

*EVERY TEXT A
SACRED TRUST*

- “Oh how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day”—Psalm 119:97.

- “More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold”—Psalm 19:10a.

- “sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb”—
Psalm 19:10b.

- “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path”—Psalm 119:105.

- “For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life”—Proverbs 6:23.

- “Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word”—Psalm 119:14.

- “For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater; so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it”—Isaiah 55:10-11.

- “Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord”—
Jeremiah 23:29a.

- “and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?”—Jeremiah 23:29b.

- “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”—
Matthew 4:4.

- “The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”—Ephesians 6:17.

- “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”—Hebrews 4:12.

- “And out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword”—Revelation 1:16.

- “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord”—II Corinthians 3:18.

- “For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed”—James 1:23-25.

- “His voice as the sound of many waters”—Revelation 1:15.

- “Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey”—Deuteronomy 6:3, see also vv. 1-2.

- “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success”—
Joshua 1:8-9.

- “But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper”—Psalm 1:2-3.

- “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul”—Psalm 19:7a.

- “The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple”—Psalm 19:7b.

- “The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart”—Psalm 19:8a.

- “The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes”—Psalm 19:8b.

- “The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever”—
Psalm 19:9a.

- “The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether”—Psalm 19:9b.

- “Moreover by them is thy servant warned”—Psalm 19:11a.

- “And in keeping of them there is great reward”—
Psalm 19:11b.

- “My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word”—Psalm 119:28.

- “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life”—John 6:63.

- “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth”—
John 17:17.

- “I commend you unto God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified”—Acts 20:32.

- “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”—Romans 10:17.

- “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope”—Romans 15:4.

- “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall”—I Corinthians 10:11-12.

- “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”—II Timothy 3:16-17.

- “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report....But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him”—Hebrews 11:1-2, 6.

- “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: but the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you”—I Peter 1:23-25.

- “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust”—II Peter 1:4.

- “ὡς ὑπηρέτας Χριστοῦ”

- The role: “οἰκονόμους
μυστηρίων θεοῦ”

- The quality: “ἵνα πιστός τις εὐρεθῇ”

- A Christian epistemology – beyond the senses and reason.

- “τὰ βάθη τοῦ θεοῦ”

- “ὁ δὲ πνευματικὸς ἀνακρίνει
[τὰ] πάντα”

- “ἐν τούτῳ καὶ αὐτὸς ἀσκῶ”

- “συνείδησιν”

- “ἀπρόσκοπον...πρὸς τὸν θεὸν καὶ τοὺς ἀνθρώπους”

- “κήρυξον τὸν λόγον”

- “ἐπίστηθι εὐκαίρως
ἀκαίρως”

- “ἔλεγξον, ἐπιτίμησον,
παρακάλεσον”

- “ἐν πάσῃ μακροθυμίᾳ καὶ διδαχῇ”

- “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ”—Jude 3-4.

- Orthodoxy
- Orthopraxy
- Orthopathy

- Some truth is weighty.
- Some truth is less weighty.

- “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted *the weightier matters* of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone”—Matthew 23:23.

- “I exhort therefore, that, *first of all*, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men”—I Timothy 2:1.

- “Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart; and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets”—
Matthew 22:36-40.

- “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent”—
Revelation 2:4-5.

- Some truth is weighty.
- Some truth is less weighty.
- Some truth is absolutely clear and unequivocal for all.

- “Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”—John 8:32.

- “Sanctify them by thy truth; thy word is truth”—
John 17:17.

- “For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth”—1 John 1:3.

- Some truth is weighty.
- Some truth is less weighty.
- Some truth is absolutely clear and unequivocal for all.
- Some truth is absolutely clear and unequivocal for the individual on the basis of conscience.

- “Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind”—Romans 14:5b.

- “For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give an account of himself to God”—Romans 14:10b-12.

If you are prepared to die on every “hill of truth,” no matter what its size, you will die early in the battle for spiritual influence for the kingdom and for the glory of God. That spiritual strategy is not wise, and it is not biblical.

- A case study in error: failure to distinguish between Scripture meaning and application, and grasping the authority of *both*.

- “And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; that ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ”—
Philippians 1:9-10.

- “For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil”—Hebrews 5:13-14.

- A case study in error:
continuationism—the dangerous
door for *more revelation*.

“All the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work in the church of the first century are available today, and are vital for the mission of the church, and are to be earnestly desired and practiced.”

-Statement of Faith

Sovereign Grace Ministries

[Official website accessed, June 6, 2013]

- “τὰ μὲν σημεῖα τοῦ ἀποστόλου κατειργάσθη ἐν ὑμῖν ἐν πάσῃ...σημείοις τε καὶ τέρασιν καὶ δυνάμεσιν”—II Corinthians 12:12.
- “συνεπιμαρτυροῦντος τοῦ θεοῦ σημείοις τε καὶ τέρασιν καὶ ποικίλαις δυνάμεσιν καὶ πνεύματος ἁγίου μερισμοῖς”—Hebrews 2:4.

- “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone”—Ephesians 2:20.

- The church (Ephesians 1:22)...his body (Ephesians 1:23)...the household of God (Ephesians 2:19)...an holy temple in the Lord (Ephesians 2:21).

- *The key question: How often do you lay the foundation of a building?*

- A perennial problem of a perversion of terms—a different grace.

“...there are grace killers on the loose....Legalism was my security, and making certain that others marched to my cadence was a major part of my daily agenda.”

-Charles Swindoll
The Grace Awakening
(Dallas: Word, 1990), xiv.

- “...turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness”—
Jude 4.

- A twisting of the central person—the imaginary Jesus.

- “...and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ”—Jude 4.

- Another gospel—a New Testament narcissism.

- “I marvel that you are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel...As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed” – Galatians 1: 6, 9

“If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ...”

-Martin Luther

- “ἐπαγωνίζεσθαι τῇ...πίστει”

- A theology of antipathy.
- “Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them”—Ephesians 5:10-11.

“There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because his conscience tells him it is right...”

“Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proven. If the soldier flinches at that one point, his steadiness on all other battlefields becomes mere flight and disgrace.”

-Martin Luther