

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Mistaken

"A mistake is evidence that someone has tried to do something." – Anonymous

"Wise men learn by other's mistakes, fools by their own." – Anonymous

"Mistakes are often the best teachers." – James Anthony Froude

"There is precious instruction to be got by finding we were wrong." – Thomas Carlyle

"Anyone who doesn't make mistakes isn't trying hard enough." – Wess Roberts

What is a mistake anyway? Defined, it means, "an error in action, calculation, opinion, or judgment caused by poor reasoning, carelessness, insufficient knowledge, etc."

Okay, so we all make mistakes. No, we don't like to admit it. It is so very hard to admit that we have done something wrong, or that our perception of something is wrong.

Now, for clarification, there are times that we are mistaken, and times that we actually make mistakes in our actions. It is the former to consider in this blog.

One can find three instances in the New Testament, in the New King James Version, where the term *mistaken* is found. "Jesus answered and said to them, "You are *mistaken*, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God" (Matt. 22:29). This thought is repeated in Mark 12:24. And in the end of Mark's account in this context, Jesus said, "He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. You are therefore greatly *mistaken*" (Mark 12:27). The term *mistaken* means "to err, to go astray, to deceive."

It takes a person of humility to admit that their perception of something has been wrong. When in the school of preaching there was a term of sarcasm among the students that their long held perceptions were "sacred cows." And that it was painful to learn that our long held ideas were sometimes wrong. At times there was a great slaughter.

The best Christian is the one that is open to teaching and correction. The worst is obviously those who will hold to their mistaken notions no matter what.

There was once a brother who held that Jesus was the Son of God but not God the Son. Despite being shown the Scriptural references that attest to the deity of Christ, it was to no avail. Red faced, angry, and extremely upset is not the answer when we have been mistaken. Granted, there will no doubt be some degree of being upset, but not to the point of contention and anger.

Have you ever wondered how hard it must have been for Apollos to have heard the loving words of correction from Aquila and Priscilla? Can you handle it when you learn you have been mistaken?