

## Balance

It has been said that the truth, out of balance, always leads to heresy. Truer words were never spoken. Sadly, many biblical truths have been taken out of context and manipulated to supposedly mean things they never actually meant. Context can be a near context of a few verses or an entire chapter, or even an entire book. In the broadest of terms, the entire Bible has a context, one of which is “God is God and we are not!” When that is out of balance in a persons’ mind, they often become seriously unbalanced, whether Christian or not.

The most common “out of balance” process I see is the propensity to read one passage on a particular subject and then decide that is all there is on that subject. If and when we take that path, we simply do not know what we know! I’m not trying to be harsh, but rather encouraging. Whether by diligent reading, using a concordance or other Bible study tools, we must dig deeply and read broadly with an open mind to what God says. Otherwise we will succumb to false doctrines while thinking we have found God’s truth.

For example, Jesus says, “...unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins,” (John 8:24). Therefore some believe that *belief* is all Jesus is requiring. With further study, we find Jesus also saying, “...unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” In fact Jesus says it twice in Luke 13:3-5. OK, maybe belief and repentance are the only things to which Jesus is calling us?

Further reading/study reveal that Jesus calls for confession of our belief that He is Lord and Messiah. “But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven,” (Matthew 10:33). OK, belief, repentance, confession before men that Jesus is Lord - three things, and that’s all?

Not so fast. Unless and until we read and learn *everything* God says about any given subject, our beliefs will probably be *out of balance!*

Shortly before His ascension back to heaven, Jesus said, “He who believes and has been baptized shall be saved,” Mark 16:16. No wonder the *only word that ever precedes “into Christ” is the word “baptized.” You will never find in the Bible the phrases, “believed into Christ,” “confessed into Christ,” or “repented into Christ.”*

We also find Jesus telling John to write, “Be faithful until death and I will give the crown of life,” Rev. 2:10. (“Faithful” here simply means following God’s word.) And we find that we should, “walk in His steps,” another expression of being faithful (see 1 Peter 2:21.)

And never forget that even if we are faithful and balanced in most areas, *unless we have love it profits us nothing*, 1 Corinthians 13:3.

Balance is *not* a simple see-saw with two ends, but a multiple see-saw with numerous ends. It might sound complicated, but in reality it is simply a matter of reading and studying to “show yourself approved unto God” (2 Tim. 2:15) so that we learn all of what God has to say on any given subject.

Be strong. Be diligent. Be faithful. And be balanced.

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