

Following the Truth

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:17-24

- 1. One nice thing about “the truth” is that it is practical and life changing.**

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a **discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

- 2. The forming of Christ within us is the essence of discipleship.**

Galatians 4:19 My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until **Christ is formed in you,**

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have **put on Christ.**

Colossians 1:27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: **which is Christ in you,** the hope of glory.

- 3. To have the truth means that we are living by God’s Word.**

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.' "

Tools Needed to Follow Truth

- **Let's look at some important tools that we need in order to follow God's truth.**

1. **A good heart.**

Luke 8:15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

- A. **We need a heart that is open and willing to hear the Scriptures and hold fast to them.**

Psalms 51:10-13

Matthew 23:25-26 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, **first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish**, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and **searched the Scriptures daily** to find out whether these things were so.

2. **We need an obedient faith.**

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God **must believe that He is**, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

- A. **We must trust that what God says, will work.**

Colossians 3:12-15, 18-19

1 Corinthians 15:58

3. We need a complete commitment.**Matthew 6:19-24**

Romans 12:11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

A. We usually pursue what is valuable to us. (Matthew 6:19-24)**B. Zealous Christians constantly use God's Word.****Hebrews 5:13-14; 6:1-3****4. We need to devote time to serious Bible study.****2 Timothy 2:15****A. The Bible is THE final authority.**

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

John 6:68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

B. Study with the goal of knowing the truth and being determined to follow the truth of God's Word.

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Galatians 4:19 My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,

5. We need self-examination and self-correction with the truth.

James 1:22-25

A. Don't waste time comparing your life to wrong things:

1) Others.

2 Corinthians 10:12 For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

2) Worldly wisdom.

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

3) The opinions of others.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

4) Our own feelings.

Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

Conclusion

1. We must follow the truth because we really can do nothing without Christ in us.

John 15:4-5

Ephesians 3:17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love

