

justify anything especially if it seems to work well. The Lord Jesus declared that God's Word is truth (John 17:17) and it accordingly becomes the test of truth. In the confused thinking of our day, to have no test for truth is to leave ourselves victims of every idea. But when there is a basis to determine what is true or right, then we have direct guidance for any/every situation. The test of truth is the Word of God and whatever is not in agreement with this standard is not right.

II. Discussing the Subject:

- A. God gave it....2 Timothy 3:16 These are the basic facts from
God established it...Ps. 119:89 the Bible itself and the use
God used it....Isaiah 8:20 given to the Word of God
indicates that in the mind of God it was the final standard for His
people in their dealings, worship, and establishment. See how this
is fulfilled in the prophets test of Deuteronomy 13:1-6 and
18:18-22. These passages (and others) show the relationship
between God and His Word...He cannot lie, His Word cannot lie.
- B. Matters of interpretation and understanding are, of course, vital.
It is important we do not confuse our understanding with the
message itself..we easily read things into the Bible and try to
make others accountable to them. But when something purports
to be the correct guidance for life we take that assumption to the
Scripture and if it disagrees, it is not right. If we do not have
enough data to make a proper judgment then we must wait and
only make our determination when the claims of Scripture and the
item being discussed can be compared and evaluated.
- C. This use of Scripture applies to teachings, practices, ideals, and
everything else that enters our lives in every phase: domestic,
professional, personal, recreative--and any other area one may
call to mind. There is no part of life that is hidden from God and
His Word. The principle is true in the world and in the church.
- D. We do not carry the matters to an absurd degree for our common
sense and good judgment are supposed to enter in. So we don't
look at a piece of pie and say.. "I wonder if eating this agrees with
the Scripture"? Of course, if you stole it the matter is answered
and if you are on a "no sugar" diet it is answered, but otherwise
we are supposed to think.

III. Conclusion: Let the Word of God determine what is true in every area
of life. It is the test of truth. We dare not neglect it nor manipulate it
but we may daily be blessed by accepting and living by it.