The Strength of Your Convictions

Tony Mauck · 1 Thessalonians 1:2–10

INTRODUCTION

- Your actual partaking in this heaven that we describe and talk about is going to pertain to how strong your convictions are.
- Here are these four boys in a foreign land, four young men, and yet they had the strength of conviction to not defile themselves with the choice food of the king.
- Our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit. And with full conviction. That's what we need to cultivate.

1 Uncertainty Undermines an All In Commitment

- Uncertainty undermines an all in commitment.
- Uncertainty, a lack of conviction, undermines, it erodes away, commitment in the proper sphere of your heart and life, that is toward God.
- I'm going to call it an all in commitment. Versus a quasi half-hearted, which isn't really commitment, but that's how important your conviction is.

2 Conviction Depends on Confidence in God's Word

Genesis 12:3; Psalm 34:20

- Conviction, the right kind of conviction that is going to ultimately lead you to the eternal presence of God is going to be dependent upon your confidence in God's word.
- Over 330 prophecies directly related to Jesus. Jesus is indeed the spirit of prophecy.
- Not a bone of him shall be broken. And they will look upon him whom they have pierced.
- How could the Old Testament speak in so many different places so specifically about the future?
- People don't spend enough time really investigating the contents of this book to realize how amazingly unique it is, how extraordinary this book is.

3 How Can I Make Sure My Convictions Are Accurate?

2 Peter 3:16

- What if, because of my religious training and my tradition, what if I'm not seeing it for what it really is?
- Our creed is the Bible. I don't need another book to tell me how I need to think about the Bible.
- I need to make sure that my thinking matches what's in this book.
- The untaught and the unstable distort, twist or rest the scriptures to their own destruction.

4 It Boils Down to Possessing the Right Motives

John 7:17; Acts 2:38; Colossians 1:13

- First and foremost, it boils down to possessing the right motives.
- If any man is willing to do his will, he shall know of the teaching. Whether it is of God or whether I speak from myself.
- Am I willing to do the Father's will? Or do I have some agenda of my own that's pushing my understanding of the Bible?
- So if you come to the Bible with the right motives, then you are able to see what it's saying.
- Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- They submitted to the apostles' instruction. They were immersed in water. They rose to walk in newness of life. They were in Christ.

5 What Will Be Required Is Diligence

2 Peter 3:14; 2 Peter 1:4–11

- If you have a willingness to do the Father's will, that is going to lead to the practice of diligence or effort in the direction of pleasing God.
- Since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by him in peace, spotless, and blameless.
- Diligence will be required in regard to these convictions that you have.
- Now applying all diligence. Add to your faith.
- If these qualities are yours and are increasing, He will abundantly supply an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

THE CHALLENGE

Only God can meet all your needs. And he does it abundantly. Do you believe that?

MY NOTES