

249 – A Benchmark – 04-08-11

Luke 21:31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

A benchmark is a surveyor's mark on a permanent object of a predetermined position and elevation used as a reference point. A spiritual benchmark is a standard to establish the validity of your perceived meaning of a scripture; A basis for comparison against which other scriptures can be evaluated. Our benchmark in its simplest form is truth.

The words of Jesus is the benchmark Luke set as the reference point. It is the standard for all subsequent reading and study of the entire Bible. Luke told how Jesus set the exact point with which we can level our spiritual laser beam. It is a nail, driven into a tree that sticks out about the thickness of a man's hand. Jesus put the focus on this nail when he opened their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures. Jesus set forth His works of faith that the apostles must do after they were filled with the Holy Ghost. Luke let us see what Jesus said after His resurrection and His scriptural reason as to why He had to die. Jesus had to die because it was written and it was necessary. Luke also revealed to us that what Jesus spoke we must do as works of faith now that He has done His part. (There is a "work" of faith, I Thessalonians 1:3)

The "Benchmark" Jesus gave us

"Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer [the nail], and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:45-49). Now that is a benchmark forever settled in heaven.

Our surveyor Laser Beam

A surveyor uses a laser beam to establish his points. But first he must have a benchmark as a beginning point. Without a benchmark there is confusion. This is the problem with Christianity. There are too many traditions that have become man made benchmarks. Each group says, "Ours is the mark you should use." If you listen to them and blindly agree then you will both fall in the ditch. God-hungry people find God. God-hungry people find the God of the Bible. He lives in His Word. All scripture is given by inspiration of God and it will inspire you. You will know the truth and the truth will set you free to believe it without restrictions. The Word of God has an appeal to help draw you near it. The appeal of God's Word is created by your need for it. The appeal of the Word can only be satisfied by obeying the Word that created it. You need Jesus. When you feel this need, it is Jesus creating a need that only He can satisfy.

Truth is the thing that really matters

We must believe in the integrity of God. His Word cannot be broken. It is forever settled in heaven. There are some things for certain, unmovable, unchangeable and irreversible. For instance: We will die. We will live again. Where we will live depends on the truth in our value system of the truth. Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth (II Peter 1:12).

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:31-32). If the Son therefore shall make you [confident] free, ye shall be free indeed (John 8:36). Sanctify [set apart] them through thy truth: thy word is truth (John 17:17).

Paul preached this message in every church after he was converted by Jesus Himself on the road to Damascus. Paul's history lives on but it still takes Luke's books to make it clear. Reading Paul's epistles teach us what we must do after we are saved.

According to I Corinthians 4:17, Paul taught the salvation message on how to be saved everywhere in every church. Then Paul wrote his epistles with words of edification, exhortation and comfort to encourage a church already saved.

God chose Luke to be "the keeper of the books." Luke is the one who gave us detailed instructions on how to be saved. Therefore, Satan has worked overtime to blind the eyes of people to the saving power of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts.

Take heed how you hear and what you hear.

If you fight a scripture you will never see the scripture that confirms it. When you read a Bible verse you should say two things. The first thing you should say is: Do I believe this? The second thing you should say is: *Yes*.

If you don't have a benchmark for your Bible standard to live by, then you will approve of another man's errors.