

## **“PROVE ALL THINGS”**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The title for this lesson is “Prove All Things.” These 3 words are from 1 Thess. 5:21; where Paul admonished the newly found congregation in Thessalonica to “Prove all things”, and then added that there were two things they were to do with what they proved, or tested. They were to “hold fast that which is good” and “abstain from all appearance of evil.” There is **indeed** a contrast between good and evil. If we can distinguish between them, we can know what to do and what not to do. The word “prove” simply means to “test.” Let us see!

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. 1. First of all, we are to HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD.**

A. That which is GOOD is that which comes from God. Gen. 3:20; Jc 1:17

1. The word “good” contains the letters for GOD (G-o-d).
2. God is the creator and author of everything that IS good, and He reveals what they are through the good book, the Bible.
  - a. The scripture tells us what to DO and what NOT to do.
  - b. More specifically, we find our commands and instructions from the N.T.

B. There are 2 general areas of our lives, our duty toward GOD and then toward MAN.

1. In Worship to God, we are bound by what God authorizes by **command**, **approved example** and **implication**.

a. What God specifically authorizes through one of these 3 areas EXCLUDES everything else that is NOT included through command, approved example, and implication.

b. Examples in the OT illustrate this.

- 1) Cain did not act by faith in offering animal sacrifices in worship, but substituted a vegetable offering. Gen. 4:5, 7; cf Heb. 11:4
- 2) Nadab and Abihu sinned by offering strange fire (which the Lord had not commanded, and it was rejected. Lev. 10:1-2

c. Today, we are bound by the teachings of the N.T. in worshiping God.

d. These acts are summed up in the writings of the N.T.

- 1) We are to learn the apostles’ doctrine through preaching and teaching of the word. Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 4:2
- 2) We are also to give of our means to support the Lord’s work. Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7
- 3) We are also to commune together in the Lord’s Supper each week. Acts 2:42; 20:7
- 4) We are also to continue in prayer to God the Father in the name of Christ. Acts 2:42; 12:5
- 5) We are also to praise God in spiritual songs. Acts 2:47; Heb. 13:15; Col. 3:17

2. In matters of morality in our dealings with mankind, we are also bound by the teaching of Christ through the scriptures. 2 Pet. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17

a. Above all, we should avoid fornication, drunkenness and such like, which are “works of the flesh”, motivated by Satan. Gal.5:19-21

b. When we obey Christ, we are to leave the old practices of sin behind. Rom. 6:3-5 ; 1 Pet. 4:2-3

#### **II. Secondly, we are to ABSTAIN FROM EVIL.**

A. That which is NOT from God is “evil”, coming from the Devil, as the word “evil” (e-v-i-l) is found IN the word “devil”.

1. The devil is a liar and deceiver, and anything NOT authorized in worship and morality comes from the devil.
2. We determine what is evil by letting the scriptures compare our temptations with what the word of God has to say, as did Jesus when He was tempted in Matt. 4:4; Isa. 8:20; 1 John 4:1
3. The fruits of anything helps us to determine between right and wrong. Matt. 7:15

B. We are to **“abstain”** from that which IS evil. 1 Pet. 5:8, 11

1. If the fruits of action are contrary to the scripture, OR they are specifically forbidden, we are to avoid them completely, and NOT just be “moderate”, for moderation belongs only to the doing of things that re right or allowable within the word of God.
2. The words of the flesh are specifically condemned in the Bible.
  - a. Fornication or all sexual misconduct is condemned.
  - b. Drunkenness or any pleasurable use of alcohol is forbidden in scripture. Prov. 20:1; Hab. 2:14; Eph. 5:18
  - c. “Soberness” (in contrast with intoxication) is taught. 1 Thess. 5:6-7
  - d. Thousands die each day in the world because of the drinking of alcoholic beverages.
3. When evil first makes it’s appearance, or even something appears to be evil, then it should be avoided. Cf Eph. 5:1-11

#### **CONCLUSION**

I. So, we are to pursue good and then avoid evil. 1 Thess. 5:15

A. In this, we are following the example of Jesus. Acts 10:38

B. We are always to do the will of the good God of heaven.

II. If you want the good life on earth, and the best life in heaven, you need to become a Christian, and always do good in this life. Gal. 6:10; Tit. 3:1; Matt. 5:16

A. If you are not a Christian, you need to confess faith in Jesus, repent of sins and be immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins and to begin the Christian life.

B. If as a Christian, you have separated yourself from the Lord, you need to return to God through repentance and prayer.

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