If You're not Balanced, You May Fall

One wise old saying is, "The truth, out of balance, always leads to heresy." This is ***not*** one of those liberal articles that try to explain away biblical truth. It ***is*** an article to help us remember to research deeply any biblical subject we are studying.

Example: Over the years, I've heard numerous religious radio programs quote Galatians 3:26, but only once have I heard the speaker quote the next verse!

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Did you catch it? Verse 26 is certainly truth, but we do not have the passage's complete truth until we read verse 27.

Sometimes a passage contains its own balance, if we just keep reading. But many times we must find all the passages on a given subject to know what God's word is actually teaching.

Another example: Many say that all a person needs to do is believe in Jesus and he or she will be saved, then they quote John 3:16 or John 8:24, to believe in Him or you will die in your sins.

Is that true? Yes. Is it balanced and complete? No. Jesus also said, "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish," Luke 13:3 (and He repeats it in verse 5). We must also find all other verses about salvation if we are to be complete and balanced. Consider Matthew 10:32 wherein Jesus tells us we must confess our belief in Him or He will not confess us before the Father.

Let's take one more: Since Paul tells us that salvation is in Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 2:10), we should look for all verses that tell us how to get "into Christ" where salvation is. Hmmm. This is interesting. The ***only*** verb which precedes "into Christ" is "baptized." We never find, "believed into Christ" or "repented into Christ" or even "confessed into Christ." It's always and only, "baptized into Christ."

Now we attain balance, but only after we see all the passages that teach us how to believe, repent, confess and then be baptized into Christ, where salvation is.

And so it is with any biblical topic we wish to study. Using a concordance or a topical Bible (like Nave's), we can search for all pertinent passages on a given subject, then study and compare those passages to ascertain a balanced, truthful conclusion.

Stay balanced, or you'll fall!

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