

The Truth – Pt. 1

INTRODUCTION:

1. Today I want to talk about **the truth**.
 - A. I want to talk about the truth because the Bible, God’s word, has a lot to say about it, which should mean that we as seekers of God should want to know about **the truth**.
 - B. I also want to talk about the truth because God’s word, the Bible, says **the truth** is important, which means the truth should be important to you and me and to everyone else.
2. So, today I want to consider what the Bible has to say about the truth in hopes of:
 - A. Helping us understand and appreciate the importance of the truth.
 - B. Helping us, if needed, to have a better grasp of what the truth is.
 - C. Helping us see how the truth applies to our lives.

BODY:

I. The truth is important

- A. The **Holy Spirit’s work** was focused on revealing the truth (Jn. 16:13-14 – “But when He, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, He will **guide you into all the truth**; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.”).
 1. Note how Jesus called the Spirit the **Spirit of truth**, and that His work would be to reveal **Christ’s truth** in its **entirety** to the apostles.
 2. That the Holy Spirit would be dedicated to the job of revealing the fullness of truth leaves little doubt, if any, of the importance of the truth in God’s plan.
- B. Truth was **important to the apostles** (3 John 4 – “I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in **the truth**.”).
 1. When an apostle says something like that it should cause us take notice.
 2. For, why would he have such great joy in those he taught **living in truth** unless he was convinced that the truth revealed from God was **vital** to the life of a Christian?
 3. But why would living in truth be so important?
- C. The truth **makes us free** (John 8:31-32 – “So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you **continue in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will **know the truth**, and **the truth will make you free**.”).
 1. If we want to be a **disciple**, a follower, or learner, of Christ and His ways, we must abide in Christ’s word.
 2. Only by abiding in Christ’s word can we **know the truth** and **be made free** from sin.
 3. So, knowing the words Christ has revealed, the truth, is so very important because my freedom from the slavery of sin depends on it.
- D. We are **sanctified by the truth** (John 17:17, 19 – “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth...¹⁹ For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth...”).
 1. To be sanctified means to be set apart from the world for God’s holy use.
 2. So, my separation from the world to become a useful servant for God and His cause of righteousness and salvation is directly connected to the truth revealed in God’s word.
 3. So, without God’s truth in my life, I will remain in the world and in my sin.
- E. Anything but the truth **is a lie** (Rom. 1:24-25 – “Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. ²⁵ For they **exchanged the truth of God for a lie**, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”).
 1. So, when one rejects or believes something other than what the Spirit of truth has **revealed** in the Scriptures, that person has not believed the truth, but has **followed a lie**.
 2. I understand how that may sound harsh, and how some might think you could exchange the truth for something less than a lie—maybe they are sincere and have good intentions, etc.

- a. But, my friends, the Holy Spirit was not sent because there was a lack of sincerity and good intentions among men.
 - b. The Holy Spirit was sent to reveal, to uncover, **the truth of God** so that people might **know and live by it** (1 Cor. 2:11-13 – “For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so **the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.** ¹² Now **we have received**, not the spirit of the world, but the **Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,** ¹³ which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.”).
 - i. So, without the revelation of the Spirit through the apostles, we cannot know the things of God!
 - ii. So, to believe or follow what is not revealed by the Spirit to the apostles in the Bible is to follow what is not of “the things of God” and not, therefore, the truth!
 - iii. And, if it is not the truth, what is it? **A lie.** For if a child chooses not to tell us the truth about what he or she has done, what are they doing? Lying.
- F. **Acceptable worship** is conducted in truth (John 4:24 – “God is spirit, and those who worship Him **must worship in spirit and truth.**”).
- 1. The connection of truth to acceptable worship was also expressed by Jesus (Matt. 15:8-9 – “This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; ⁹ in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”)
 - 2. Those who hope to worship God must worship in spirit **and in truth! Both must be present** for acceptable worship. We are not given the choice of favoring one or the other.
- G. My **approval** before God is based on **truth** (2 Tim. 2:15 – “Be diligent to present yourself **approved to God** as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling the word of truth.**”).
- 1. If I hope to stand approved and unashamed before God as one of His workmen, I must be diligent in my efforts to know the truth revealed in God’s word.
 - 2. I must appreciate the importance of the truth as it relates to my salvation, sanctification, acceptable worship, my service, what I teach, etc.
- H. The truth can and **will affect my salvation** (2 Pet. 3:15-16 – “And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable **twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.**”).
- 1. We must respect the **Scriptures** as God’s word **revealed as God intended them to be.**
 - 2. We are not at liberty to water Scripture, the truth, down, change it, ignore it, even if it is difficult to understand and/or apply.
 - 3. The truth is important because if we hope to be saved, our obligation is to seek the truth and preach and follow it in our lives.
- I. Summary of how we know truth is important.

II. What is truth?

- A. Truth has always been an enigma to the world (Jn. 18:37-38 – “Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to **the truth.** Everyone who is of **the truth** hears My voice.” ³⁸ Pilate said to Him, “**What is truth?**”).
 - 1. That question continues to stump the world today.
 - 2. People question whether there is truth about anything, while more and more people believe that truth is determined within themselves—that whatever is “true to them” is truth.
 - 3. We, however, must reject that line of thinking because the God of heaven has **testified of the truth** in Christ and revealed **the truth** through Jesus and the Spirit for us to know today.
- B. *God’s word is the truth* (John 17:17 – “Sanctify them in **the truth; Your word is truth.**”).

1. God's word is the truth for everyone.
 - a. I almost put in my outline, "*For those who know Jesus*, God's word is the truth," but that would be misleading.
 - b. God's word is the truth for everyone whether they know Jesus or not.
 - c. For, everyone must accept Jesus' words of truth, the gospel, and live by them, or they will be lost.
 - i. It is Jesus' words that will judge those that reject Him (Jn. 12:48 – "He who rejects Me and **does not receive My sayings**, has one who judges him; the **word I spoke is what will judge him** at the last day.>").
 - ii. And, anyone who does not obey His words and/or does not know God will be condemned (2 Thess. 1:7-8 – "when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,⁸ dealing out retribution to those who **do not know God** and to **those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.**").
2. God's word is **the way** we can know the truth concerning God and our salvation.
 - a. In other words, if I cannot find some idea, doctrine, or practice in the Bible, God's truth revealed by the Spirit, then I **cannot stand, or count, on it as being the truth.**
 - b. Only in the words of Christ, God's Son, is truth that saves to be found (John 8:31-32 – "So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "**If you continue in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine;³² and **you will know the truth**, and the truth will make you free.>").

CONCLUSION:

1. I hope I have impressed upon you the importance of truth, which is God's word, seeing the truth...
 - A. Is what God has determined to make you free from sin and sanctify you.
 - B. Is the only way to avoid believing and living a lie.
 - C. Is required for acceptable worship and our approval before God.
 - D. Must be obeyed if we hope to be saved.
2. So, will you commit to the truth and walk in it, seeing it is salvation, freedom, life, hope?
3. This journey must begin, however, with obeying the truth revealed concerning our salvation from sin in Christ which requires your F-R-C-B-LF.