

September 23, 2020

That Ye May Prove

When was the last time you had to take a test? If you are a student, it probably wasn't that long ago. But even if you are no longer in school, it probably is more recent than you think. Most of the time we think of tests in terms of academics. Tests that require us to demonstrate our mastery of a particular subject. But there are many other types of tests. Another word for test would be exam. Most of us have taken some type of physical exam. Perhaps it was an eye exam or a hearing test or a complete physical for work or other activity. Just as academic exams test our growth in knowledge, physical exams test our physical growth to identify any potential problems. We can also be tested in terms of maturity. A person can be given an assignment or task to demonstrate or prove their ability to handle responsibility. There are also spiritual tests that God brings into our lives to test our faithfulness and steadfastness.

The word prove in Romans 12:2 means to discern, to ascertain by experiment, test, or standard. I Thessalonians 5:21 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." In life, we must test everything we see, everything we hear, and everything we desire, to determine what is good and what is evil. Once we are able to discern what is good, we are to hold on to it and discard that which is evil. Sometimes when a person is confronted with a decision, they ask, "Why can't I?", "What's wrong with it?" These questions reveal a wrong attitude and an unbiblical perspective. The question ought to be, "What is right about it?" and "Does this please God?" Ephesians 5:10 "Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord." God never has to prove something to be wrong. The burden of prove does not rest with God, it rests with us. We must prove it to be right.

Akin to the word prove is the word proof. Proof is the evidence we use to prove something true or false. To prove something to be right and acceptable to God, I must have proof or evidence to support my conclusion. In proving what is acceptable to God, where does the proof come from? Is it the opinion of men? No! It is the Word of God. If you cannot find anything in God's Word to support your position or decision, then you have no proof that it is acceptable or pleasing to God. You have no ground to stand upon and your position is undefendable.

In our current Bible Study, "The Holy War," we will be searching the scriptures for Biblical principles that we can use to support or prove what is acceptable and pleasing to God on a number of different battlefields. Take a few moments to write out some principles from God's Word that you are already using in your life. How do these principles help you in making decisions? What are some areas in your life that lack Biblical support? Are there some areas of your life that you are concerned might not pass the test? As believers, what are we to do with things that fail to pass the test of being acceptable to God?