

Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; **32** and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (Jn. 8:31-32).

I have to very careful with this article so as to not be misunderstood. I may sound very condescending, but the truth is, I am not.

I read the church ads in the newspaper; I watch the TV ads on "the tube" and hear the same on the radio. Various religious groups are claiming to have a warm, caring fellowship, and a place where you can belong. Other groups promise that if you come you will receive a blessing, even a miracle! Still others tell you to leave your money at home and that they won't bother you as a visitor if you come. These statements are designed to invite the un-churched person to visit a worship assembly. For the most part, I like them and would hope that our congregation is also a place where folks would feel comfortable in worshipping. But in looking at all these ads there is something missing.

Jesus said in Jn. 8:32, "the truth will set you free." To be able to give people real comfort in Christ; hope in a lost and dying world; the blessings that they need; and the spiritual freedom they desire, comes from preaching, knowing, and practicing God's word. It would seem to me that the best thing we can do to help people is to share with them the word of God and allow it to set them free.

I will not use the word of God to put people down or cause unnecessary guilt. My advertisement is: "let us share with you God's word and in that may you find the blessings you need." May we lift up Christ and Him crucified by the preaching of God's word (1Cor. 2:2).

See you Sunday!

-gls