and rejected God's instructions. She didn't make inquiry to ascertain truth from error. She carelessly assumed Satan was correct and reaped the disastrous penalty.
- 3) Noah preached of impending Flood for 120 years (gen. 6:3). During all this time the world had the witness of Noah's preaching and saw or knew about the construction of the Ark. The world, however, with the exception of eight people, rejected that witness. They accepted the lie that all things would continue as they were (2 Pet. 3:4).
- 4) God's prophet told Ahab that he should not go to war, but Ahab rejected the warning and chose to believe a demoniacal lie that was in accord with his own physical desires (2 Chron. 18).
- 5) A prophet of God chose to disobey a direct instruction from God. He chose to believe the lie of a false prophet; to believe that an angel could countermand God's command (1 Kings 13).
- 6) Some individuals rejected the preaching of the apostles and accepted the false teachings of those who claimed that the resurrection was already past (2 Tim. 2:16-18).
- 7) Others believed such totally false doctrines that Peter was inspired to call such doctrines "damnable heresies" (2 Pet. 2:1-2).

How Error Grows

The disastrous effect of believing lies, even through carelessness, is that it turns one from the truth (Titus 1:14). Do you grasp that even *a little error*, a *little* false doctrine, is like a cornerstone of a building? By believing error you reject the truth of God on that particular point. That little bit of falsehood is like leaven. It begins to grow (Matt. 16:6).

Soon a little more knowledge is built upon this foundation. Since truth does not fit with error, the additional building blocks of knowledge, built upon this initial cornerstone of falsehood, must be altered to fit the foundational error. So error grows until the person has built himself a fortress of falsehood – a tower of error.

And the regrettable truth is that he is deceived and may actually believe he has built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ, the apostles and the Bible (Eph. 2:20). In actual fact, he has built it upon sand (Matt. 7:26-27).

Who Do You Believe?

God has given ample warnings against becoming a gullible gossip believer. He encourages you to become a professional fact finder. He is concerned because your salvation could be at stake – He wants to be certain that you don't believe a lie about the truth – and reap the dire consequences – without at least being warned. God is love (1 John 4:8) and as a loving Father He wants the very best for us – which means that He want us to know the truth (John 8:32), so that we will be free from error and deception.

So God exhorts us to become professional fact finders: to test the spirits (1 John 4:1); to prove all things (1 Thess. 5:21); to study and acquire a thorough understanding of God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15). He gives us the example of the Bereans, who searched *the scriptures* daily to prove whether or not the things they heard were true or false (Acts 17:10-12). The Bereans were professional fact finders.

God clearly warns us that today there are a great many who speak evil of God's truth. They come with the grossest of errors, although they are often cloaked in subtleties. Unfortunately, some fervent gossip believers will accept what they say – without question – and never even attempt to seek out or test the truth of their accusations.

Many False Rumors

There are many different types of false charges that these messengers of Satan will bring. Much misinformation about the very Church of God has found its way into circles of gossip.

But gullible gossip believers are a simple target of Satan. It's as though they were hungry to hear some new negative misinformation about the Church! How simple it would be to ascertain the truth – just go to the *source* and *ask*.

But they are more willing to believe a lie and fall under the very condemnation warned of in 2 Thessalonians 2:10-11. God says that people will perish “because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.” For this reason God sent “them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.”

God's Church Will Suffer Persecution

People who so readily accept unfounded gossip and slander against God's Church should realize that every time they hear an accusation it is *strong evidence* that this is the Church and Work of Almighty God. Even a cursory examination of Scripture reveals that preaching the Word of God brings persecution and false accusations (John 15:20; Mark 10:30).

God says, “to speak evil of no man” (Titus 3:2); we are to lay aside all “evil speaking” (1 Pet. 2:1). God commanded His true Church to preach the gospel of the coming Kingdom of God to this world (Mark 16:15) and to feed the flock – the individual members of His body (John 21: 15-17; 1 Cor. 12: 12-13).

God’s commission to His true ministers was not to go out and malign, ridicule, castigate and bring false charges against individuals.

So do not assume that accusations against the Church and Work of God are true just because we are not taken up with continual denials. To do so would fall right into the hands of Satan. Becoming enmeshed in petty bickering would cause the preaching of the gospel to go wanting.

What You Should Do

Withhold judgment if you hear an accusation brought against this Work. Don’t judge according to appearances (John 7:24). Regardless of how innocent or malicious the accusation may be, know that it *will* sound convincing. “He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbor cometh and searcheth him” (Prov. 18:17). The inclination of humans is to believe the *first* story they hear; but a false story can be exposed for what it is if the accused is given an opportunity to tell his side.

There is one more thing you might do – something that might prove very, very interesting. Challenge the accuser and ask him to provide evidence upon which he bases his accusations.

Don’t be satisfied with a mere “quote,” but demand a copy of the printed information itself. We say this because many times antagonists severely editorialize the so-called “quote” so that it is an absolute misrepresentation of what we printed.

In the event the accuser should forward some type of documentation, please don’t just formulate your conclusion based upon it. Under any circumstances, let us at least have an opportunity to address the basis or circumstances surrounding the material.

Don’t believe derogatory charges against this Work – this website – without at least presenting the charge to us. Then we will give you the true facts regarding the subject.

Be a professional fact finder. Go to the source. Don’t believe a lie about the truth!