

# OPPOSITION TO THE TRUTH

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## INTRODUCTION

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**TEXT:** *“But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn aside the proconsul from the faith.”* (Acts 13:8)

A. THE SETTING:

1. “Separate unto me Barnabas and Saul”
2. The beginning of Paul’s 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey.
3. The growth and expansion of the church detailed in rest of book of Acts.
4. Interesting that it immediately details the meeting of opposition and error.

B. TEXT: Who was Elymas and What all did he do? (9-13).

1. “Pervert the right ways of the Lord” (v. 10).
  2. Any change to the “word of truth” is error and must be dealt with.
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## EVANGELISM

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A. Evangelism is seen to be the thrust of the church by orders of the Godhead.  
(13:2,3; Matt. 28:18-20).

1. Final charge by Jesus (Matt. 28:18-20).
2. Book of Acts – the Evangelism of the world.

B. It is our charge and challenge today.

1. We must go...Importance of Going (Romans 10).
2. We will meet error....
3. Must deal with it....next point.

C. Commend the brethren for all of the “extra” work in sending gospel to the world.

1. Yesterday” E-mail from Jon Macon on work in India.
  2. Others: Croatia; Tesic; Spanish lit. etc.
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## IMPORTANCE OF TRUTH

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A. ONLY THE TRUTH WILL MAKE US FREE (John 8:32).

1. God’s Word is Truth (John 17:17).
2. Paul and Barnabas “preaching the word of God”.

B. MUST BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE THE TRUTH:

1. “Study to show thyself approved...(II Tim. 2:15).
2. II John 9 *“whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teachings of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son.”*

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### C. MUST RECOGNIZE ERROR:

1. All opposition to the Word of God is error.
2. "Pervert the right ways of the Lord" (v. 10).. See Gal. 1.

### D. MUST CONFRONT ERROR:

1. Jude 3.... "contend earnestly for the faith....
  2. Gal. 2:5 READ!! Eph. 4:15 "speak the truth in love"
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## PROGRESSION OF ERROR

### A. SMALL CHANGES INEVITABLE LEAD TO LARGE CHANGES!

1. Makes them even more dangerous.
2. Let's notice some....from "small" beginnings to where they are now.

### B. BAPTISM: What the New Testament teaches.

1. Changed to "pouring" not sure when
2. Then changed to "sprinkling" much later
3. Then ...Baptism is not essential...Don't have to be baptized at all.

### C. GRACE: The New Testament teaching.

1. Total Hereditary Depravity ....Adam's sin.
2. Limited Atonement
3. Irresistibility of Grace.
4. Once Saved Always Saved.
5. Conclusion of above; God saves you whether you want to be saved or not...God condemns you even if you love and obey Him. (Compare that to Acts 10:35).

### D. CHURCH:

1. One as good as another.
2. To - Church is not necessary or important.
3. That which cost the life and blood of Christ.

### E. WORSHIP:

1. Where did man begin to make changes?
2. Until the majority of religious services are not to worship God...but to please man.

F. ALL OF THIS IS DONE UNTIL.... *"this people honoreth me with their lips; But their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, Teaching as their doctrines the precepts of man."* (Matt. 15:8,9).

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### CONCLUSION

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A. “Truth is fallen in the street” (Isaiah 59:14).

1. It is knocked down, ridiculed and walked on.

2. And no one seems to care.

B. If it doesn't make any difference what we believe.....then.....

It doesn't make any difference what we teach....AND

ERROR WOULD BE A VALUABLE AS TRUTH!!

C. O FOR THE COURAGE TO BRING LIGHT TO THE DARKEST LIVES

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