

FEELING OR REVELATION

1Cor 2:1-8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A revival of Pentecostal idea of feeling being reliable and authoritative
 - 1. Various described as a "better felt than told feeling."
 - 2. Said to be "experience of grace" - "feelings" as proof
- B. Twin to "The guidance of the Holy Spirit separate from the Word."
- C. Creeping in church, at least some who claim to be the church, and threatens conservative churches in various places
 - 1. Say they know because Holy Spirit told them
 - 2. Trusting feelings or emotions - Spirit reveals through the word
- D. Has special appeal to those who had little or no feeling or emotion in religious practice
- E. Feeling or emotions are involved in religion, but not in telling us truth or what we need to do to have salvation
- F. Everyday experiences reveal weaknesses of this idea
 - 1. Merchants don't trust feelings of customer
 - 2. Nor customer trust feelings of merchant
- G. Feelings more hazardous where souls are at stake:
- H. Examine "Feelings or Revelation"

DISCUSSION:

I. FEELING OF MEN - REVELATION FROM GOD

- A. God created man in his image Gen 1:27 yet feeling is human
 - 1. Functions of the human mind
 - 2. Determined as man participates in life experiences
- B. Revelation originates in mind of God and was made known to man through Holy Spirit Eph 3:4-5
 - 1. It is right and necessary for us to respond to divine revelation with feeling Rom 12:11; Acts 2:41
 - 2. But feeling or emotion does not determine whether practice or belief is right
- C. Only revelation from God determines right - Naaman thought but God revealed 2Kings 5:11

II. FEELING UNRELIABLE - REVELATION RELIABLE

- A. Not in man to direct his own steps Jer 10:23
- B. Men's thoughts are not God's thoughts Isa 55:8-9
- C. God is true Jhn 3:33; Rom 3:4; Jhn 17:17
- D. Scriptures indicate whether or not a teaching, belief or practice is right or not Acts 17:11; 2Tim 3:16,17

III. FEELINGS MAKES SCRIPTURE UNWANTED BUT REVELATION MAKES FEELINGS UNNECESSARY (in determining right)

- A. When feeling is taken to logical end it diminishes and eliminates desire for God's word the truth
 - 1. Feeling or emotion become truth for person
 - 2. The Jews did this Acts 13:46
 - 3. They rejected God's righteousness Rom 10:3
- B. Revelation is designed so no feeling or emotion of man is needed to even complement the testimony of the Bible, God's word
 - 1. Word perfect or complete 2Tim 3:16,17; Psa 19:7
 - 2. All things pertaining to life & Godliness 2Pet 1:3

IV. FEELING VARIES WITH PERSON, CIRCUMSTANCES OR BELIEF BUT REVELATION REMAINS CONSTANT

- A. Feelings differ when there is no common standard (example: yardstick, etc)
 - 1. Many times, feelings are directly opposite
 - 2. Circumstances alter person's feelings toward idea
- B. When opinions or beliefs change feelings also change
 - 1. Paul felt one way, but he changed Acts 26:9
 - 2. Feelings are also affected by feelings of others
- C. Standard of God's word is unchanging Matt 28:18-20; Lk 16:17

V. FEELING LACKS DIVINE SUPPORT BUT REVELATION HAS DIVINE TESTIMONY OF THE AGES BEHIND IT

- A. No passage properly understood, supports idea of feelings being authoritative
- B. Scripture shows feelings are not necessarily in accord with divine testimony Prov 14:12
- C. Divine testimony says men must TEACH, RECEIVE, OBEY, ABIDE IN, AND BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO God's divine revelation Matt 28:18-20; Jhn 12:48; Heb 5:8,9; 2Jhn 9

CONCLUSION:

- A. The God of the Bible is a revealed God
- B. Knowledge of his will is revealed in Scripture
- C. The way of salvation is a revealed way
- D. All acts of worship and service pleasing to God are revealed acts
- E. There is no place in God's scheme of redemption for feelings in determining truth or right Jhn 17:17; Jhn 8:32