

The Bulletin of
The Golden Isles
CHURCH OF CHRIST

441 Touchstone Parkway ♦ Brunswick, Georgia 31525

Volume 1

June 3, 2001

Number 10

Do You Have Strong Convictions?

by Lynn D. Headrick

One of the great problems facing the Lord's church today is the general lack of conviction on the part of many in the church and out of it. Many have no conviction on anything. They just follow the crowd. This study is designed to help us have deep convictions with respect to the Word of God.

Conviction comes by careful study or investigation. The Bereans searched or examined the Scriptures daily to see if what Paul preached was so. "Therefore many of them believed" (Acts 17:11-12). Their convictions came as a result of careful study. For this reason they were called noble individuals. Cornelius wanted Peter to preach to him "all things that are commanded thee of God." Cornelius did not have a closed mind on any subject. Cornelius was "baptized in the name of the lord" after a close investigation of the apostles' doctrine (Acts 10:33, 48). Saul of Tarsus had a strong conviction that those who believed that Jesus had come and had died for their sins were wrong. However, when the Lord and Ananias spoke to him, he discovered that it was he who was wrong. He had the courage to exchange a false conviction for a true one, but only after proof positive had been presented to him (Acts 9).

After careful study, I am convinced that: (1) Faith, repentance, confession, and immersion for the remission of sins are absolutely essential to my salvation (Hebrews 11:6; Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4). (2) The Word of God is the only and all-sufficient guide in religion (2 Timothy 3:16). (3) There is only one church and that membership is essential to salvation (Ephesians 4:4; 5:23). (4) The church is sufficient to do all the work God has assigned it to do without the aid of any organization of human origin (1 Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 3:10-11). (5) I will stand before God to give an account of all that I have done or said (2 Corinthians 5:10).

When convinced a thing is true, be quick to tell it to others. Truth will make men free, so we should be willing to help men to escape the bondage of sin. Paul said, "now since I have the same spirit of faith as he who said in the Scripture, I believed, and I spoke, I too believe, and so I speak" (Williams' translation of 2 Corinthians 4:13). Let us be sure our belief or conviction is based upon a "thus said the Lord," and then let us speak. Many are convinced of the truth, but will not teach it to others. They are like some among the chief rulers who "believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue" (John 12:42). How is it with you, my friend? Are you ashamed of what others will think? Are you fearful of what will happen to you? Please read Mark 8:38; Romans 1:16; Matthew 10:22; 1 Peter 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:12. When convinced of the truth, be sure to tell it to others (2 Timothy 2:2).

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Times of Services

Sundays - 2:00 pm Bible class, 3:00 pm Assembly Wednesdays - 6:30 pm Bible class

Do You Have Strong Convictions? (continued)

Be willing to defend your convictions. "I am set for the defense of the gospel," said Paul. (Philippians 1:17). He was willing even to withstand Peter to his face (Galatians 2:11). Some speak boldly, but not before those who will answer them with Scripture. The speak out, but not face to face with those whom they accuse. May God help us to be willing to defend what we believe to be right and do it in the presence of anyone! Our attitude should be that of Peter and John who said, We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). Let us say, "I'm not ashamed to won my Lord nor to defend His cause."

Two great essentials: (1) Be sure that every conviction is based on a "thus saith the Lord" (1 Peter 4:11; Romans 10:17). This will necessitate a continual examination of self to see whether we are in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5). Never close the mind to further study on any subject. Continually renew the mind by studying the truth (Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 4:16). (2) Live so as to have no evil thing spoken of you (Titus 2:7-8). Some have strong, accurate convictions on doctrinal matters, but their moral lives nullify their teaching on doctrinal points. If our convictions are to be seriously considered by others, we must "be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom (we) shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:15).

Those who have little or no conviction: (1) Believe things without investigation. They are tossed about by every kind of doctrine. (2) Do not evangelize the world by preaching the whole counsel of God. They only preach what they call the "positive gospel." (3) Will not defend their convictions. (4) Do not continually examine self to see if they are in the faith. May the Lord help us to have strong convictions based upon the truth of God. -From *The Sunny Hill Bulletin*, April 1, 2001 - by brother Lynn D. Headrick

Becoming a Christian...

- The Spirit and the Bride say COME (Rev. 22:17).
- Ye must be born again (John 3:7)
- Without faith it is impossible to please Him (Heb. 11:6).
- Repent, or perish (Lk. 13:3).
- With the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Rom. 10:9,10).
- Arise, and be baptized and wash away your sins (Acts 22:16).

Editor's Note: If you would like a Home Bible Study in the privacy of your home, or would like to study further over the phone, or by computer (email), please feel free to contact us: Mark J. Ward, 445 Touchstone Parkway, Brunswick, Georgia 31525, (912) 265-6936 - markjward@yahoo.com

Attend the church of GOD's choice,
Not the church of YOUR choice.

Romans 16:16 "...the churches of Christ salute you."

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