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Theme: Truth Be Told

Scripture: Hebrews 5:13-14

“Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

A Thought: To be blunt, I'm quite intimidated about today's Bottom Line. My gut feeling tells me that this subject is way above my theological pay grade.

I have read the Word and have participated in oodles of Bible study sessions...some academic and some were very, very informal. I was concerned that I have not read or studied many of the theological and or philosophical books that educate the minds of today's seminary students. Wait a minute! I have read the Bible and it designates the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testaments. This sacred literature constitutes 66 books and narrates book by book the revelation of God. Furthermore the Bible is quite different from other sacred books and or commentaries. It is explicit in its focus and purpose....2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that it is “*God-breathed.*” Moreover, God's plan and purpose are for today and for eternity. So why is it that a dean at one of the finest Schools of Theology in talking about the Emerging Church Movement wrote in a recent op-ed for a national newspaper, “*That religious leaders can quit idolizing doctrinal purity and instead create a place for people who doubt and question as well as those who believe.*” *To be sure there is room for doubt and more important there is room for reason...but quit (idolizing) doctrinal purity? He goes on to say; “I believe faith in America will have a vital future - and these new models for “church will be better equipped to work collaboratively with all Americans, no matter what their religion.”* Wow! I did not know that our path to Truth was to be ecumenical and to hold hands and sing Kumbaya. Okay! You want to hear about “doctrinal purity” here it is in the words of Christian author and theologian Ravi Zacharias...“*On one hand, you can say that the resurrection of Jesus established him as being the son of God. If that's true, then all other faith systems cannot be true because they each assert something contrary to his divinity. And of course, the historical record concerning the Resurrection is extremely compelling.*” The truth is the truth. Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- Do a word study on Mark 12:30-31 (Heart, Soul and Mind)
- Do you have doubts about the Word of God? Where do you go for answers?
- Are you able to defend God's word?
- What is meant by the Truth?

Scriptures to read: • Romans 2:14-15, 3:22-25; 1 Cor. 4:5; Jer. 3:22;

- Hosea 14:4, 9; Psalm 33:6-9; • Col. 1:15-16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Hebrews 11:1-3;
- John 8:47; Matt. 22:37; Deu. 13:1-5; Acts 20:28-30; Matt. 7:15-23; Proverbs 9:32-36

Quote: Stephen Gola, DivorceHope.com. Loving God "*with all our mind*" means: That everything we put in or allow in our minds is right, true and moral. That we align our conclusions and decisions based upon the commandments of God and the written Word of God in all situations

Bottom Line: Here are the facts according to one survey of Christians. About 75% of us between the ages of 18 and 29 now consider themselves spiritual but not necessarily religious. How many times have you heard that phrase before? Men...we do not have to look too far, let's be honest. Us is Us - our immediate families, friends and acquaintances. They all have a variety reasons for leaving the church. To paraphrase C.S. Lewis, "few leave the faith abruptly...they slowly slip away." One religious pundit writes that we need to "invent not a new religion but, rather, a new way of being religious." Hence, the emergence of The Emerging Church. It does not matter if you're backslider, agnostic, atheist or even a believer. This fashionable church will engage in the teachings of Jesus...but, it isn't crucial that you believe the Bible stories literally. They are proponents of Jesus stuff "*Love your Neighbor,*" and "*Blessed are the peacemakers.*" It all sounds wonderful! Careful men... "*I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. 18) For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.*" Romans 16:17-20 (NIV)

NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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