***“KNOWING, AND DOING WHAT IS “RIGHT”***

1) scripture – Titus 2:11-14

 -a. God brought forth into this world the means whereby salvation COULD BE OBTAINED

2) By communicating “this information”, we then are responsible to

 -a. hear- Acts 7:2 - “hear me…”

 -b. understand the words of the message - Eph.3:4***..”when you read you can understand..”***

 -c. accept as truth – I Thess.2:13

 -d. follow thru in obedience- Romans 6:17-18

 -e. obedience though, means *obeying what the scriptures teach*, and

 not just what I want to do

ILL> have you ever told someone they were wrong according to the bible for doing something,

 and then they said ***“show me where in the bible it is wrong??”***

 ***“show me the scriptures that say it is wrong”***

3) The King James Version reads ---- I Thessalonians 5:21

 ***“prove all things, hold fast to that which is***

 ***good, abstain from all appearance of evil…”***

 -a. there are 16 words here

 -b. and do we understand all that they relay unto us?

**THOUGHTS:**

**(I) “GOD EXPECTS US TO THINK”**

 1) I Thess.5:21..

 -a. this verse in using the word ***“prove”*** sets forth that there is a reasoning process that

 God requires from us..

 -1-. to take stated facts, process them mentally

 -2-. understand that we are to implement them into our lives

 -b. God spoke to Adam and said.. ***“do not eat of the tree in the garden…”-***Gen.2:16-17

 -1-. Because God spoke

 -2-. Adam became responsible for “what was spoken”

 -3-. If there is no word/law, then there can be no sin I Cor.15:56 *“power of sin is the law”*

 -4-. The rule/law must be given before you can break it!

 -a-. “If the is no law, there is no sin” – Rom.4:15

 WHY

 -b-. because sin is a transgression of “law” - I John 3:4

 *“law instituted, gives sin the ability to exist”*

 2) God has communicated and that implies/requires our being able to think, understand,

 and reason with “common sense” - Isa.1:18

 -a. II Tim.3:16-17..

 -1. requires us to be reasoning individuals

 -2. with the ability to learn, understand, and put into motion God’s requirements

 -3. based on the inspired revelation “in words”, we are to

 grow, teach, reprove, rebuke, and exhort

 3) Using common sense, Paul set forth “logical arguments”, logical conclusions to actions

 -a. some were teaching, ***“that Christ had not been raised”*** – I Cor.15:13

 -b. and that then means: our preaching is in vain

 we are false witnesses

 our faith is useless

 we are still in our sins

 those who have passed on have just perished(no hope)

 we are to be pitied for our beliefs above all men

 -c. Paul said, *“just* ***think*** *for a moment what these people are saying”*

 4) God, sending forth His word, and that being the determining factor

 eventually in our eternal judgment, implies man was to ***“think”*** -John 12:48

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**(II)”TRUTH IS ABSOLUTE”**

 1) John 17:17…

 -a. We are to be “emotional/sincere” in our Christianity, but that cannot subtract from

 the “presented truth” (sincerity/emotionalism cannot be ahead of truth)

 ***“for so many today, how I feel determines TRUTH,***

 ***and we are not suppose to judge them for their feelings”***

 ***As long as a person is “sincere”, then they are “right”???***

 -a. Paul acknowledged the “sincerity of his people”, but did not

 teach it as a valid/right means of determining truth – Rom.10:1-2

 -1-. They were sincere

 -2-. Would/could not save them

 -b. Acts 17:22 – Paul observed the devotion of those in Athens

 -c. if “truth”, what is right to do is determined by “what I think”

 (and every person has their own ideas)

 THEN

 THERE IS NO STANDARD

 2) Judges 21:25 - sets forth truly the world’s view today

 3) TRUTH sets forth:

 -a. what God has done for man – John 3:16

 -b. what God requires of all men – Acts 10:34-35

 -c. what God will do to all men – Rom.2:6-11

 4) truth is “unchangeable”, therefore it will ALWAYS be WRONG to cheat, lie, steal, etc

 -a. the new morality

 -b. situation ethics

 -c. although society accepts “sinful actions” as acceptable… - Acts 5:29

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**(III)”MAN CAN KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG”**

 1) John 8:32 – ***“ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free…”***

 -a. this verse establishes that we “can know” what is right

 -b. I Thess.5:21-22 tells us we can distinguish the difference between good and bad

 right and wrong

 light and dark

 2) I John 1:5…

 -a. by the choices we make, we choose right or wrong -I John 1:6-7

 3) God is “JUST” and will judge us “ACCORDING TO THE CHOICES WE MAKE”

 therefore the ability to distinguish between right and wrong **DOES** **EXIST!**

 **IT DOES EXIST!!!**

 -a. II Cor.5:10 …”…judges according to what we have done whether good **or** bad”

 -b. Phil.1:9-10…

 -1-. Grow in knowledge and discernment

 **WHY**

 -2-. So that you may approve the things that are excellent

 **WHY**

 -3-. So that you will be void of offense when Christ comes

 doing right things when Christ comes

 4) Many today say …”you really can’t know what is right”

 “everyone has their own beliefs and no one really knows”

 -a. thereby charging God as being a God of confusion

 -b. I Cor.14:33 … in that God’s word is orderly,

 straight forward

 not a tangled mess, but distinguishable

 5) Acts 17:11 speaks of the Berians..

 ***“who searched the scriptures daily whether these things were so”***

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**(IV) “WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITY TO CHOOSE WHAT IS RIGHT”**

 1. I Thess.5:21…

 -a. understanding that we have proven “what is right”- acceptable unto God

 -b. he then states ***“hold fast to that which is good”***

 -c. THEN, in seeking to be right before God, we must set our minds on doing what is right

 -1-. What is our aim

 -2-. What are we sowing for that is “our choice” – Gal.6:7-8

 -d. Although the ability to “know right” exists, our attitude is that which we

 ***must work on every day*** - Col.3:1-2 … **“set minds on things above…”**

 2. This is actually easily understood, as daily we make choices in “what we are doing”

 -1. God’s desire is that we ALWAYS choose righteous acts

 -2. We are personally responsible, and we WILL NOT be able to blame others

 -3. TRUTH has been presented

 We are therefore responsible for we accept as truth, for what we do should

 have been proven from the scriptures

 -4. And if a person has “relied on their preacher, pastor, reverend and they

 were taught wrong – Matthew 15:14

 ***“and if the blind follow the blind, both shall fall into the pit”***

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**(V) “WE MUST PROVE BEFORE WE PARTICIPATE”**

 1) QUESTION—

 Have you ever told someone they should not be doing “that” because it is wrong…

 And their response is **“show me where in the bible it is wrong to do?????”**

 -a. the statement has been said 1000’s of times

 (has anyone ever said that to you, when you said they were wrong???)

 -b. and what everyone misses is the FACT that

 -1-. I **don’t** have to prove something is wrong

 **Do you see the difference?**

 -2-. But, they have to be able to PROVE **it** **is** **right!!!**

 **ISN’T THAT THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT USUALLY OCCURS TODAY**

**Thought**…-a. instead of me having to spend 6 months -1 year studying a subject just to prove

 **you are wrong** to do

 “that”(whatever it might be)………….drinking

 gamble

 tobacco

 dance

 etc…etc… nightly parties, lottery,

 religious error…… infant baptism

 women preachers

 musical instruments in worship

 prayers thru Mary

 -b. if you want to think that item is right , then **you** have to spend 6 months-1 year,

 And prove it is acceptable unto God---OR YOU CAN’T PARTICPATE IN IT

 -c. I must understand/know something is “right to do”,

 **Or,** biblically I must forgo/not do that UNTIL I know it is right!

2) HOW MANY PROBLEMS, DIFFICULITIES WOULD BE SOLVED IF THIS WAS APPLIED?

 -a. in reality, it is not up to somebody else to “correct my wrongs”,

 for my “self examining should detect wrong doings”

 -b. II Cor.13:5… “examine yourselves whether you are in the faith…”

 -c. I Thess.5:21 “prove all things” is something I must do for myself

 -d. one of the greatest problems today is **“acting before proving”**

 **“doing what I like”**

 and then **later** trying to “defend what we are doing”

 **later** trying to make something “questionable” as if it is OK

 -e. we must first have conviction that something is right,

 and since conviction comes only from faith, and faith from the word -Rom.10:17

 I can only have a conviction about something recorded/proven in the scriptures

3) thought.. and so many never think of this in talking with others!!!

 “I am not wrong for not being able to show you something isn’t right to do,

 But you are wrong for not being able to show me it is right to do!

 -a-. the ***burden of responsibility*** is on the person “doing that something”

 -b- not on the person saying something should not be done

 \*\*\*\*\* -c-. *even if I can’t show you something is wrong,*

***does******not make******it******“right” for you to do****\*\*\*\*\**

 -d-. and **if** all my talk to you never convinces you it is “wrong” **,**

 **that still never makes it right to do**

 -a. maybe I am a “new Christian”, don’t know “all the scriptures on a subject”,

 my knowledge of the scriptures is “limited”

 but something “does not seem to be right to do???

 (simply because I cannot show you it is wrong, does not give you the right to do it)

 (my lack of knowledge does not give you permission to do something,

 as if it is then right to do)

 ***IF “I”, “I” cannot prove something is wrong for you to take part in,***

 ***does not make it right for you to do”***

 -b. Can they(a person) take the scriptures, use them in context(correctly) and PROVE

 that their actions are acceptable to God

4) AND, then what so many misunderstand is that…

 -a. “IF” they cannot prove it is right to do

 THEN

 -b. IT IS WRONG FOR THEM TO DO IT

5) ***“whatsoever is not of* faith**(according to truth

 according to revealed instructions)

 ***is sin”*** – Romans 14:23

 ***“if I can’t prove “it” is right to be done, then “it” is wrong for me to do it***

 Most people have never considered this thought

 6) thought..

 Years ago, I thought about wording this thought in this way..

 ***“until your knowledge assures your conscience something is***

 ***right, then you are forbidden to take part in that action”***

i.e. unless you **KNOW**(studied, scriptural evidence) it is right to do,

 then- it- is- WRONG- to -do

 i.e. if we just hope, have any doubt at it, personally believe, it might be O.K.

 assume something is right w/o **KNOWING FOR SURE**,

 ***then we are wrong to do it***

 it may be something O.K.to do, ***but if I doubt it,*** then I am forbidden to continue onward

Romans 14:23 **..”but he that doubteth is condemned if he eats…”**

 (understanding context is about eating foods that had been offered to idols)

 (Gentiles, converted to Christ, eating meats once offered

 to idols, reminds them of their former idolatry, and wondering if it is o.k. to do)

 “he that doubteth is condemned if “he continues in something he is not sure about as to if it is right to do or not,,,, we must KNOW we are doing something approved by God OR **WE CANT BE A PART OF IT!!**

 7) the end result, by “proving all things” will be that all things being done are

 acceptable unto God,

 and we are “walking in the light as He is in the light..” – I John 1:7

 and our conscience is “clear” before God ---I Tim.1:5…I Peter 3:16

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**(VI) “GOD DOES NOT ALLOW EXECPTIONS”**

 1) Because God has revealed,

 Because we have the ability to know what is right

 Then God requires us to follow through correctly!!!

 2) At NO TIME does God ever allow sin to be considered “all right”

 -a. I John 1:5

 -b. there are no “exceptions to the rules” concerning God’s rules

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**CONCLUSION:**

1) It is easy to stand “right before God” if we first prove our actions

 before going forth.

2) Let us decide to examine before we act….. Col.1:9-10