

Basic Bible Truths - Message #6
 "WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT TRUE AND FALSE CHRISTIANS"

Introduction:

1. In our study of *"Basic Bible Truths"* we have learned that Christians have been given the responsibility by God to study His Word.

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." -II Tim. 2:15 (NKJV)

1. Now...we could say, "Well, that's no big news flash, Pat. Every Christian knows that!"
 1. That's true...but the truth is that most Christians are **not** diligent students of the Bible.
 2. Furthermore...II Timothy 2:15 is not intended only for the *"experts"*...
 1. Or the scholars...
 2. Or the theologians...
 3. Or the apologists...
 4. Or the pastor...
 5. Or the Bible college students and professors.

Harry Ironside tells a cute story about an Irishman who became a Christian by reading the New Testament. And he was so excited about what he found in God's Word that he read it constantly.

One day, the parish priest called on him and found him reading the Bible. **"Pat"**, the priest asked sternly, **"What is that book which you are reading?"** Pat replied, *"Well, yer reverence, it's the New Testament."*

"Pat, that's not a book for an ignorant man like yourself to be reading. That's for the clergy who go to college and learn its real meaning and then give it to the people. But unlearned folks like you will get all kinds of wrong ideas from reading it."

"But, yer reverence," said Pat, *"I've just been reading here, and it's the blessed Apostle Peter himself that says it, 'As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby,' and sure it's just a babe in Christ I am, and it's the milk of the Word I'm after, and that's why I am reading it fer meself."*

"That's all right, Pat, in a way, but the Almighty has appointed His priests to be the milkmen, and when you want the milk of the Word you should come to me and I will give it to you as you are able to bear it."

"Oh, sure, yer reverence, you know I keep a cow of my own out there in the shed, and when I was sick I hired a man to milk her for me, and I soon found he was stealin' half the milk and fillin' the bucket up with water. But when I got well, I discharged him and took to milkin' me own cow, and now it's the rich cream I'm gettin' all the time. And, yer reverence, when I depended on you for the milk of the Word, man it was the milk and water stuff you gave me, so now I'm milkin' me own cow in this case, too, and it's the rich cream o' the Word on which my soul is feedin' every day."

3. Ironside goes on to point out that nothing will make up for the lack of diligent study of the Word for yourself.
 4. So...II Tim. 2:15 is intended for everyone who claims to be a Christian.
2. Furthermore...every Christian needs to understand that studying the Bible has to do with his personal SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT!
 1. The study of the Word of God is the program established by God Himself for our spiritual growth.
 2. Granted...some have been called to spend their lives studying it...
 1. For the purpose of their own growth and then...
 2. To pass-on to other believers...
 3. The truths God has taught them in their personal study.
 3. But...the truth remains that every single believer is to involve himself...
 1. In the practical, regular exercise...
 2. Of studying the Word.
 4. Now...let's be sure we understand this:
***The heart of Christianity is found in our personal relationship with Jesus Christ.**
 5. And studying and applying the Word...
 1. Is the PRIMARY way in which our personal relationship with Him *develops*...
 2. Because our relationship is predicated upon knowing Him through His revelation of Himself.
 3. Now...we have also learned that there are DIVISIONS in the Scripture.
 1. It's not just a jumbled-up set of facts and other information that's been thrown together in bits and pieces!
 2. And...we've been looking at some of those "*divisions*"...and thereby **"rightly dividing"** the Word of truth.
 3. So far...we have seen...
 1. What the Bible says about itself.
 2. What the Bible says about man's biggest problem.
 3. What the Bible says about man's only hope.
 4. What the Bible says about God's 7 tests...
 - (1) Or 7 testing periods...
 - (2) Which we called 7 dispensations...
 - (3) Or 7 Divisions of human history.

4. And in our last session, we saw the *division* in the Scripture between **LAW AND GRACE**.
 5. And we saw that it is impossible for anyone to be saved by the Law.
 6. We saw that the Bible teaches that the only way man can be saved is by the Grace of God.
 7. And that leads us right into another division in the Scripture.
2. Because...in this session, we are going to briefly look at the division in the Scripture between **TRUE** and **FALSE CHRISTIANS**.
1. Now...we can also call this a division between *PROFESSORS* and *POSSESSORS*.
 1. The Bible teaches that ever since the Church of Christ began...
 1. There have been those who *PROFESSED*..to be Christians...
 2. But...in fact...were not!
 2. That's true today and will be until the end of the age...or the Second Coming of Christ!
 3. And when He does come back...
 1. Then...there will be no question about...
 2. Who is a real Christian...and who is not!
 3. No question about who the man is who *POSSESSES* Christ in his life...
 4. And who the man is who merely *PROFESSES* Christ is in his life.
 2. Now...remember what we've learned about Law & Grace.
 1. The Bible clearly teaches that no man can be saved by the Law or "*good works*".
 2. We saw that Paul made that perfectly clear in Romans 3:20...
"...because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight..."
 3. So...no one can EARN his salvation.
 4. And if anyone believes that he is in any way EARNING his salvation...
 1. Then...he is trusting in himself and his good works...
 2. Which means that he is merely a PROFESSING Christian...
 3. And not one who actually POSSESSES eternal life in Christ.

5. It's very important that we nail that down right now.
6. The difference between the *PROFESSOR* and the *POSSESSOR* is WHERE they put their **faith!**
7. Trust in the Grace of God through Jesus Christ...to save you from your sins...
 1. And you are a *POSSESSOR*...
 2. **A TRUE CHRISTIAN.**
8. Trust in the Law or Good Works to save you from your sin...
 1. Going to church...being baptized...good feelings... helping the poor...serving in the church...
 2. And you are a PROFESSOR...
 3. A FALSE CHRISTIAN...
 4. Because you are merely *professing* to be something, which in reality you are not!
9. Because you are attempting to gain salvation by some means other than GRACE and GRACE ALONE!
3. Right now...there are people all over the world who are attempting to earn God's favor by doing bazaar things.
 1. For instance...did you know that there are religious people who believe they can earn salvation by personal suffering?
 2. They take vows of poverty...vows of silence...vows of isolation. *They deprive themselves of food.*
 3. They wear hair undergarments to suffer discomfort.
 4. They put stones in their shoes to suffer pain.
 5. They flagellate themselves in order to merit salvation by suffering. (*Beat themselves with a whip or a rod or broken glass tied into cords*)
 6. And...during the whole process, they claim they are Christians because they do those things.
 7. **What's The Problem?**..Their confidence is in the WORKS...not in the GRACE OF GOD!
4. Now...the Bible shows us in various places, the difference between *true Christians* who are **saved** and *false Christians* who are **lost**.
 1. QUESTION: **Why is that necessary?**

2. It's necessary because God doesn't want you to be deceived about your relationship with Him.
3. LET'S NEVER FORGET THAT GOD HAS AN ENEMY!
 1. We met him back in our second session.
 2. He was a holy angel, but is now a fallen angel.
 3. His name was Lucifer, (*Morning Star*)...he is now known as Satan. (*Adversary*)

5. And he opposes God by *deception*.
 1. He is the great **COUNTERFEITER!**
 2. Whatever God does, Satan **IMITATES** it!
 3. So...while God is bringing into existence a new "*family*" through the Last Adam...
 1. Satan is creating a "*false family*" of his own...
 2. A "*family*" that is deceived into believing they are actually God's family...
 3. But the Bible teaches that they are not!
 4. Satan's principle method in this age is that of **IMITATING and COUNTERFEITING!**
 5. And...in this age, he has planted false Christians in the world of Christendom...right next to the true Christians.
 6. And it's often impossible to tell the difference!

3. Now...let's turn to Matthew 13 and let's see what the Bible teaches about *True* and *False* Christians.
 1. Matthew 13 consists of a number of parables which Jesus told.
 1. The one we're going to look at is called the parable of the "*wheat and the tares*".
 2. Read...13:24-30; 36-43.
 3. Now...it would take a long time to carefully study this parable.
 4. But...let's see what this has to do with true and false Christians...
"Professors and Possessors"
 2. The picture Jesus draws here is that of a field in which there were two sowings or plantings.
 1. One planting was done by the owner of the field. (Vs. 24)
 2. But then...his enemy went in and planted right on top of the first planting. (Vs. 25)
 3. Now...the field was the property of only one man...IT WAS HIS FIELD.

3. The first sowing was done naturally.
 1. The owner of the field planted in his field expecting to get a harvest.
 2. But...then Jesus says that the "enemy" came.
 3. He was the enemy of the owner!
 4. And...Jesus makes it clear that the intention of the "*enemy*" was to spoil the harvest!
 5. **It was a dirty, rotten, low-down thing to do!**

4. But...it was "**what**" he planted that made it even worse!
 1. If he would have planted wheat, that would be a problem, because the field would be overplanted.
 2. But...he did much worse than that...he planted "*TARES!*"
 1. Another translation is "*darnel*".
 2. That's a **WEED** that very closely resembles wheat!
 3. And...when "*darnel*" first starts to spring up...
 1. It so closely resembles wheat...
 2. That even the experts can't tell the difference!
 4. But...when the wheat and the darnel are full grown...anyone can see the difference.
 5. **Now note:** The enemy planted in this man's field...
 1. Which had already been planted in wheat...
 2. With something that *IMITATED* wheat!
 6. It looked like wheat, but it was only an imitation...a **counterfeit**.
 7. He was also **trespassing** because he had no right be in that field.
 8. And...he came very "*subtly*", while men were sleeping after a hard day's work in the field.

4. But...when the rains came and the field started to sprout...the servants discovered the problem. (Vss. 26-27)
 1. Right away, the owner of the field said, "**An enemy has done this!**" (Vs. 28a)
 1. So...the servants wanted to know what they should do?
 2. And they came up with what they thought was a great idea...
 1. "*Let's just go through the wheat field and pull out all the "tares!"*" (Vs. 28b)
 2. "**LET'S JUST GET 'EM OUT OF THERE!**"
 3. But...the owner said not to do that, but to wait until the harvest time.
 4. WHY?...
 1. Because then...it would be easy to distinguish between the wheat and the tares...
 2. But...if they did it now they might mistakenly uproot a lot of the wheat! (Vss. 29-30)
 2. Now...after this...Jesus told a couple of other parables and then left the multitude and went into the house with His disciples.

1. And in privacy...the disciples asked Him to explain that parable about the wheat and the tares. (Vs. 36)
 2. Here's how Jesus explained it:
 3. The *one who sows the good seed* is the Son of Man. (Vs. 37)
 4. So...Jesus says that it is He, Himself, that is the sower of the good seed!
3. And He says that the *field* is the WORLD. (Vs. 38a)
1. NOTE > The field here is not the Church!
 2. Jesus says the field is the WORLD.
 3. And it's out of this world system that the Church of Jesus Christ is called...
 1. Ekklesia...
 2. "*The called-out ones*".
 4. And it's out of this world system that the Church will ultimately be gathered!
 5. So...Jesus was saying that the whole world belonged to Him.
 6. The field is the world...
 1. It belongs to Jesus Christ...
 2. It is **not** the property of the one who is sowing evil seeds in it!
 3. But...it **IS** the property of the One who is sowing *good seed* into it!
5. Now...what is the "*good seed*" that Jesus is sowing into the field of the world? (Vs. 38b)
1. Who are the "*sons of the kingdom*"?
 1. In the middle of a world (*field*) that has gone crazy in sin...
 1. Jesus is sowing into a world that is in absolute chaos...
 2. What He calls "*good seed*".
 2. And He tells us exactly what the good seed is in Vs. 38.
 3. Jesus says the good seed is "*the sons of the kingdom*".
 4. **THOSE WHO BELIEVE THE GOSPEL AND PUT THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST...ARE THE WHEAT!**
 5. And this is "*good*" seed because it is what the world desperately needs!
 6. In a world that is "sighing" and "sobbing"...
 1. And writhing in "sorrow"...
 2. There is a desperate need for the manifestation of the sons of God.
(*True Christians!*)
 2. But...don't miss the fact that there are two sowings or plantings going on here. (Vs. 38c-39a)
 1. There's a *different sowing* and a *different sower*.
 2. The word Jesus uses here for Satan is **diabolos** - "*the liar*".
 3. He is the one who is against everything that's true!
 4. And what's **diabolos** doing?
 5. He's working in Jesus' field, planting **his** seed.
 6. And Jesus says that Satan is sowing "*tares*" who are identified as "*the sons of the evil one*."

7. **Now...who's that?** The "*tares*" are those who reject the true Gospel!
 1. The "*tares*" are those who have been deceived into believing they are Christians...
 2. Because they do good works, because they're religious...
 3. Or...because they believe man-made doctrines.
8. THESE ARE THE FALSE CHRISTIANS!

3. But...there's something peculiar about this sowing or planting.
WHAT?
 1. **Now watch this**...Satan is sowing his seed *AMONG THE WHEAT!*
 2. He's not sowing his seed in a clean, recently plowed field.
 3. He's sowing his seed in a field where the wheat has already been planted!
 4. And the *wheat* and the *tares* are so close together that their existence creates a worldwide **DECEPTION!**
 5. That's exactly what Satan is doing in this age...and has been doing since the beginning of the Church age!
 6. Because...he's the great IMITATOR!... the great COUNTERFEITER!

6. Now...is there anything we, as the sons of the Kingdom can do about that problem?
 1. **No!** Jesus said, "*Just relax. No need to do anything. Wait til' harvest time. Then we can tell which are wheat and which are tares.*"

And you can count on it...there is gonna be a harvest time!!!

 1. The harvest will come at the end of the age when the meaning of the life of every human being will be exposed.
 2. At that time God will introduce angels into world affairs and there'll be two harvests. (39b-43)
 3. God's holy angels will gather out of His kingdom everything that is sinful and destroy it by fire.
 4. And they will gather all of those who are TRULY the sons of the kingdom...
 1. All those that have placed their faith in Christ as a result of the sowing going on in the world...
 2. And the righteous shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.
 5. At the end of the age...
 1. When the harvest is full grown...
 2. The Son of Man will send forth His angels...
 3. And they will know the wheat from the tares!
 4. The true from the false...
 5. The PROFESSORS from the POSSESSORS!

2. Now...let's get to the **core** of this parable.
 1. This parable teaches us that the method of the enemy in this age is that of **IMITATION!**
 2. There are people who are definitely hostile to the Gospel and to Jesus Christ in this age.

3. **But...they're not the ones in view here!**
 4. The devil has deceived them, but his method is not to use those who openly deny Christ.
 5. He's too subtle for that.
 6. The "*world*" here includes the entire sphere of professing Christendom.
 7. Now...I repeat...Satan's most successful method as a deceiver is in the area of **IMITATING & COUNTERFEITING.**
 8. *And so...he sows the TARES among the WHEAT.*
 9. Oh...they look alike, but they are completely different.
3. We see it most prominently demonstrated today in the realm of *doctrine*.
 1. A "counterfeit" of the faith once and for all delivered to the saints.
 1. The denial of the Deity of Christ.
 2. The denial of His bodily resurrection.
 3. The denial of the inspiration of the Scriptures.
 4. The denial of the Virgin Birth.
 5. The denial of the Second Coming of Christ.
 2. Men teaching what sounds like the Word of God...but it's not!
 1. And it brings a great deal of comfort to people who want to earn their way to heaven...
 2. But it's a *different gospel* than the one preached by the men of the Bible. (Gal. 1:8)
 3. It's a gospel of Law and Good Works.
 4. It's not the Gospel of the GRACE of God!
 5. **IT'S THE SOCIAL GOSPEL!**
 3. It's heard in the words of the pastor in Colorado Springs who said Christians should give primary attention to...
 1. Things like law, justice, peace...
 2. And dealing with the gross inequalities between the *haves* and the *have-nots* in the world.
 4. That's...the social gospel!
 5. And it produces a crop of men and women who have been seduced by the great COUNTERFEITER...
 1. Into believing they are saved...
 2. Because they're trying to solve social problems and help the poor...
 3. But...the fact is...they are lost.
 6. They are the *DARNEL*...THE **TARES** AMONG THE **WHEAT**!
 7. They are the *FALSE CHRISTIANS* AMONG THE *TRUE CHRISTIANS*!
 8. They are *PROFESSORS*, but not *POSSESSORS*!

4. Now...remember there's nothing we can do about this problem...because it will exist until the *SECOND COMING!*
 1. Jesus makes it clear here that it's not our place to try to root up the tares...because we can't judge the heart.
 2. Furthermore...we might mistakenly attempt to tear-up some of the wheat in the process.
 3. THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WE CAN DO...*we can preach the truth!!*
 4. And then...wait for the consummation of the age when the holy angels of God will come and bring judgment.

7. It's a wonderful thing to know that we are secure in our position in Christ and nothing can ever separate us from His love. (Rom. 8:38-39)
 1. And our responsibility...is to serve Him as we exert His influence on others who need to experience God's salvation by Grace alone.
 1. Every *True Christian* has a wonderful future to look forward to.
 2. The Bible teaches that PROFESSORS will someday face judgment...
 3. But that those who POSSESS Christ will someday be rewarded.
 2. Which leads to our next session in which we'll see...

"What The Bible Teaches About Judgment and Rewards"

Basic Bible Truths - Lesson #6
**"WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT TRUE AND FALSE
 CHRISTIANS"**

1. "I have memorized II Timothy 2:15." Yes No
2. Studying the Bible has a lot to do with a Christian's personal _____ (p. 2)
3. The heart of Christianity is found in our _____ with Jesus Christ. (p. 2)
4. Another name for true and false Christians is P_____ and P_____ (p. 3)
5. The major difference between the true Christian and the false Christian is where they put their _____ (p. 3)
6. Is there any way in which one can earn God's favor? Please explain your answer: _____

7. Satan's principle method of deceiving in this age is that of _____ or _____ (p. 5)
8. Where in the Bible is the parable of "*the wheat and the tares*" found? (p. 5)
9. Is it always possible to tell the true Christian from the false Christian? Please explain your answer: _____

10. Who is the enemy in the parable of the wheat and the tares? _____ (p. 7)
11. What is "*darnel*"? (pp. 5-6) _____

- 12. In this parable, why didn't the owner of the field want his servants to pull out all the tares? (p. 6) _____

- 13. Who is the one who sows the "good seed"? (p. 6) _____
- 14. The "field" in this parable represents the church. True False
- 15. What is the "good seed"? (p. 7) _____
- 16. When Jesus refers to Satan as *diabolos*, what is He calling him? (p. 7)

- 17. Who are the "tares" in this parable? (p. 7) _____
- 18. The wheat and the tares are so similar during this age that their existence creates a worldwide _____ (p. 8)
- 19. When will the problem of the wheat and the tares come to an end? (p. 9-10)

- 20. Are you a "wheat" or a "tare"? How do you know? _____

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