

Ending Up on The Right Side of History

A Biblical Use of The Bible

Selected Scriptures

1. The Duty of the Teacher

The Scriptures have principles, examples, and warnings for anyone who would desire to be a teacher (cf. Ja 3:1). The pattern of the faithful teacher is to study the word of God so that he will know it (cf. Ezra 7:10) in order to be able to teach it so that his audience can understand and respond appropriately to what God has said (Neh. 8:1-8).

2. The Duty of the Church

The truth of a biblical message or argument does not depend upon cultural or religious traditions, the emotions or preferences of the hearer, or the charisma of the speaker. The truth of any teaching depends upon whether it is drawn from the Scriptures and is faithful to the Scriptures. Every Christian congregation has the duty to do the work of biblical discernment (Acts. 17:10-15).

3. The Example of Jesus

A. Jesus and the Devil

The enemy is able to tempt man in many ways in accordance with our human condition (cf. 1 Jn 2:16), and he is also proficient at misusing Scripture. The devil and the demons know the content and the doctrine of the Scriptures very well (cf. Ja. 2:19). The enemy may try to deny or distort what God has said (Gen. 3:1). Jesus responded to the various temptations of the devil by knowing and applying Scripture (Luke 4:1-13).

B. Jesus and the Pharisees

Some of Jesus' opponents would elevate tradition to the level of Scripture or even above it. Jesus exposed them for prioritizing their own traditions (Mk. 2:23-28) or for emphasizing something other than the intended point (Matt 19:1-9; cf. Matt. 23:13-22). He did this by appealing to the Scriptures.

C. Jesus and the Sadducees

The most intense theological discussion and debate must be settled by appealing to the Scriptures. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection from the dead, and though Jesus could have pointed to various texts to refute this error (e.g. Job. 19:26), He made a powerful grammatical argument (Mat. 22:28-33). The specific intricacies of the written text of God's Word are without error (cf. Prov. 30:5) and are important to use in a proclamation of the truth.