

Prove All Things!

As the Pastor of a Church of God, I was naturally challenged from time to time on what we believe. Over the years I have not been 100% right and, on at least one major doctrine, had to admit we were wrong. Actually the challenger also proved to be wrong, but eventually both of us found the truth in the pages of the Bible, and came to agreement. Our belief on this point changed, and because we were prepared to change, God gave us further knowledge. We have to admit then, that God can bring us further truth involving change in our beliefs, based upon His word.

Recently, I was visited by two Jehovah's Witnesses. I was quite prepared to accept some of their literature, providing they would accept a couple of sermon CDs. No, they would not have time to listen to a CD, even if it were Biblical. I came to the conclusion that their minds were no longer open to any possible change in their beliefs.

Sadly, this is quite common in the Christian faith, with people never questioning the teaching of their church. God has advice for us about this in 1 Thessalonians 5:21, *'Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.'* Most fail to do that, and so we end up being deceived.

If someone brings us knowledge about which we are ignorant, check it out – prove it right or wrong from the word of God. Don't hide from the challenge and remain willingly ignorant because it might involve change. God might have sent that person to you.

The book of Revelation tells us that in a time soon to come, *'And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: he was cast out into the earth. And his angels were cast out with him.'* Revelation 12:9.

Did you get that? Because we don't prove all things, Satan has been able to deceive the whole world. Worse than that is this verse: *"In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."*

Now this obviously applies to Islam, Buddhism, Judaism etc, but it also applies to most who call themselves Christian, who have never "proved all things" which they have been taught by their priests or ministers. They too are likely deceived!

That is why there will be only a relative few in the first resurrection when Jesus Christ returns for His Saints! Christ expects great diligence from His followers, and so most Christians will not be resurrected then and will experience the 'Great Tribulation', God's punishment of mankind for their sins. Read Revelation, chapters 8, 9 & 16.

They will miss out on the millennium – the 1000 year rule of Christ and His saints here on the earth – and will be resurrected along with all who have ever lived at the very end of the 1000 years. (Read Revelation 20)

What a tragic result of having a closed mind, of failing to prove all things!