

“Application Of The Truth”

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Text: II Samuel 2:1-7

Theme: To stress the importance of applying truth.

Introduction:

1. Truth unapplied is to no avail.
2. Truth sanctifies - John 17:17 and sets men free John 8:32.
3. But this is only possible when the proper application is made of the truth.
4. [III. Microscope bringing something into sharp focus - application of truth].

Discussion:

- I. Simply speaking the truth will not get the job done.
 - A. Sermons dealing with general themes
 1. Not made relevant to the hearers.
 2. Sermons must be made vital to the present hearers - not vain words.
 - B. Generally speaking on *sin* is not enough.
 1. It lacks the definite.
 2. Must deal with specifics so as to help people at hand - gambling, dancing, drinking, smoking, etc.
 - C. There must be a harmony between the general and the specific.
 1. The general should lead to the specific.

2. A spring of water is valuable to a person only when specific use can be made of the water.

II. The Bible teaches this principle.

A. II Samuel 12:1-7.

1. The story of the rich man taking the poor man's ewe lamb.
2. David said the rich man should surely die - he recognized the general truth.
3. vs.7 Thou art the man - {tell about his sin with Bathsheba}.

B. II Timothy 4:2.

1. Preach the word - the general truth.
2. Reprove, rebuke, exhort - apply the general in a specific way.

C. The Lord demonstrated the principle in John 3.

1. Nicodemus recognized Jesus as being from God 3:2.
2. Therefore Jesus said – “Ye must be born again” 3:3.
3. This birth is of water and of the spirit - v.5.
 - a. cf. the Ethiopian eunuch
 - b. also Acts 8:12.

D. Must deal with the specifics of who, what, how, etc.

III. This principle needs to be understood today.

A. Dr. John R. Rice, Baptist preacher, in his paper *Sword Of The Lord* said:

1. I Corinthians teaches denominationalism to be wrong – cf. 1:10.
2. But he needs to recognize that he and his church are guilty of the very thing.

B. The religious world recognizes the truth of Ephesians 2:19.

1. But denominationalists need to recognize the specific implication no additions..

2. Brethren need to recognize it from the standpoint of no subtractions:- must sing.
 - C. The brethren recognize the general wrong of immorality -
 1. But it needs to be specifically applied.
 2. Short dresses, dancing, lasciviousness, tight pants on men etc.
 - D. Brethren recognize the general principles of Mark 6:15.
 1. But they need to feel the individual responsibility of it.
 2. All are to help in some way.
 - E. I Thessalonians 5:22 - Abstain from all appearance of evil.
 1. Stay away from places and people with bad reputations - insofar as endorsement is involved.
 2. Don't go into a beer hall to get a sandwich to eat.
 3. This is a condemnation of smoking, cursing, and drinking, etc.
- IV. The only hope of salvation of the world is recognizing this principle.
- A. Sin separates from God
Isaiah 59:1,2.
 - B. The wages of sin is death -
Romans 6:23.
 - C. We must teach the specific truth that all have sinned - Romans 3:23,10.
 - D. We must point out the specific plan of salvation and urge and exhort all to submit to it.

Conclusion:

1. When David had it specifically pointed out to him that he had sinned, he was penitent -cf. Psalm 51.
2. People today will be penitent only when they are made specifically aware of the fact that they are sinners.

3. Titus 2:11-13 - general and specific.

Invitation:

1. All have sinned.
2. That includes everyone.
3. Obeying the gospel is the only way to escape the penalty □ Romans □ 6:17,18.

