

February 10, 2018

THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

LET GOD BE TRUE

Romans 3:4 reads, “let God be true, but every man a liar.” Does this statement mean that it is God’s desire that men tell lies? No. Revelation 21:8 places liars among those who will have “their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone.” Paul, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit wrote to Christians, “Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him” (Colossians 3:9-10). It is obvious that God does not want anyone to tell a lie. The phrase then must mean something else entirely. The idea expressed in Romans 3:4 is simply this: when God and men conflict God is always right, and man is always wrong. One of the reasons why there is so much religious division among those who claim to be following the same God and is because men have refused to let God be TRUE. Far too many have forgotten that “the way of man is not in himself, it is not in man that walks to direct his own steps” (Jeremiah 10:23). The book of Proverbs tells us that “there is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Prov. 14:12).

The reason given as to why we must “let God be true, but every man a liar” is stated as “That You may be justified in Your Words And may overcome when You are judged.” One denominational creed book states, “That we are justified by **faith only** is a most wholesome doctrine and very full of comfort.” Yet, the Word of God teaches, “You see then that a man is justified by works, and **not by faith only**” (James 2:24). Here is an obvious conflict between what men teach and what God teaches. Both cannot be true. One is right, the other is wrong. If one will “let God be true and every man a liar” which of the two teachings will he accept as true? Is it possible for one who teaches justification by “faith only” to be “justified in his words”? will that person “overcome” when he is judged by God? Friends, one is not going to be judged by any denominational creed book, church manual or confession of faith. All of us will be judged by the Word of God. Jesus taught, “He who rejects Me, and does not receive **My words**, has that which judges him — **the word** that I have spoken will judge him in the last day” (John 12:48).

Our plea to each reader is to search the Bible for yourself as to whether what you believe and practice in religion is from God (Acts 17:11). If you find there is conflict between what the Bible teaches and what you have always believed and practiced, “Let God be true, but every man a liar.”