

PureMen

PureMen Bible Study – Session 8 – 1/21/09

Something To Thank the Lord For?

Recite Memory Verse (1 Corinthians 10:13) & Offer Reward for those successfully reciting it.

Review Study Questions from Chapter Seven – *Freedom Comes Slowly For a Reason*

Any testimonies about the additional Summit Stretch Challenge for last week: Serve Somebody?

LESSON TITLE: The Key to Lasting Change

Why is it so hard to change? To truly overcome sin and live victoriously?

Why do so few who “get saved” really “stick”?

Why do so few who “change” really count for God?

The solution lies in a single verse of Scripture:



Romans 6:17

“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from your heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.”

The Source of Change

- Paul is careful to give God the glory due Him!
 - “But God be thanked...”
 - Not “my preaching, teaching, counseling, wisdom, logic, etc. be thanked” – but **God be thanked!**
 - It is not theory, psychiatry, or philosophy that changes man – it is **GOD** and **GOD ALONE!**
 - Philippians 2:13 tells us “*For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*”
 - **God is the Source of all change.** Ultimately, **only He can change you.** What a great source of hope for us!

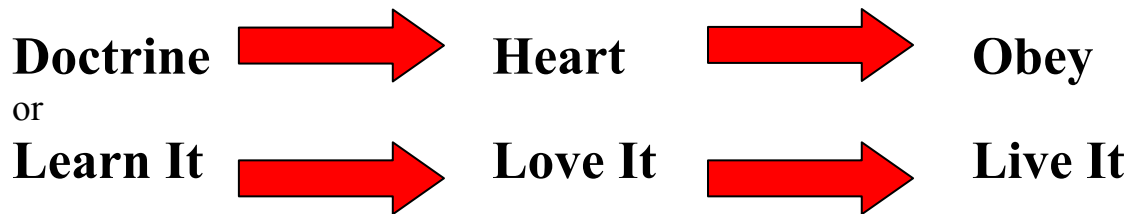
The Source and Means of Truth

- “...that form of doctrine which was delivered you.”
 - Doctrine – simply stated is teaching on Scriptures.
 - Notice that it was “delivered you” – this indicates that it was not only **taught** but it was also **explained**.
 - Unfortunately, all too often, preaching and teaching involves the presentation of truth without an explanation of how to apply it.
 - E.g. – Eph 4:32 “*And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.*”
 - We know we are to forgive – but how do we do it?
 - The means of change then is **God’s Word properly DELIVERED by God’s servant**.
- “obeyed from the heart”
 - The doctrine that was taught went to “the heart” – were it became more than just intellectual (mental assent). It became real.
 - Emotions were triggered.
 - Real convictions were developed (they were yours – not “inherited” from someone else).
 - It is where fact becomes faith, knowledge becomes conviction, and truth becomes personal.
 - When doctrine enters the mind and finds its way to the heart, **change** is a natural result.
- And then notice that it was “obeyed”
 - Here the will is involved – **the ultimate means of all change in the human life is the individual’s own will**. A decision! A choice that needs to be made!

So we see clearly that the true path to lasting change is clearly seen in this single verse:

1. **God is the Source** – He is the One that enables us to change.
2. Then it is **intellectual**, then **emotional**, then **volitional**

The Proper Way to “Teach the Scriptures:”



Have you ever heard someone say something like...”*You just need to develop some convictions. If you don’t have any conviction of your own, just take some of mine.*” This is a dangerous statement! Why?

Teaching standards and developing convictions are similar but different.

We all need to teach spiritual standards, but we can never directly command convictions in others. In order to develop convictions, a person needs to "see" the truth of what is being taught and he also has to "own" that truth.

In other words, **there needs to be: instruction, understanding and assimilation and application of the truth.** Standards are something that are taught and learned; while convictions are something that are both owned and applied (Romans 14:22-23).

Source: http://www.inplainsite.org/html/cultivating_christian_convicti.html
Dr. Steven C. Riser

Can you see where getting this out of order can court disaster in a believer’s life?

To omit a step or to begin out of order is to court disaster.

Testimonies or words of encouragement?

Close in PRAYER!