

Truths, or Half-Truths?

Christians are often duplicitous in the conduct of their lives. And while they may not always know that, there is no excuse for their ignorance. For example, recently I heard the Christian song, or hymn: “Praising My Savior”, noting especially the added phrase, “all the day long”. The singing of which, for many Christians, is sincerely meant.

And, then, the words “this is my story, this is my song”. What is meant by “praising, all the day long”, and my story”? The words would seem to be used to express one’s total testimony, or characteristic life. But, if a Christian is not faithful in all pertinent areas of his life, the song’s words have limited meaning, or application.

For another example, one cannot automatically claim the words: “He (God) holds my hand”, as if it were a perpetual fact, in the full sense of its implication. It is, of course, true that he will never leave, nor forsake us, but the intimate love and fellowship indicated by his holding our hand, is not a true picture if we disobey or dishonor him in any significant way—for which we are responsible! It is, again, assumption not supported by full scriptural truth, pertaining to the subject.

Yes, the words of a song may properly express one’s praise for the Lord, but what if, i.e., a certain doctrinal belief that one holds is wrong? That is a serious fault that does not glorify the Lord! In other words, you may praise him with mind, and voice in one way, but not in another!

Thought to be considered: Christian music, hymns, etc. should more often reflect a believer’s intentions, more than claims of attainment, or reality. As in the idea of making vows, and then not keeping them, per Eccl. 5:5.

Question: How can one praise the Lord for his misinterpretation of the doctrine of salvation? I.e., if in prayer, he says to God, I “know” you love everyone, and died for them, and want them to be saved—if that is not true, which it isn’t?

I don’t want to appear personally judgmental, or as if I am superior to anyone, but the longer I live and learn more of God’s truths, the more I realize that too many Christians know too little, and assume too much, and then dare to call an unproven assumption the truth!

God’s word (especially doctrine) is not subject to opinion, or more than one interpretation. That kind of assumption opens the door to factions, sects, cults and other divisions that destroy unity, which is always to be strived for. I am sure that God wants us to be willing to suffer, and even die for unity, if it had to go that far. That is how important it should be to us! Well, it obviously isn’t, because certain gospel factors and principles were lost for most of the church a long time ago, under the influence of deviant forces, inside and outside of the church!

And, whose agents were they? If they were not faithful to God’s gospel truth, then they were, to that extent and probably more, being used by Satan! Yes, even when they used the gospel

verbatim, because they misinterpreted essential elements of that theology and, therefore, propagated false teaching.

How can a Christian think of himself as an “approved workman” (per II Tim. 2:15) when he has not “rightly divid(ed)” important doctrinal truths? How can he say he is in God’s will, or walking with him? “Can two walk together, except they be agreed”. Amos 3:3.

How can he expect God to answer his prayers in a certain area, when he is misinterpreting the true meaning of a subject prayed about. God does not act contrary to his principles, and will not honor, or even regard our mistaken ideas of the literal truth of those principles!

All of the evangelistic ministries in the world, however seemingly successful, which incorporate any aspect of the “free will” concept of the gospel—are to that extent rejected and unapproved by God. Whatever positive results may occur, are done independently by God, in spite of those tainted works, not because of them!

God accomplishes salvation by his sovereign, independent means, irrespective of any human action—all of which, has no effective bearing on one’s salvation, but is only passively used by God. Works that faithfully serve God, have their value, but do not affect the eternal salvation of anyone elected by God to be redeemed.

What can we say, or agree upon, to emphasize the main point, or objective of this discussion? If I suggest the phrase “total fidelity”, does that mean a degree of perfection that is impractical, or too ideal—given our state of constantly having to deal with our ever-present old nature, which vies against our new nature for the ascendancy in our lives?

No, but it does mean that I should commit myself to be faithfully correct in all my beliefs, and consistently obedient and honorable to God in the conduct of all my responsibilities. I cannot just understand and say what is right, I have to do it!

And, that is no oversimplification of a fundamental principle, because there is far too much talk (songs sung, etc.) that is not borne out in our walk. Which is, in a word, hypocrisy, and it abounds in modern-day Christianity! Fidelity, per Webster’s New World Dictionary: “Faithful devotion to (and I would add, performance of) duty, obligations, and vows.”

As to faithfulness in gospel doctrine, which is the main theme of my commentary, it has to be seen to be a basic necessity in maintaining true fidelity. That is, we have to know what is right, to do what is right! In this case, or any other, speak what is true—not invented (or God’s meaning, not man’s).

And, whether on an elementary or more advanced level, God always gives the grace to accurately, or unequivocally, learn his truths (and be united, therein)—according to our ability, or capacity, and responsibility.

