



Devotional Thoughts :: They are all head—but no feet! -watson

They are all head—but no feet! -watson - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2008/2/16 7:52

They are all head—but no feet!

(Thomas Watson, "The Good Practitioner")

A sermon is never rightly heard—but until it is practiced.

"If you know these things, happy are you if you do them." John 13:17

Christ does not put happiness upon knowing—but upon doing. It is not knowledge of the points of religion—but practice, which renders a man truly happy and blessed.

Luke 6:46, "Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do the things I say?" It is not the mere knowledge and acceptance of the most glorious Gospel truths—which will bring a man to heaven. If a man could fluently discourse on all Scriptural truths, if his head were a treasury of wisdom, an ocean of learning—yet this could not entitle him to happiness. His knowledge might make him admired by men—but not blessed by God. If a man knew and believed all the doctrines of Scripture—this would not crown him with happiness.

Knowledge is a fair garland to look upon—but it is like Rachael. Though she was beautiful—yet being barren she said, "Give me children or I die!" Just so, if knowledge does not bring forth the child of obedience—it will die and come to nothing.

I would by no means disparage knowledge. Knowledge is the pilot to guide us in our obedience. Yet, knowledge must usher in obedience. Knowledge may put us into the way of happiness, but it is only practice which brings us there! Knowledge alone, cannot make a man eternally happy and blessed.

Knowledge alone, does not make a man better; therefore, it cannot make him happy and blessed. Bare knowledge has no influence; it does not leave a spiritual tincture of holiness behind. Knowledge informs—but not transforms. Knowledge, of itself, has no power upon the heart to make it more holy. Bare knowledge is like weak medicine, which does not work. It does not warm the affections nor purge the conscience; it does not fetch virtue from Christ to dry up the bloody issue of sin.

A man may receive the light of the truth—but yet not love the truth, "They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved." 2 Thessalonians 2:10. The Apostle calls it "a form of knowledge," Romans 2:20. Knowledge alone, is but a dead form, having nothing to animate it. He who

has knowledge alone—but is a spiritual stillborn! He looks like a Christian—but has neither appetite nor motion.

Knowledge alone, makes men monsters in religion! They are all head—but no feet! They do not walk in Christ, Colossians 2:6. A man may have Scriptural knowledge—and still be profane! He may have a clear head—and a foul heart! The understanding may be illumined—when the foot treads in unholy paths. If knowledge is divorced from practice, and does not make a man better—then it cannot make a man eternally happy and blessed.

If bare knowledge will save, then all who have knowledge shall be saved. But that is not true—for then Judas would be saved, for he had knowledge enough. Then the devil would be saved! A man may have right knowledge, and be no better than a devil! Hell is full of learned heads!

Knowledge alone, makes a man's case worse! Knowledge takes away all excuse. Knowledge adds to a man's torment. "Woe to you! I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you!" It will be better with heathen—than with professing Christians living in a contradiction to their knowledge. Luke 12:47, "The servant will be severely punished, for though he knew his duty, he refused to do it!"

Knowledge without practice, serves only as a torch to light men to hell—the brighter the light, the hotter the fire!

Re: They are all head—but no feet! -watson - posted by tjsservant (), on: 2008/2/16 12:31

This is a most excellent word from Thomas Watson.

Quote:

-----I would by no means disparage knowledge. Knowledge is the pilot to guide us in our obedience. Yet, knowledge must usher in obedience. Knowledge may put us into the way of happiness, but it is only practice which brings us there!

We would all do well to remember—but...if our time spent in books and discussion are not adding to our action—but...it is all for naught.

Re: They are all head—but no feet! -watson - posted by Lor_E (), on: 2008/2/16 22:06

Quote:

-----Luke 6:46, "Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do the things I say?"

Knowledge, of itself, has no power upon the heart to make it more holy. Bare knowledge is like weak medicine, which does not work.

A man may receive the light of the truth—but yet not love the truth, "They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved." 2 Thessalonians 2:10.

Quite fearsome when you consider it; a terrible plague upon the land in our time. It seems many times that when one reads a book by a man (or woman as the case may be) that truly was a soldier of Christ's often we think because we have read, understood to some degree, and now know some of the same principles or discussions that we have thus the same experience.

Yet, alas, it is very succinctly apparent by our lack of love for both Christ and each other, not to mention our callous responses to the great need of the "ignorant".

Sadly, it seems that our own ways are a testimony against us that we are guilty of this very thing Bro. Watson is speaking of. (When I say "we" I believe that as a general rule: encompassing the Christianized western world included in this statement- as well as myself)

May God help us!

I don't remember who spoke it, but somewhere I remember hearing: "there is only one cure for the prideful man; and that is to be so meek and so merciful by the grace and power of God that it will render his pride helpless."

Thank you brother, once again for the time that you take and your thoughtful devotions that you post.