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(HELPFUL MINISTRIES)

Question: ... it hurts that we who contend for the faith find so much deception being projected through Christianity! I understand that the Bible declares that these will come, but it still hurts! What do you think about those who have subjective truth sprinkled with false premises? Should one be focused on the Berean Call only, or do you have sites that you welcome "in truth"?

Response: We don't believe that anyone should focus on the The Berean Call or any other ministry, although they may be helpful. According to Hebrews 12:1-3, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

Consequently, our focus should be on the Lord. Psalm 119:9 asks, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?" and answers, "by taking heed thereto according to thy word." Two verses later it says, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (v. 11).

In other words, we need to get as much of the Bible as we can into our hearts. That means that we read as much as we can. Before you begin reading, pray, asking the Lord to open your understanding. That is where our focus begins.

Further, as Christians we are not designed to live in a vacuum. We need encouragement and admonition from others. We also need to be accountable to other believers and they to us. We need to fellowship with other Christians so that we can develop relationships in which we can be open, honest, and accountable.

<u>Finally, when we are so convinced of the genuineness of the</u> Lord Jesus Christ, then we see clearly where the counterfeit may seek to intrude. We can discern the subjective (man-focused) from the objective (God-focused).

We are reminded of the old-hymn:

"<u>My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less</u>"

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

"I dare not trust the sweetest frame ..."

Here's an individual who had gone through this issue before and had realized that

it is not the organization, the people, or the teaching. It is Christ, and Him alone.

> May the Lord encourage us with this. { The Berean Call - P.O. Box 7019 - Bend Oregon - 97708-7019 } www.thekeysofheaven.com