

BUY THE TRUTH!

PROVERBS 23:23

Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom and instruction, and understanding.

by Pastor Carson Mitchell, B.A., D.D.

Years ago the Jehovah's Witnesses used to buy their magazines. Somehow (buying their magazines. Somehow) When reminded of that they became very upset.

While this verse is certainly not speaking about what the Jehovah's Witnesses claimed it is a very interesting study to see what God really is saying here.

He is saying:

I. Do not buy falsity.

A. There is absolutely no value or worth in falsity. It is one of the devil's devices to lead people to believe that falsity has value. His whole purpose rests on men and people to believe to be the truth. A scam artist depends on the gullibility of the person he has concocted in order to relieve him of as much of the fetched story he has concocted in order to devil relies on you and me (and others) to fall for his tale that is nothing more than nice sounding phrases.

B. Thus it behooves us to learn to discern the truth from falsity so that we do not fall into his trap. If you are going to buy something, especially something large, be a discriminating shopper. Look around, evaluate what is available, seek your money. Friends of mine, after buying their first home, had a refrigerator just the size and type they wanted at one store and the price was \$999.99. As they looked in other stores they found the exact same refrigerator around. So it does for us when we are involved with truth.

C. One of Satan's major falsities is that of the new perversions that are on the market. He is pushing them for all he is worth, trying to get people to turn from the King James Bible to are false. If he can get verses or passages he has gotten them to buy into falsity.

D. II John 4:1-6 instructs us to try the spirits because of false prophets. I John 4:1-6 instructs us to try the spirits of Satan who would have us believe they are of God. If we do not examine them according to the Word of God we will fall into error and believe their falsity. It has no value. It is not worth anything, no matter how good it sounds. Buy the truth!

II. Do not expect to get the truth for nothing.

A. God says, Buy the truth. He does not tell us to try and get it for nothing. It is precious. It has great worth. Rubies and diamonds are not to be compared to it. All the wealth of the world is vain without truth.

B. Usually, that which costs us nothing is not considered too valuable to us. A child's toy and he will likely consider it quite ordinary. Make him save up his money and he will consider it to be much more valuable. We tend to treat all too lightly that which comes to us freely.

C. It is inevitable that the truth because it is so valuable will cost us something. Let us not cheapen it by trying to acquire it without price.

III. How much are you willing to pay for the truth?

A. In a number of places throughout the Bible God gives us man's cost of the truth.

1. In Isaiah 59:4 God tells us that None...pleadeth for truth... In other

lifting up his voice to call others to believe and practice lifting up his voice to call others to believe and practice that there are those who are concerned for the truth; those who are willing to put themselves out that truth might prevail, and speak lies...

2. Jeremiah agrees with Isaiah in Jeremiah 9:3 saying, "...truth is perished upon the earth... None brave and courageous enough to stand up for truth. Homosexuality is not an alternate life-style! Abandon some cellular matter.

3. Jeremiah further says in Jeremiah 7:28, "...truth is perished when there is no one to plead for the truth, no longer available to men. How true that is in the homes of countless men of knowledge of God, no salvation, Jesus Christ is only knowledge of God, no salvation, Jesus Christ is only has perished. It is an unknown entity.

4. Isaiah in 59:14 tells us that "...truth is fallen in the street... It has no value to anyone. It is just so much trash to be discarded, like fast food wrappers. Of what value is it to people in North America today? The vast majority have probably never seen it. Some may have a Bible in their house, but they could not tell you where it is, even know the plan of salvation? Multitudes who go to church every Sunday have absolutely no idea of their need to trust Christ for the forgiveness of their sins in order to get to heaven.

5. Why is this? How did it all come about? I believe Paul gives the answer in 1 Thessalonians 4:4:4 when he declares, "they shall turn away their ears from the truth." He is not speaking here about the unsaved, the wicked and ungodly. He is speaking here about those who have once listened to the truth, known the truth, walked in the truth, but they were not concerned enough for the truth to plead for it, to be enamoured with falsity. They traded their diamonds for marbles, fool's gold.

How valuable is the truth to you? How much are you willing to pay for any significant item you want to get the most value for your money? Look around, you examine and evaluate. Only when you are sure of the value, lay out the money for it.

What is your evaluation of the truth? Is it worth enough to you? Will you spend your time and energy to promote and defend the truth? as the precious commodity that it is?

God also says,

IV. Do not sell the truth.

A. Why do you, usually, sell something? Because you are using it, or it is worn out and you do not want to reuse it. Is that the case with the truth?

B. When you do sell something you want to get equal value for it. There is absolutely nothing of equal value to the truth. Any time we sell the truth, there is a loss. No falsity is anywhere near the value of truth. H

assurance of salvation for the falsity of working your way to heaven?

C. Truth never wears out, does not become useless, is not to be sold to get rid of truth?

D. Any sale of truth will be at a terrible loss.

How rich we are when we value the truth, contend for it, highly value the truth? Will you pay a premium price for it? Then, do not ever sell it!

Published by:
HISTORIC BAPTIST PRESS CANADA
A Ministry of
GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
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Toronto, Ontario, Canada
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