

Minister's Message – August 2007

The Sin of Certainty

To be certain about anything spiritual or religious is frowned upon these days. Such people are labelled 'fundamentalists' for being certain about religious truth, including the truth of the Bible. Seeking after certainty in a superannuation fund, or in a health fund, is praised as being wise and prudent. Many feel certain of a long, happy and healthy life and retirement with such funds. But to be certain with regard to anything regarding their soul and eternity is considered foolishness.

According to a recent 'Compass' programme on the ABC some Christians took a stand against the watering down of Biblical truth back in the 1960s. They declared that there were fundamental truths in the Bible that must be held by those who claim to be Christians. These truths are declared by God not man, so are unchanging and without error. The programme tried to show that this certainty of belief led to fear among Christians and to increased political activity.

All Scripture is 'God breathed' or 'inspired by God' according to the Bible itself (II Timothy 3:16). Such a claim is regarded as outrageous by many, but this is what the Bible says. The truth about the virgin birth of Jesus, the truth about the miracles, and the truth about the resurrection, cannot be removed without destroying the whole Bible and denying its teaching.

Jesus also said in the historical record that we have in the Bible, *I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but by me* (John 14:6). Some say this statement is bold and exclusive, and they would be right. Coming from just any man such words would be arrogant, but from one who lived as Jesus did, and who rose from the dead as Jesus did, it is a different matter.

The truth of the resurrection changed one of Jesus greatest opponents, Saul of Tarsus. This learned man believed in Jesus and took his words seriously. He found great certainty in life, and in death, in Jesus Christ. He said with the utmost of certainty, *I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that Day* (II Timothy 1:12). Saul, or as he was later called Paul, committed his life into the hands of Jesus. He said *for me to live is Christ and to die is gain* (Philippians 1:21). He was certain that Jesus Christ would keep him in life and in death.

The certainty of Jesus Christ is not sin. It is fundamental to being a follower of Christ. To not believe or doubt what Jesus said is sin. To seek after certainty in the things of this world is foolishness. It is not the so-called fundamentalist Christian who is a fool, but the person who rejects the fundamental truths of the Bible.

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