

## DOES TRUTH MATTER?

(Excerpts from the Preface of Gerrie's book *The Lamp Of The Lord*)

Scripture sounds warning after warning that one should rightly divide the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15). If we continue teaching doctrines that are rooted in wrong understanding or interpretation, however sincere the heart may be, where do we draw the line? What measure of deviance from the accurate truth would be tolerable or acceptable and what not? Using biblical terminology does not make something biblically accurate. One survey in the United States of America found 82 percent of Americans thought “*God helps those that help themselves*” was a Bible verse, which made it the ‘best known verse in the Bible’ (Mohler, 2004). It is sad testimony to realise that there really is no such verse in the Bible.

### Like a big gun off target

I (Gerrie) was a gunner during my national military service in 1964 – a member of the South African artillery. From my experiences during that time I know very well how crucial accuracy is for the artillery. If one of those big guns is off the target direction by only one half of a degree, and the projectile flight angle is set correctly, it might sound like a small error – until you realise that the point of explosion of the projectile is kilometres away from those guns. Instead of reaching the true target, severe and unintended damage elsewhere is the result – you could even end up killing your own men. And we only used the old 25 pounder guns from the Second World War at the time, not the much bigger calibres of today. Now put two of these big guns side by side with each one off line by one half of a degree, and to different sides ...! We only have to look at the frightening array of Christian doctrines that are supposedly rooted in the same Scriptures to realise that one can certainly see figurative similarities to big guns that are off target at the point of impact, however small the deviation might have seemed at first. Imagine the effect ten or twenty years down the line if the truth is not presented to confront the error along the way.



### Wrong synchronised by wrong



During a televised church service I stumbled upon some years ago, Dr. Ravi Zacharias told the story of a clockmaker who saw a man set his watch by the clocks in the shop window every morning. Curious, he later asked the man about this and was told the man was the time-keeper at a nearby factory. His watch wasn't very good, and so he set it each morning by the clockmaker's watches. The clockmaker then confessed his clocks weren't keeping time too well either, and he set them each afternoon by the factory's closing time whistle! Zacharias concluded that if two wrong things synchronize themselves by each other, they get 'wronger and wronger' all the time. Sadly, this too is such a valid illustration of a number of Christian doctrines of today.

What are your thoughts in this regard?