

## ***“One Thing I Know”***

I have always appreciated the response of the man in John 9 when the Jews tried to pressure him into condemning Jesus as a sinner. “He therefore answered, Whether he is a sinner, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see” (John 9:25). I wish some of my brethren would have the same attitude this man had. There is an attitude manifested by many that says, “if you don’t know everything you can’t be sure about anything.”

We should be humble and recognize we can be wrong. This is why we need to constantly study the word and examine the things we believe and practice in the light thereof. However, I do not believe this humility demands that we accept anything or everything that comes along and that we accept the position that we just can’t be sure or definite about anything.

I may not know everything but there are some things I know are true and I am not ready to leave or compromise these truths simply because there are other things I do not know. We must continue to “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3). Paul said, “I am not ashamed; for I know him whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that he is able to guard that which I have committed unto him against that day.” (2 Timothy 1:12)

***- by James Hahn***

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## ***Improve Your Life***

1. Turn off the TV and read your Bible. The Psalmist said of the blessed man, “His delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night” (Ps. 1:2).
2. Hang up the phone and pray. I never cease to be amazed at how much time some people spend on their cell phones. Is all that talking necessary or profitable? “Pray without ceasing” (1 Th. 5:17). “The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much” (Jas. 5:16).
3. Get up out of bed an hour earlier and come to Bible study. “As the door turns on its hinges, so does the sluggard on his bed” (Prov. 26:14).
4. Cut down your credit card purchases and give. Give to the poor. Increase your contribution at church. “One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed” (Prov. 19:17). “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).
5. Change the conversation from sports, weather, and politics to spiritual things. Do that at home. “These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up” (Deut. 6:6-7). Do that at work, too. “He who wins souls is wise” (Prov. 11:30).

***- by Frank Himmel***

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## ***Our Duty Toward Truth***

**WE MUST LOVE THE TRUTH** (2 Thess. 2:10). Before truth can have a positive effect upon one’s life, he must have a love for the truth that he might be saved. This will insure that our motives in approaching God are pure and that we are able to discern truth from error (John 7:17). Those who do not have a love for the truth will be deceived by Satan’s lies and perish (2 Thess. 2:10).

**WE MUST KNOW THE TRUTH** (Jn. 8:32; 1 Tim. 2:4). God’s word is truth (Psa. 119:142; Jn. 17:17), and He has revealed His truth for man’s good (Deut. 29:29). Therefore, unless one would believe God to be cruel and malicious, we must accept that God’s word can be understood and known by all who desire such knowledge (Eph. 3:3-4; 5:17). Jesus said “ye shall know the truth” (Jn. 8:32). God desires that “all men ... come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4).

**WE MUST BELIEVE THE TRUTH** (2 Thess. 2:12-13). Believing God is not a blind leap in the dark. His truth is a presentation of evidence designed to bring men to belief (Jn. 20:30-31). Each

individual is responsible to weigh the evidence, determine it credible and conclude it believable. Those who disbelieve do so because they do not choose to consider the evidence properly (if at all). Instead, they have pleasure in unrighteousness.

**WE MUST OBEY THE TRUTH** (Gal. 5:7; 1 Pet. 1:22). Because God has given commands, His truth demands an obedient response on our part. Truth is not a spiritual smorgasbord of options for us to pick and choose from. The sum of God's word is truth (Psa. 119:151, 160). Everything He has revealed on a subject constitutes the pattern to be obeyed (Rom. 6:17). Therefore, we are responsible to "handle aright the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). To neglect just one part of it constitutes sin by which one will perish eternally (James 2:10).

**WE MUST WALK IN TRUTH** (2 John 4; 3 John 3-4). This Bible reference to "walk" has reference to one's manner of life. The righteous will incorporate God's truth into his life and walk therein. Whatever the circumstance, he will not compromise it (Prov. 23:23). It will be a "shield and a buckler" for he who takes refuge in God (Psa. 91:4). And, it will be the standard by which he worships God (John 4:23-24).

- by **Dan Richardson**

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### ***"Your Reasonable Service"***

Do you believe that there is a God? Are you convinced that He is the Creator of the entire universe? Have you examined the evidence and become persuaded that He not only has made everything, but also sustains all things that we see and know (Col. 1:16,17)? There is ample proof, and believing in these things requires no 'blind leap of faith.' Rather, it is a logical conclusion based upon the evidence. The apostle Paul said: "For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever" (Rom. 11:36). Those who will honestly study the matter must surely agree.

Having made this point, Paul proceeds in the next verse to make a plea based upon the truth that God is the Creator and sustainer of the universe: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (12:1) Do you see it? The emphasis here is upon what is "reasonable." If God made all things, and continues to provide the necessary support to keep all things functioning, then it is simply the "reasonable" thing for us to serve Him. Think about it: we are His; we belong to Him; He made us; He upholds us. It only makes sense for us, therefore, to do what He wants us to do.

In this text, the phrase "present your bodies a living sacrifice" indicates the degree of this "reasonable service." We are not being called upon to offer ourselves to Him on a part time basis - maybe a few hours per week, or a couple of days each year. Instead, we are to give ourselves completely over to Him.

In our selfish, self-centered age there are many who are totally unfamiliar with the notion of "sacrifice." They are the center of their own universe. They think constantly of what can be gained for self. They completely ignore the duty that is due to the One who made them and constantly blesses them with the things that maintain their existence. Such conduct is absolutely 'unreasonable.'

If you believe in God, logic and reason demand that you humbly serve Him. Are you doing so? Think!

- by **Greg Gwin**