

PROVE ALL THINGS

Text: 1 Thess. 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good..

INTRODUCTION:

- A. This is a forgotten command.
- B. Many feel insulted if you ask them to prove anything about their religion.
- C. Yet we have the obligation to prove our religion-1 Pet. 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;
- D. This command denies the commonly accepted teaching that it does not matter what a person believes. Why prove anything if it does not matter what a person believes?

BODY:

I. WHAT IS INVOLVED IN PROVING?

- A. Wrong ways of proving.
 - 1. You C/N prove by assuming. Many assume things in religion and then expect you to take their word for it. People assume that because there are good people in all churches that all churches are good in God's sight.
 - 2. You C/N prove by supposition.
 - a. Some on Pentecost supposed that the Apostles were drunk. Peter said no-Acts 2:13-15 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine." But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day..
 - b. Some supposed that Jesus said John would not die till He returned-Jn. 21:20-23 Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow

Me." Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?"

3. You C/N prove by accusation.

a. Accused Paul- Acts 24:5-6 Therefore," he said, "let those who have authority among you go down with me and accuse this man, to see if there is any fault in him." And when he had remained among them more than ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And the next day, sitting on the judgment seat, he commanded Paul to be brought..

b. Could not prove it-Acts 24:13 Nor can they prove the things of which they now accuse me.

4. You C/N prove by misrepresentation. Jews set up false witness against Christ, Paul and Stephen.

B. RIGHT WAY OF PROVING.

1. "To demonstrate by reasoning or evidence causing to be accepted as genuine." Webster.

2. To test-Lk. 14:19 "And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.'

3. To test:

a. 1 Jn. 4:1-3 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

b. Rev. 2:2 I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

II. PROVE ALL THINGS.

A. Must prove ALL things, not SOME things. The fact that proof is needed for some things is also proof that it is needed for all things.

B. All religious groups do some things right.

- C. When one proves some things right, he is still short of this obligation to prove all things.

III. WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF PROOF?

A. The Wrong Source Of Proof.

1. Feeling is the wrong source-Prov. 28:26. **"He who trust in his own heart is a fool..."**

a. The publican felt he was all right was He? Lk. 18:9-14 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

- b. Suppose you feel you are all right and I feel you are not. Whose feelings are right?

2. Parents are the wrong source-Acts 7:51 You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.

3. Popularity is the wrong source.

- a. Ex. 23:2 "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil..."
- b. Popularity would have required God to drown Noah and save the world.
- c. Popularity would have made Christ in the wrong.

d. If numbers determine right, then a man would have to change religions when he moved. A Baptist in Alabama who moved to Utah would have to become a Mormon. A Christian in the USA moves to Pakistan he would become a Muslim, then he moves to Italy becomes a Catholic, then he moves to Africa and becomes a heathen.

4. Conscience is the wrong source.

a. Titus 1:15 To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.

b. 1 Tim. 4:1-2 4 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

5. A law abolished is the wrong source.

a. The baptism of John was abolished and Apollos could not prove it-Acts 18:24-26 Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

b. Law of Moses abolished.

1. Col. 2:14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

2. 2 Cor. 3:11 For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious.

5. The exception to the rule is the wrong source.

a. Apostles and Cornelius baptized with the Holy Spirit.

b. Enoch did not die, C/N prove we will not die from this.

B. THE RIGHT SOURCE OF PROOF.

1. The Bible is the basis of proof.

2. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

3. 1 Pet. 4:11a If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.

IV. HOLD FAST. 1 Thess. 5:21B Test all things; **hold fast what is good.**

- A. This indicates that you should not hold to what you C/N prove.
- B. It also shows that you should not give up what you can prove.

V. WHERE IS THE PROOF FOR?

- A. Faith only?
- B. Baptism because you have been saved?
- C. Sprinkling or pouring for baptism?
- D. Joining the church of your choice.
- E. Etc.

VI. THERE IS PROOF FOR:

A. Faith- Heb. 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

B. Repentance- Lk. 13:3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

C. Confession- Matt. 10:32-33 Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

D. Baptism-Mark 16:16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

1 Pet. 3:21 (KJV) The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

E. Preaching, praying, singing, giving, Lord's supper.

CONCLUSION:

A. We will be judged by God's word- Jn. 12:48 "He who rejects Me, and does not

receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

B. Now is the time to examine our lives and practices in light of the proof. 2 Cor. 13:5 5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you are disqualified.