

The Gospel Truth

BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE
MISSION FIELD WORLDWIDE.

GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

A celestial light lit up the night as a multitude of the heavenly host filled the sky. The angelic choir sounded forth in a symphony of praises to the Almighty God. They proclaimed with boldness and rejoicing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14).

What an experience it would have been to behold this wondrous, amazing sight two thousand years ago. What caused these messengers of God to come to earth, bearing a message of peace and good will to mankind? It was the birth of Jesus Christ, the son of the living God.

Thirty years later, upon seeing Jesus, John the Baptist said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). There is little wonder the angels rejoiced at the coming of the Messiah who would redeem mankind and break the power of sin and death in their lives.



*"As cold waters
to a thirsty soul,
so is good news
from a far country."
Proverbs 25:25*

Sin is abounding in the world and it brings grief, guilt, loneliness, bondage, and hopelessness. People's lives and families are being wrecked by the power of the devil. But, praise God, there is good news! Through the power of Jesus Christ, there is still peace for mankind right now in the

midst of a troubled world. Through Jesus Christ the power of sin can be broken and hope and life can take the place of brokenness and death.

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country" (Proverbs 25:25). It is refreshing to receive good news during a day of stress and difficulty. There is good news for every troubled soul. It is found in the gospel of Jesus Christ. The word gospel means 'good news' or 'glad tidings.' The good news of the gospel is that Jesus Christ came to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

Jesus Christ is still working miracles in people's lives by restoring and healing those who are spiritually sick. Where there is no way out, Jesus will make a way. Jesus will make the impossible possible.

The first recorded message that Jesus ever preached encapsulates the good

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WHAT THE BIBLE Teaches About...

Word of God

2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matt. 24:35

Relationship of Love

Matt. 22:37-40; John 14:21-23; 1 John 4:7-11

Repentance

Acts 3:19; Acts 17:30; 2 Cor. 7:10

New Birth

John 3:3-7; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:1-4;

Eph. 2:1, 5-6

Freedom From Sin

1 John 5:18; Matt. 1:21; John 8:11

Infilling of the Holy Spirit

Acts 19:2; Acts 15:8-9; Acts 1:8

Holiness

Luke 1:73-75; Heb. 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16;

Titus 2:11-12; Rom. 6:22

Kingdom of God

Luke 17:20-21; Romans 14:17; John 18:36

The Church

Acts 2:47; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Col 1:18

Unity

John 17:20-23; Gal 3:28; Rev. 18:2-4

Ordinances

Matt. 28:19-20; Matt. 26:26-30;

1 Cor. 11:23-27; John 13:14-17

Divine Healing

Luke 4:18; Isaiah 53:4-5; James 5:13-16

Sanctity of Marriage

Matt. 19:5-6; Luke 16:18; Rom. 7:2-3;

1 Cor. 7:10-11

Outward Appearance

1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Cor. 11:14-15; Deut. 22:5

End of Time

II Peter 3:7-12; John 5:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:10;

Matt 25:31-46

Pacifism

Luke 6:27-29; Luke 18:20

Worship

John 4:23-24; Eph. 5:19; 2 Cor. 3:17

Great Commission

Mark 16:15

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news of the gospel: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18-19).

Jesus loves you and the good news of the gospel is still relevant today. Jesus is still in the business of forgiving the sinner and healing the sick. Jesus will minister to every individual who is unhappy, hurting, blind, or bruised. All you need to do is open your heart and cry out to the Lord. He is listening for your cry.

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). This glorious gospel of hope is for people of every background, of every personality, and of every nation. As we experience the reality of this good news of the gospel, let us be faithful to share it with those around us who are hurting. It is not in what we can do, it is about what Jesus can and will do. Glory to God for the good news of the gospel.

-mws

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

The Gospel Truth periodical is published in the name of the Lord for all people of all lands in the interest of establishing and encouraging them in the truth of God's Word. This publication teaches and promotes the truths of the Bible that have been established since the time of Christ and the apostles.

The Word of God is the singular, acceptable rule of faith. It teaches salvation and deliverance from sin through the atonement of Jesus Christ; a subsequent infilling of the Holy Spirit to lead, direct and empower; practical holiness in every area of life; and the unity and oneness of God's people. Acceptable service to God is through a personal relationship of love founded in truth.

Editors: Michael & René Smith

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Editorial



"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake" (2 Cor. 4:3-5).

We live in an age that is blinded not only by the sensual things of the flesh but by the institutions of religion. I would that every person in this world knew and experienced the true peace that is found in Jesus Christ. Any minister or church that preaches 'themselves' is a false one. In our own power and ability, we have nothing to offer to save this lost world. We do have the ability to point people to a Savior -- not only by our words, but by the light that emanates through us from Christ within.

I would that the glorious light of the gospel shine brighter and brighter in this dark, evil time. Through many years of ministry around the world, I have recognized a great need to help establish native ministries in the truth of the Word. This is not about gaining a following or having someone 'join' a group. It is about teaching and encouraging people to be the Church in their locality. Unity then comes about as people walk in the truth, being led by the Spirit.

A few months ago in Kenya (following a simple gospel message), a minister from a local denomination told me, "That was refreshing." He then told me many ministers that come are building an image after themselves. There is no true freedom or peace found in following a man or religion. I confess my weariness of religion and the carnality that is found amongst professing Christians. At the same time, I proclaim loudly my love for God, for truth, and for all of His children. My heart cries for the sinner, for the hypocrites, and for the backslidden to find true satisfaction. That is found neither within the four walls of a chapel nor in following a good, religious way of life. It is found in an experience of complete surrender to Jesus Christ and in following freely the narrow, joyous, sacrificial, loving Biblical way that leads to life eternal.

It is the desire of my wife and me to share through the written word of this paper some of the foundational, scriptural truths that can assist honest hearts in becoming established in the truth. We will publish this as often as the Lord gives us the time and inspiration. We would appreciate prayer for this new endeavor that it will be spiritually successful.

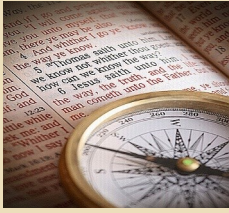
Let us all pray for the Lord's blessing on every meeting this season. There is still power in prayer, and I look for some mountains to be brought low by the power of God.

-Michael W Smith



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6 TIPS FOR BIBLE STUDY

FIND A STARTING PLACE

Choose a passage or book of the Bible to study. The Gospels, James, Titus, 1 Peter & 1 John are all good choices for beginners.

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Ask for God's wisdom, leadership and understanding. As you pray, realize that the words you are studying are inspired by God. "The entrance of thy words giveth light." Psalm (119:130)

READ THE ENTIRE PASSAGE

Many false doctrines are founded on isolated scriptures that have been taken out of context. Read the whole passage to get the full picture.

ZOOM IN ON THE DETAILS

Break the passage down verse by verse and study for deeper meaning. Look up word definitions or supporting scriptures. Take notes on your findings.

LIFE APPLICATION PRINCIPLES

Let God's word speak to you personally. How does the passage apply to my life?

"BE YE DOERS OF THE WORD"

Put the Word into practice in your daily life. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Colossians 3:16)

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

SUBJECT: TRUTH

Scripture Reading:

John 18:37-38 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.

Definition of Truth: *that which is in conformity with the facts or with reality; correctness, accuracy, actuality, genuine, honest; the state of being the case;* From the Greek: *not concealing.*

I. Jesus is Truth

- A. John 1:14 The Word (Jesus) became flesh - full of grace and truth.
- B. John 1:17 Grace and truth came by Jesus.
- C. John 14:6 Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.
- D. Ephesians 4:20-21 The truth is in Jesus.

II. God's Word is Truth

- A. John 17:17-19 God's Word is truth.
- B. 2 Timothy 2:15 Study and rightly divide the Word.
- C. 2 Thessalonians 2:10 One must love the truth to be saved.

III. The Spirit of Truth & Worship

- A. John 16:13 The Holy Spirit will guide in all truth.
- B. John 4:22-24 Worship in Spirit and in Truth.

IV. The Truth is Unchanging and Everlasting

- A. Isaiah 40:8 The Word of God shall stand forever.
- B. Psalm 100: 5 Truth endureth to all generations.
- C. Luke 21:33 Christ's words shall not pass away.

V. Benefits of Truth

- A. John 8:32 Truth makes free.
- B. John 3:19-21 Truth reveals and brings to the light.
- C. 1 Peter 1:22-23 Our souls are purified in obeying the truth.

VI. Departure from Truth

- A. 2 Timothy 4:1-4 People will turn their ears from the truth.
- B. 2 Timothy 2:16-18 People in error concerning the truth.

VII. False Teachers

- A. 2 Peter 2:1-2 There will be false teachers among you.
- B. Matthew 15:9 They teach for doctrines the commandments of men.
- C. Titus 1:14 Don't give heed to them.
- D. 1 Timothy 6:3-5 Withdraw from false teachers.

VIII. Punishment to Those Who Obey Not the Truth

- A. Romans 2:8-9 Tribulation and anguish.
- B. 2 Thessalonians 1:8 Vengeance.

IX. The Church

- A. 1 Timothy 3:15 Pillar and ground of truth.
- B. Zechariah 8:3 Zion (the church) shall be called a city of truth .

X. Challenge

- A. Proverbs 23:23 Buy the truth and sell it not.
- B. 1 John 1:6 Practice the truth by keeping the commandments.
- C. Ephesians 6:14 Stand girded in truth.

Prayer: "Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou *art* the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day." - Psalm 25:5

WHAT IS TRUTH?

Companion article for Bible Study

“WHAT IS TRUTH?” Pilate inquired of Jesus at his trial. That question still resonates today as people seek the world over for the answers to life and its problems. Many ministers, churches, and people of all theologies and philosophies have professed to ‘have the truth.’ How is it possible to have so many conflicting ideas and opinions that are all supposed to be correct?

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

The reality is that there exists one ultimate truth, and that is found in Jesus Christ alone. Jesus is the truth. The Word of God became flesh and dwelt amongst us to enlighten, to reveal sin, to demonstrate and teach the reality of holiness and deliverance from sin, and to make possible the reality of soul peace in a relationship with God the Father.

TRUTH IS UNCHANGING

God sent the Holy Spirit to lead people personally and individually in the way of truth. Truth supersedes opinion, background, church history, tradition, race, and creed. The truth of God’s Word does not change from generation to generation but it is still accurate and gives the answer to eternal life in this present, evil world. Philosophies and church movements come and go, but truth is everlasting and unchanging. Truth is not dependent upon our perceptions and personal situations. God’s Word is applicable and relevant to every person of every nationality. The Spirit of God will never lead contrary to the truth of the Word.

TRUTH LIBERATES

Truth enlightens and sets free. Creeds and religions of man bring bondage and confusion. Just because there are conflicting doctrines and a multiplicity of churches does not take away the reality that there still is a truth. That truth is found in Christ, documented by the Bible, and confirmed by the Holy Spirit. God’s truth cannot be added to or taken

away from through a ministerial vote or through a decree of a bishop or religious leader. The Word of God stands alone as truth. The scripture is a closed canon. God’s true people honor and respect God’s word as truth and it trumps any and all creeds of man.

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

Many in our world profess Christ, but deny the truth of His Word in application. Some people try to distinguish a difference between the doctrines of the Bible and Jesus. The truth is that they are one and the same. When someone rejects a part of the New Testament teaching, they are rejecting Christ Himself.

REJECT FALSE PROPHETS

In the early morning church there were false teachers and so there are today— ministers who profess Christ, yet teach not the purity of truth. They teach a professed truth that promotes sinfulness and caters to the flesh in order to draw the multitudes. Often the greatest deception is found amongst churches and ministers that teach most of the truth. It is easier to recognize total error than error mixed with truth. Let us neither add to nor take away from that which is written in the Word.

SEPARATE FROM SECTISM

In these last days, many are departing from the truth of God’s Word and yet retain a testimony of piety. The scripture teaches God’s true people to separate themselves from such organizations of man and to withdraw fellowship from such ministers. Heaven beckons the faithful and holy, but hell awaits those who deny the entirety of truth.

HOLY SPIRIT WITNESSES OF THE WORD

It is imperative that every child of God be filled with the Holy Spirit and study the Word of God. The Spirit will be



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faithful to every individual who is honest and sincere in their pursuit of truth. People are at various levels in their understanding of truth. Accountability is then different for different people. The problem comes when an individual overrides the check of the Spirit and the written Word. Deception then sets in and people become convinced of their perspective of truth. Sincerity alone does not make one acceptable to God, but sincerity and honesty, coupled with truth, enable mankind to live acceptable to God. Be faithful to the Word and know the Spirit will never lead independent of God's Word.

ARE YOU WALKING IN TRUTH?

God's church is the individual and collective fellowship of people who are allowing the truth to have right of way in every area of life. Zion, the Church of God, should be a city of truth. It isn't the name over the door of the chapel but the reality of this living truth. May the light of truth shine bright through your life.

- mws



Be Ye Doers

*“But be ye doers of the word,
and not hearers only,
deceiving your own selves.*

*For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer,
he is like unto a man beholding his natural face
in a glass:*

*For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way,
and straightway forgetteth
what manner of man he was.*

*But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty,
and continueth therein,
he being not a forgetful hearer,
but a doer of the work,
this man shall be blessed in his deed.”*

James 1:22-25



(The following article has been condensed from the writings of the late Bro. Ostis Wilson Jr.)

Question: We often hear it said that it does not matter what people believe if they are sincere in it. Is this so?

Answer: NO, IT IS NOT TRUE, and it is possible for people to be just as sincere in error as to be sincere in truth. God's Word says, "...God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:" II Thessalonians 2:13. We see here that "belief of the truth" is an essential part of the way and plan God has for us obtaining salvation. II Timothy 4:3-4 says, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." Some of these people are just as sincere and zealous and devoted to their belief as are people who believe the truth.

Paul said in Galatians 1:8-9, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than

that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." This is certainly strong language, and whatever else it may teach, it certainly teaches that what the Christian believes must be well based and rooted in truth, and that it must be circumscribed by truth and must never go beyond truth nor accept any false thing.



In II Corinthians 1:12 Paul speaks of his own "...simplicity and godly sincerity,..." A person may be as sincere as he will in any belief or project or undertaking; but it is only godly sincerity that is going to bring him salvation and establish him in God.

Paul himself was an outstanding example of this. In Acts 26:9-10, Paul

said, "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth..." With all of his sincerity he would surely have missed salvation if he had not submitted to Christ and believed in Him when he met Him face to face on the Damascus road.

I do not consider Paul to have been one bit more sincere for the truth and his Christian faith than he had formerly been in his Jewish religion and for the traditions of his fathers. Without question, there are some people today who are just as sincere and zealous and would make just as great sacrifices in gross errors which actually deny some of the basic essentials of salvation, as true Christians are for Christ and truth. Remember, it is not just sincerity, but godly sincerity that counts.

Also let us consider that if every man's belief of whatever kind or in whatever thing was valid and acceptable for him just as long as he was sincere in it, this would set up any number of standards to live by, but God only has one standard and calls all men to come to it. Ephesians 4:5 says there is "...one faith,..." God is calling all believers to the "unity of the Faith" and has made provision for bringing us all to this if we will all believe the faithful teaching of God's Word.

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A Word
In Season

Ye Are of More Value

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“Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows” (Luke 12:6-7).

During the time of Christ, two sparrows could be purchased for one farthing. Four sparrows could be purchased for two farthings and that fifth sparrow was the added bonus given by merchants to entice prospective buyers to purchase four sparrows. Buy four get one free. One farthing was about 1/16 of the wage that a rural worker would make in one day. Hence, sparrows were common and of very little value.

Jesus illustrates God’s care of the individual by sharing how God does not even overlook something as common and cheap as one sparrow — the fifth bird. God places value on things that others may consider worthless. How much more God loves and cares for every human. He looks beyond the crowd and values the individual. God is interested in every detail of your life: every thought, emotion, feeling, and circumstance.

Jesus said that the “very hairs of your head are all numbered.” The average human head has 100,000 hairs. God knows the smallest things about us. He is ever-present to be our king, our savior, our friend, our help, and our grace-giver. “Fear not” when the trials and difficulties come in life. God has not forgotten you. He values the obedient and the disobedient, the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, the sick and the healthy.

You are of more value than many sparrows.

-mws



HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD