

The Show Me State

[1 Thes.5:21-28]

Show me!

Every Christian lives in a 'show me' state of mind

Christians want authority (5:21-22)

I. Check Out All Things, 21a

Test:

- Try to learn the genuineness of something by examination and testing
- Coins

Test all things

- We must not be gullible
- Not referring to political powers, but . . .
Ac.4:18-19; 5:29
- Context:
 - 19: Holy Spirit; revelation
 - 20: prophecy
- OT: Dt.13:1-5
- NT: Ac.17:11

To test something we
must know the 'yardstick'

False tests

- Great men. 1 K.13
- Time. Ac.5, Gamaliel
- Tolerance. "No one is wrong; just different."
- Pluralism. No absolute truth... Gal.1
- Doctrine doesn't matter. Self-defeating
- Experience. 1 Jn.4:1

The test: NT truth

- Ac.16 – Philippi: legal opposition
- Ac.19 – Ephesus: public opposition
- Ac.28:20 – Rome: religious opposition

So what?

- Truth exists
- We can know difference in truth and error
- We lose souls if we settle for less. 2 Th.2:10

I. Check Out All Things, 21a

II. **Cling to Good Things, 21b**

Hold fast

To continue to believe and practice;
to continue to follow

- Lk.8:15

Good

- Jn.10:11
- Ga.4:17

So what?

- There is good and bad in the world
- We can know the difference
- We can hold to the good...

I. Check Out All Things, 21a

II. Cling to Good Things, 21b

III. Cut Out Bad Things, 22

Abstain

- 4:3 . . . 1 Pt.2:11
- Job 1:1

Evil

- Immoral, wicked. Gn.2:9, trees ... NT
- 2 Th.3:2, men
- 2 Th.3:3, evil one

Every form of evil

- Many ways to be lost (immorality; ingratitude; retaliation; rejection of truth...)
- Only one way to be right: Jn.14:6

So what?

- “Flee from the lion’s roar and you need not dread his teeth” – Spurgeon
 - There is evil in the world
 - We can know difference in evil and good
 - We can avoid evil
 - Job 1:1, 8, despite pain and suffering...
 - Gn.6:9, despite minority status...

Avoiding evil makes us stand out from the majority...like Noah

I. Check Out All Things, 21a

II. Cling to Good Things, 21b

III. Cut Out Bad Things, 22

IV. **Conclusion**, 23-28

Be wholly holy, 23

True peace: sanctify (4:3-8)

- Completely: in every way complete, quite perfect. Neh.3:27
 - I love some, not others
- Whole: meeting all expectations. Neh.4:6
 - “I love everyone” (but not much)
- Spirit, soul, body: exhaustive wish
- Blameless. 2:10; 3:13

Trust and obey, 24

- God is faithful (trustworthy, sure): basis of our confidence
- Called to life of consecration to God (set apart, holy): 2:12

Pray always, 25 (17)

- Christians pray...for one another

“It is a wonderful thing that the greatest saint of them all should feel that he was strengthened by prayers of the humblest Christians” – Barclay

- Paul needs their prayers; others need ours

Meet and greet, 26

- Paul could not be there to give a greeting, so he wrote it...
- If kiss, make it holy
 - Other ways to greet: 1:1... Compare...
 - Anoint head with oil, Lk.7:46
 - “Peace,” Lk.10:5-6
 - Embrace, Ac.20:1
 - Right hand of fellowship, Gal.2:9

1 Co.9:20-22

1 Tim.5:10

Read and heed, 27

- Before printing press, one copy had to do; it was read to all
- “I charge you”: put under oath (ESV); I adjure you (NASB). Read!
- 1 Thessalonians: first epistle of NT
- Some needed its encouragement, others, its correction
- All rejoiced in its hope
- Ac.13:27

Grace, 28

- Paul ends as he began (1:1)
- Grace is 'with us' when it guides us, changes us
- Opposite of grace: garbage
- Ph.3:8