

WE BELIEVE THROUGH THE APOSTLES' WORD

It is common today for people to claim to have a NEW revelation from God in the form of “God told me”. But that is heresy! If it is true it is not new and if it is new it is not true! In terms of “special inspired inscripturated revelation” that was ALL given through the apostles. God told the apostles and they told us!

John 16:12–13 (NKJV)

12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Jesus was speaking here to His APOSTLES. He had been with them for three years and He still had more He wanted to say to them, but they could not take it in at this point. However, Jesus told them that when the Spirit came He would guide THEM into ALL the truth! This promise specifically has the APOSTLES in view!

And in view is ALL THE TRUTH. The Greek has the definite article (the) referring to a specific body of truth – ALL THE TRUTH. The Spirit would uniquely guide the APOSTLES into ALL THE TRUTH, but then they would communicate it to us which they did as seen in the New Testament Scriptures passed on to us.

Acts 10:39–42 (NKJV)

39 And we [apostles] are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree.

40 Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly,

41 not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

42 And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.

God’s plan and method was to reveal the truth of the resurrection to special chosen first-hand witnesses which included mainly the apostles, and a few select others. God now expects us to believe based on their established testimony as recorded in the Scriptures. Our faith is based on their testimony inscribed in the inspired Word of God.

John 17:20 (NKJV)

20 “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

The apostles were given ALL THE TRUTH and we now believe through their word. All true believers who follow after the apostles trace their faith back to the Word of God communicated through them.

John writing as an apostle said:

1 John 1:1–2 (NKJV)

1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—

2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

The apostles (and their close associates the prophets) had a unique revelatory foundational ministry.

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,

Ephesians 3:5 (NKJV)

5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

The Church is built upon the foundational ministry of the apostles and prophets with Jesus Himself being the chief cornerstone. And the heart of their FOUNDATIONAL ministry was that they gave us inspired New Testament truth that the Church going forward then is built upon.

You only lay a FOUNDATION ONCE! Everything then builds on that foundation. We build on the revelatory foundation of the apostles! Apostolic truth is the very basis and foundation of our faith! We dare not deviate from this in adding to it or taking away from it.

Revelation 22:18–19 (NKJV)

18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;

19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Jesus commended the Church at Ephesus for their strong doctrinal stand and for exposing “false apostles” for what they were as LIARS.

Revelation 2:2 (NKJV)

2 “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

Anyone who claims to speak for Christ today, anyone who claims to bring forth additional revelation, anyone who in effect claims to be an apostle today is found to be a LIAR! And the fate of LIARS is most serious.

Revelation 21:8 (NKJV)

8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and ALL LIARS shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” (emphasis mine)

John the apostle (speaking as an apostle) said this:

1 John 4:6 (NKJV)

6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

How do we know truth from error? We discern and sift it through inspired apostolic truth. By this we know truth from error!