

Christian Seeking Identity Newsletter

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Hello Family & Friends,

We pray that you and your family have been having a blessed and joyful year thus far. I was a little shocked when I looked at the calendar and realized that March is here already. As Suzan and I were taking a walk the other day I saw this peculiar tree and it immediately captured my attention. As I looked at it I started thinking that nature has a way of sometime reflecting things about our own lives. Take a look at this little tree with all the bends and turns that it has in its trunk system. Each turn seems to be where it grew toward the sunlight at that particular time of its growth. Then another turn in light source so another turn in its trunk system, until now we see that it is starting to grow straight. So you ask, "What does this have to do with my life?" I am glad you asked. Let me explain to you what I was seeing. The Bible says in **Isaiah 42:16** ***"And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight"***. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them. God is stating that it is He that directs our paths and He is the one that makes the "crooked things straight" in our lives. How many of us would have to say that there have been some things in our lives that we have not understood and were difficult to believe (for one reason or another). And therefore our life's path has been somewhat like this little tree, going from one direction to another direction, trying to find some "light" (and for us) we are looking for truths, foundational truths that we can hang on to. So now we come to the second question (which is the topic for our teaching this month).

God Bless you.
Your Friends,
Mickey & Suzan



How Do You Know What You Know?

Have you ever questioned your beliefs? Do you know scriptures that seem to contradict what you have been taught? Do you think about things that just don't seem to add up? I have and sometimes I have scared myself because it seemed almost "unchristian" to allow myself to think those thoughts. They went against everything that I had been taught.

Somewhere we have gotten this idea that it is wrong to question the traditionally accepted views of scripture. God does not want us to have "blind faith." He wants us to ask questions.

Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me.

Isaiah 45:11

The work of the Holy Spirit is to reveal truth to us. Unless it is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit, what we know could be tainted with tradition. Perhaps questions come up because the Holy Spirit is not bearing witness with our spirits that what we know is truth.

Much of what we believe is actually based on "traditions of men" that render the scriptures ineffective in our lives.

Howbeit in vain, [unsuccessful search] do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Mark 7:7

But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

Matthew 15:3

A tradition begins when someone's interpretation is accepted by others and is passed down through the generations, and it usually comes from someone that is highly esteemed. If religious leaders of Christ's time could invalidate the word of God for the sake of tradition, is it not possible today? The church is not immune. Traditions endure for generations, are highly revered, and are extremely difficult to change. When Paul and Steven declared to their fellow Israelites that God's mercy extended to the Gentiles, they were stoned.

The Berea's searched the scriptures when they heard the word to determine if what they heard [*even from Paul and Silas*] were right words. Because of that, they were more esteemed than those in Thessalonica.

And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

*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 17:10-11***

If we refuse to acknowledge any inconsistencies in our beliefs, how will we ever know the difference between truth and error?

*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. **1 Thessalonians 5:21***

*Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is right? **Luke 12:57***

One day God showed me a picture of myself putting together a puzzle. It was a picture of God. I put all of the pieces together that represented truths that God had revealed to me by the Holy Spirit. There were some pieces missing, so I filled in those areas with pieces that represented things that He had not personally made real to me. They were just things that others or religion had passed on to me. God said, "*You can not mix the pieces with each other because they will distort your picture of me. Be patient. I will give you the pieces that you need one at a time.*"

No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse.

*Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved. **Matthew 9:16-17***

The most profound revelations that God has given to me came from questions that challenged even the most basic doctrines. We read that we are to prove all things. The beautiful part is that if you ask questions, God will prove it to you!

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