

The Truth

Introduction

1. Truth is vital. Everyone has opinions, but often it is not the truth.
2. Truth is important in our everyday life and it is certainly extremely important when it comes to religious matters.
3. God wants us to abide in His truth. Without doing so will cost us the dearest thing that we have been given by Him – our very soul.
4. Therefore, let's find out as much as we can about "truth."

What Is Truth?

1. In John 18:38, Pilate asked Jesus "What is Truth?"
2. Men have asked this question many times and have come up with varying answers.

A. Truth is the Word of God.

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

B. Truth is what the apostles were guided into all of.

John 16:13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

C. Truth is what the apostles and other inspired writers taught and wrote and the thing that man must teach or be condemned.

Galatians 1:6-9

D. Truth is not a lie.

1 John 2:21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that **no lie is of the truth.**

E. Truth is the law of God.

Psalms 119:142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth.

Psalms 119:151 You are near, O LORD, And all Your commandments are truth.

1) Therefore, a lie, cannot be determined:

- a. By who said it.
- b. By whether it pleases the ear.
- c. By how it sounds.
- d. By whether we want to believe it.
- e. By whether parents, elders, or others teach it.
- f. By whether we believed it before or not.

2) But ONLY by comparing it with the TRUTH which is God's holy and inspired Word.**How Long Will the Truth Last?****1. Forever!**

Psalms 117:2 For His merciful kindness is great toward us, And **the truth of the LORD endures forever.** Praise the LORD!

2. God's Word is truth and it will abide forever.

1 Peter 1:25 **BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER.**" Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

Jesus and Truth

1. Notice what Jesus said in regard to the truth.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

2. We must believe that there is One who stood upon the earth and declared Himself to be the truth. All things must be measured by Him to determine if they are true.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

How Are We to Respect the Truth?

1. Here is the true value of truth.

Proverbs 23:23 Buy the truth, and do not sell it, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.

- A. This means that truth is above any price! Some sell out their morals for the "pleasures of sin for a season" (Hebrews 11:25). Others sell out their convictions based on the Bible for little.**

James 5:19-20 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

2. We are to fully and completely obey the truth.

Galatians 5:7 You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?

3. Gird your waist with truth – make it who you are! (Ephesians 6:14)

God and Truth

1. God is the God of truth.

Psalms 31:5 Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD **God of truth.**

2. We can count on this because it is impossible for God to lie!

Hebrews 6:18 that by two immutable things, in which **it is impossible for God to lie**, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

3. It is God who keeps truth forever.

Psalms 146:6 Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them; **Who keeps truth forever,**

How People Treat the Truth

1. Unfortunately, it is often times spoken of as evil.

2 Peter 2:2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom **the way of truth will be blasphemed.**

2. Many become enemies because they are told the truth.

Galatians 4:16 Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

3. Some people have no love for it and therefore believe lies.

2 Thessalonians 2:10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, **because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**

4. Some people turn away from it and turn to fables.

Titus 1:13-14 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men **who turn from the truth.**

2 Timothy 4:4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

5. Some are constantly learning – but never coming to a true knowledge of the truth of God.

2 Timothy 3:7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

6. Some people believe and know the truth!

1 Timothy 4:3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving **by those who believe and know the truth.**

7. Some do obey the truth.

1 Peter 1:22 Since you have **purified your souls in obeying the truth** through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

What the Truth Does

1. The beauty of the truth is that it makes men free!

John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

2. It sometimes makes enemies when told to those who don't want to hear it, but it certainly abides in every true Christian.

John 1:6-8 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

3. The truth brings us to God so that we can truly be born again!

James 1:18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

1 Peter 1:23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

The Manner of Presenting the Truth

1. The Word of God should be presented as the absolute truth. This can only be done by rightly dividing the Word.

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2. It should be presented in a spirit of love. Others should know that we genuinely care about their soul and it shows by the way the Word of God is presented to them.

Ephesians 4:15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

3. It should be presented so that it can be understood.**Ephesians 3:3-5****4. The truth is to be “contended” for.**

Jude 3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

A. The word translated “contend” means to fight, be a combatant, uphold, or make defense.

Be Ready Always to Defend the Truth

1. As Christians, defending the truth of God, we should always be ready to give any man an answer for the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15).

2. We need to make sure that we are set for the defense of the gospel.

Philippians 1:15-17 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

3. Some mouths must be stopped by the Word.

Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

A. Qualified elders are able to do this, and MUST.

4. We must teach many the “Way” more perfectly.

Acts 18:26 So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

Conclusion

1. **Truth, like faith, comes only by hearing the Word of God.**
Romans 10:17
2. **We need to read the Word of God constantly and study it diligently.**
 - A. **Then we need to teach it fervently to lost souls.**
3. **Man's total duty upon the earth is to fear God, trusting in Him, and keeping all His commandments because we know that our creator is all Truth and Life!**

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, **For this is man's all.** For God will **bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing,** Whether good or evil.

4. **Can we say we are honestly abiding in His truth and keeping His commandments?**
5. **Have we been baptized for the forgiveness of our sins?**
6. **Are we living righteously before Him fully and completely every day?**

John 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges **him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.**

