

Faith and Feelings

Apostasy emphasizes feelings, personal experiences...

- Alexander Campbell: 1849, Missionary Soc.
 - Lost souls
 - Sent preacher to Jerusalem
- Instrumental Music: 1860, Pinkerton, KY
 - Silence of Scripture could not stop it
 - Not concerned over opposition
- Alexander Campbell: pious unimmersed

I. Truth Saves

2 Th.2:9-10

1) Elaborates on 2 Th.1:8

2) Book: *Finding Your Own Truth*

- I feel. 1 Sm.13:...12. Dt.4:19
- I desire. 1 K.2:20
- I wish. Jon.4:8
- I want. Mk.6:25
- My way. Jer.10:23 [Jn.14:6]

2 Th.2:9-10

Lord spoke truth; it was confirmed it to us by those who heard Him (Hb.2:3)

- To hear apostles is to hear Jesus
- Does God confirm false doctrines?
 - If so, He endorses unlimited errors
- Muslims – Mormons – Catholics – Pentecostals
 - Not one can prove their claims
 - If they could, God would confirm doctrine through one group and deny it in others
 - Mohammed...Joseph Smith...

What signs distinguish
one group from the others?

Mormon

Just pray;
ask God

Adventist

How to know?

I. Truth Saves

II. We Must Believe Truth

2 Th.2:10-12

We cannot believe . . .

1. **Everything we hear.** Truth does not contradict itself.
2. **Something just because speaker is sincere.** Ac.18-19

We must 'test' spirits, 1 Jn.4:1 (6)

- 1 Th.5:20, Do not despise prophecies. 21, Test all things; hold fast what is good. Why?

1. Some lie.

False prophets (Mt.7:15; 24:11)

2. Some believe lies.

(1 Jn.2:19; 5:19)

Galatia: churches accepted error without testing it (Ga.2:4). Ac.17:11

- ❑ Failure to test spirits leads to apostasy
- ❑ Gal.1 –

7: want to pervert (distort / twist / change) gospel of Christ

8: mere men go where angels / apostles dare not tread

9: condemned (anathema)

“But my experience is all I need”

- How did this work for the Galatians?
- “An angel told me” – only three options:

1. Already in Bible.

Would God send angel to repeat His words?

2. Contrary to Bible.

Would God send angel to contradict His words?

3. Discerned by human wisdom without Bible.

Sinkholes

If principle true of angels, more so of men

I. Truth Saves

II. We Must Believe Truth

**III. Experiences Alone
Never Confirmed Truth**

1. Deuteronomy 13

- ✓ Signs: all talk; supposed confirmatory sign; not true

The 'sign' does not prove the claim against revealed truth

- ✓ Dt.18:20-22, non-fulfillment: automatically a false prophet
- ✓ 2 Th.2:9
 - Not because they never heard truth
 - Because they do not love truth
 - God gives them what they want (lies)
- ✓ 1 K.22, Ahab. Is.6:9-10, Israel. 1 Tim.4:1

2. Nu.22-24, Balaam

- ✓ Knew truth; added deadly advice; destroyed himself

**His advice contradicted God's word.
God had the last Word. Nu.31:8**

3. 1 Sm.19:20.... Saul

- ✓ Prophesied on murder mission
- ✓ Being a 'prophet' did not save him

4. Job 4:12-21, Eliphaz

- ✓ Appeals to night vision to prove his views (“Job is a great sinner”)

He could not be more wrong – Job 42

5. Judgment, Mt.7:21-23

- ✓ Mighty works . . . depart from Me

Depart from Me...
(Same lesson as Deut.13)

Consistency, a rare virtue

“The necessity of baptism for salvation has been inferred from John 3:5 and Mark 16:16; but while we are bound to God’s ordinances, God himself is free and can save whomsoever and by whatsoever means he pleases”

– Schaff.1.467

Compare . . .

“The necessity of **faith** for salvation has been inferred from John 3:5 and Mark 16:16; but while we are bound to God’s ordinances, God himself is free and can save whomsoever and by whatsoever means he pleases”

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1. Deuteronomy 13
2. Balaam, Nu. 22-24
3. Eliphaz, Job 4:12-21
4. Jews, Jer. 44:1-14
5. Judgment, Mt. 7:21-23
6. Corinthians, 1 Co. 1:7

7. Experience, 2 Th. 2 again

- ✓ Experience and assumption fell – only truth is left standing
- ✓ What does 2 Th. 2 tell us?

Deuteronomy 29:29

- ✓ The move
- ✓ The business
- ✓ The premonition

“not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart” – Eph.6:6