

Emphasis

John 6:27

Introduction

1. In John 5, Jesus miraculously fed the five thousand.
2. That night Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee and in [John 6:24](#) the people who were fed sought Him and found Him there.
3. In [John 6:26-27](#), Jesus rebuked them because they sought Him for the wrong reasons; they sought Him for the food, and not because of the miracle.
4. Throughout the rest of the chapter Jesus taught the people about what they must seek and about the kind of emphasis they must have in their lives if they want to have everlasting life.
5. In this lesson, we are going to learn to have that emphasis in our lives today.

Discussion

I. Emphasis on Truth

- A. The truth is what makes us free:
 1. [John 8:31-32](#): Jesus' disciples would be characterized by their devotion to learning and practicing the truth.
 2. [1 Tim. 2:4](#): It is God's desire that all men come to a knowledge of the truth.
 3. [Matt. 4:4](#): In Jesus' answer to Satan He said that man shall live upon ever word that proceeds from the mouth of God—it is our life source (Jesus is the way, truth, life, [John 14:6](#)).
 4. [1 Pet. 2:1-3](#): Therefore we must lay aside filthiness (thoughts, speech, and actions), and desire the pure milk of the word—IT IS THE SOURCE OF OUR GROWTH.
 5. [2 Pet. 1:3](#): If we rely on the word in this way then we have all things that pertain to life and godliness.
 6. [2 Pet. 1:19-21](#): The word will be a lamp to our feet as we walk through this world of darkness.
- B. Individual emphasis must be on truth:
 1. [2 Tim. 2:15](#): For the above reasons every Christian must be diligent (study) to handle accurately the word of truth.
 2. [Heb. 5:12-14](#): Every Christian must strive thereby to become a teacher (master) in God's word with his/her senses exercised.
 3. James 1:19: In order to accomplish that every Christian must be slow to speak but swift to hear God's word (whether through instruction or correction).
- C. This emphasis is engrained into the work of the church.
 1. [Acts 2:42](#): From the very beginning, this has been the emphasis in the church.
 2. [Eph. 4:11-16](#): Teachers were given to equip saints for ministry, and to edify the body. The desired result for this work is:
 - a. Unity of faith ([Rom. 10:17](#), faith comes by hearing God's word, truth)
 - b. Unity of the knowledge of the Son of God (knowledge from truth)
 - c. Withstand the cunning craftiness of men ([Eph. 6:14](#), stand in truth)
 - d. Grow up by speaking the truth in love.
 - e. Being unified in the truth, every member does it's part in truth.
 3. [1 Tim. 3:15](#): When the church is fulfilling its work, it acts as the pillar and ground of the truth.
 4. [2 Cor. 10:4-6](#): One of the tasks of the church is to use the truth of God's word to fight against the errors that arise.
 - a. To cast down arguments made by those who depart from the truth.
 - b. [2 Tim. 2:15](#); [3:16](#): Correct those who oppose the truth.
 - c. [Titus 3:10](#): If need be, reject or withdraw from those who cause division from the truth.
 5. [1 Thess. 1:8](#): Finally, to sound forth God's word throughout the world.

II. Misguided Emphasis or Departure from the Truth

- A. Paul warned of twisted emphasis:
 1. [2 Tim. 4:3-4](#): Emphasize own desires instead of sound doctrine (truth).

2. Phil. 3:19: Serve their own bellies instead of God.
3. 1 Cor. 11:22, 34: Paul sought to stifle this emphasis in Corinth.

B. Emergence of the Social Gospel.

1. Many preach this gospel without knowing it.
2. Social gospel is a gospel which emphasizes social (physical) desires over spiritual needs.
3. While churches which emphasize truth only need buildings for teaching and preaching, Social Gospel churches need more—i.e. “fellowship halls”, “Gyms”, etc.
4. See chart below for comparison:

Gospel	Social Gospel
Matt. 4:4: Word of God	Bread alone
Lk. 9:23: Deny self	Indulge self
John 6:27: Food that endures	Food that perishes
Rm. 14:17: Right., peace	Eating, drinking
Heb. 5:14: Exercise senses	Rom. 16:18: Indulge senses

C. The social gospel is an effective tool for Satan to draw men away from truth:

1. Step one: Integrate social activities as minor function of church.
2. Step two: Equalize emphasis on spiritual and social.
3. Step three: Emphasize social activities, decrease teaching.
4. Step four: Teach the church as a social organization, lure people with food and fun (maybe add a hint of Bible so it still appears religious).
5. This is what we must avoid!

III. Stand In The Truth

- A. Rev. 2:4, 5: Do the first works, do not give up your first love (truth which made you free) for social food and folly.
- B. Eph. 6:14: Gird your waist with the truth:
 1. Have the truth at the center of everything you, like a belt.
 2. Use it to hold everything together within the church.
- C. 2 Tim. 3:16-17: Use God’s word the way it was meant to be used;
 1. For doctrine: to learn the teachings of Christ and the apostles.
 2. For reproof: to test and thereby to prove, or reprove that which is true according to Scriptures (1 Thess. 5:21).
 3. For correction: To correct those who teach or practice error.
 4. For instruction in righteousness: To instruct the saints in the right way according to the counsel of God.

Conclusion

1. In order for a church to have the proper emphasis, the members of that church must have the right attitude.
 - a. Hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matt. 5:6).
 - b. Seek first the kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33).
 - c. Have a love for the truth (2 Thess. 2:12).
2. Every Christian who will not uphold this emphasis does not have Christ in them (Gal. 2:20).
3. But when members of the church devote themselves to the truth, cast out error, and are willing to be corrected, then Christ is in that church.

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Oct. 7, 2007*