

# Part 1 – The Need for Bible Study Today

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Throughout history God has always preserved a small remnant who cling on to His life-saving truth. Communities will arise and disappear in relatively short periods of time. We know some of the names such as the Donatists, Paulicans, Waldenses, Anabaptists, and in our age the Christadelphians. A read of *The Protestors* or *The Brethren In Christ*, will demonstrate this. However, we cannot be complacent with our place in history. These communities have disappeared over time when they lost their pioneering spirit and began to take the precious truth for granted.

The words of Hosea capture the ageless issue for communities of believers who have been called out of the world to be Kings and Priests, but who slowly let go of precious Bible truth. God told Israel, He had

***“a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, Because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.” (Hosea 4:1).***

He pointed out the issue of Israel's fall:

***“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: Because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: Seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” (v6)***

After 170 years of existence, the Christadelphian community is liable to the same disconnection from the word. It is easy for us to take for granted the truth, that as read in the preface to the book *The Protestors*, **“was hammered out on the anvil of controversy.”**

We can take for granted the fact that our forefathers were rescued from the clutches of the churches, and the **“thou shalt not surely die”** false doctrines they held. We cannot become complacent, and trust in lineage as our birthright, or we become like the generation of the John's day, who were warned,

***“...begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.” (Luke 3:8).***

This is not something to become depressed about, but rather something to spur us to action. As the Apostle Paul encouraged Timothy,

***“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15).***

As a new generation, we have to make sure of our heritage. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all dwelled in tents:

***“By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:” (Hebrews 11:9)***

Just because Isaac had travelled with his father, didn't mean that he didn't have to work himself. After the death of Abraham he found that he had to go about digging his own wells:

***“Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him. And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him. For all the wells which his father's servants had digged in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped them, and filled them with earth.” (Genesis 26:12-15)***

Although Isaac had travelled with Abraham, and was prosperous, he still had to dig his own wells. The narrative continues:

***“And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them. And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water.” (Genesis 26:18-19)***

This went on throughout his sojourning. We found that when they re-dug this well the surrounding people took it too:

***“And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water is ours: and he called the name of the well Esek; because they strove with him.” (Genesis 26:20)***

So he moved on and dug another well:

***“And they digged another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah. And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the LORD hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.” (Genesis 26:21-22)***

When he came to Beer Sheba – he does the same:

***“And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake. And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the LORD, and pitched his tent there: and there Isaac's servants digged a well.” (Genesis 26:24-25)***

They come to name it beer-sheba (or the well of sheba):

***“And it came to pass the same day, that Isaac’s servants came, and told him concerning the well which they had digged, and said unto him, We have found water. And he called it Shebah: therefore the name of the city is Beer-sheba unto this day.” (Genesis 26:32–33)***

We need to learn from this that the world is constantly trying to fill in our wells, or fill in our ears with its filth. We need to constantly dig our wells, or dig out our ears so they can hear the word of God. This is what Christ did for the ecclesia:

***“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious ecclesia, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” (Ephesians 5:26–27)***

We cannot take for granted our heritage, but “rightly dividing the world of truth”, meaning to handle aright. We do not do it for the approval of others, but of our God.

The spirit of the Berean Jews needs to be adopted, who made the truth their own. They

***“were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” (Acts 17:11).***

We need to adopt that spirit of investigation and discernment, turning the pages of our bible ourselves so we glean the truth and own it with conviction.