

TRUTH REVISITED

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Truth—that which agrees with final reality is where this truth-study is coming from, it is truly needed that this be known. The first study writing of truth by this writer was back in the late spring of 2000. That study writing was provided to the congregation (where I worshiped and served the Lord) in August, 2002. For this revisited study of “truth” an outline format from Nelson’s Topical Bible Index, pp 626-27, will be used. First, here are some numbers data, which may be of interest. Truth is used in Bible scripture 225 times – first in Genesis 24:27 – last used in 3 John 12. Truly is used in Bible scripture 34 times – first in Genesis 4:24 – last used in 1 John 1:3. Truth’s is used in Bible scripture only 2 times – Psalms 115:1 and 2 John 1:3. True is used in Bible scripture 80 times – first in Genesis 42:11 – last used in Revelation 22:6.

It would be remiss if there was failure not to say and revive the love of our heart that every word from Genesis 1:1 to the period in Revelation 22:21 is truth. It is God’s Holy Word and is TRUE TRUTH! TRULY it is! Thinking about it can be an emotional high.

Truth is ascribed to God’s Law. An in-depth analysis of this paragraph heading will provide us with greater knowledge and reward our Biblical heart to an emotional degree that will cause amen’s from all of us around, about, and everywhere. It will cause us to realize the blessing of knowing how much God does love His (obedient) children. And we will come to know that His love and Truth is greater than we realize and that His truth must have complete control of our lives and be manifested to the degree that our faith and works would be the light that cannot be hidden.

What does the saying, “Truth is ascribed to God’s Law” mean to us? In answer, I submit that God’s law has been declared! It belongs to Him! It is an attribute of HIM! It is pure and perfect! It is truth and declares the Glory of God! It will last...forever! “...YOUR law is truth” (Psalm 119:142; cf. Luke 21:33). “YOUR commandments are true, you have founded them forever” (Psalms 119: 151-152).

God’s law, His truth gives guidance, teachings, and is instructional. God’s work is converting; it changes hearts and saves souls. God’s truth is to be desired. God’s truth warns against sin, and in keeping it we find the reward of a fulfilled life. (Read Psalms 19:7-14).

Truth is ascribed to Christ. You know this scripture! “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). The only saving truth is God’s word. The only way to God and Heaven is in and through Jesus.

Truth is ascribed to the Holy Spirit. Hear these words of Jesus! “If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth” (John 14:15-17). Now tell me, what is lacking? Genuine love is that which is required of man! If you love Me (Christ) is the blessed statement of Jesus. Is love missing in our lives? If so, then what is lacking? The answer, you know! And I know! It’s the last word in 1 Corinthians 13.

Truth is ascribed to God's word. Here it is again. Truth is that which agrees with final reality. Jesus prayed to His Father asking, "*Sanctify them by Your truth. Your Word is truth*" (John 17:17). Sanctify is to set apart (purify, said another way). To just say that, is not all that understandable, in my opinion. Here's what Vine's Expository Dictionary, pp. 545-6, has in explaining it: "Sanctification is the separation of the believer from evil things and ways. It is God's will for the believer, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, and HIS purpose in calling him by the gospel, v. 7; it must be learned from God, v. 4, as He teaches in His Word, John 17:17, 19; cf. Psalms 17:4; 119:9, and it must be pursued by the believer, earnestly and undeviatingly, 1 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 12:14. For the holy character, 1 Thessalonians 3:13, is not vicarious, i.e., it cannot be transferred or imputed, it is an individual possession, built up, little by little, as the result of obedience to the Word of God, and of following the example of Christ, Matthew 11:29; John 13; 15; Ephesians 4:20; Philippians 2: 5, in the power of the Holy Spirit, Romans 8:13; Ephesians 3:16." God does set apart Christians, His obedient children, and the instrument for setting apart is the truth of His Word.

Truth is ascribed to the Gospel. The apostle Paul speaking in knowledge and by inspiration, what I think to be, the most unforgettable words of and about the gospel that has been recorded as he said, "*So, as much as in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you...For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God, to salvation for everyone who believes...For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith*" (Romans 1:16-17).

The only way we can be in a right relationship with God is through faith. Christian life begins with faith and is maintained through faith. Continuing in v 8, Romans 1, the gospel says, "*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest (evident) in (among) them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God*" (Romans 1:18-21). Read the rest of Chapter 1:21-32. Truth: that which agrees with final reality has a blessed effect to make us free. Jesus said, "*If you abide in My word, you are My disciple indeed (without a doubt). And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*" (John 8:31-32) cf. John 6:47; Galatians 2:20). Jesus said to "*abide*", that is to continue in diligent obedience in His teachings. Continue to live (faithfully) in truth of Christ and you will be made free from the bondage of sin. If one remains in bondage of sin and death comes, eternal condemnation is their destiny. Mercy time is over! That is the final reality of truth, the effect of living a godless life. 'O how sad to face the judgment without hope. Jesus said, "*Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death*" (John 8:51). The death Jesus is speaking of is the eternal death...the soul will never die. The important realization is to know where one's soul will spend eternity and know the choices. Be prepared to receive Mercy and Grace from God in obedience to His will and receive eternal life in Heaven, or if unprepared, eternal death in Hell. Truth! Yes, truth has a blessed effect to make us free. "*Most assuredly*", that is true!

Truth—that which agrees with final reality will sanctify us. Jesus said in His prayer, to His Father, for our sanctification, *“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them”* (John 17:9-10).

Three things Christians know for sure: **(1)**. anyone who is born of God will keep himself or herself from sin. This is possible by depending on the power of God and by doing the will of God (1 John 5:18). **(2)**. Christians belong to God, even though this sinful world in which we live is dominated by the devil (1 John 5:19). **(3)**. we have eternal life only through accepting Jesus Christ and His offer of salvation. What a blessing and what a debt we owe knowing we are sanctified by the truth (John 17:19).

Truth—that which agrees with final reality that the effect of which we are purified. 17b“...*Conduct yourselves throughout the time you stay here in fear* (awe in God’s presence), 18. *Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things...*19. *But with the precious blood of Christ, as for a lamb without blemish and without spot.* 20. *He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world but was manifest in these last times for you* 21. *Who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God?* 22. *Since you have purified your soul in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,* 23. *Having been born again not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever”* (1 Peter 17-23).

Now, let’s look again to what is said in v.17b and think about it. If we acknowledge God as God our Creator and confess Christ as Lord and Savior we must, we just have to, live and be holy in all our conduct in all the time we are blessed to stay here on earth. That is God’s Truth and obedience to his truth will agree with the final reality, which will be our presence with Him in Heaven the place that our Lord Jesus Christ went to prepare a mansion for me and for you (John 14:2).

When giving conscious thought and we should, every day, of how much God loves us...that should thrill our souls. My oh my! Knowing all the plans and the happenings that has been made and taken place for us to be blessed with salvation and they are described in the Holy Word, and we are studying them herein, we should desire to live our lives dedicated in doing God’s will, loving one another, and growing in the Lord (cf.1 Peter 2:1-3). Taste that the Lord is gracious! We belong to Him!

Truth—that which agrees with final reality is effective in establishing us. That truth was sufficiently said in the paragraph above. But to guard and protect our established dedicated stewardship let’s give thought to this admonishment. *“...We all, need to come to the unity of the faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man (meaning maturity) to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the conning craftiness of deceitful plotting, (NOW HERE IT IS), but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the Head—Christ from whom the whole body (the church), joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love”* (Ephesians 4:13-16; cf. Ephesians 5:8-13).

It is tragic and sinful, as there are some it seems, who have developed the wrong attitude. They are called fools and corruptible men, *“who exchanged the truth of God for lies, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator...”* (Romans 1:25). Wrong attitude leads one to be destitute of the truth. This is caused by the teachings of godless men. In (1 Timothy 6:3-5) Paul explains this. He urges us in his final statement in v. 5, *“From such withdraw yourselves.”* The best way to handle that is; do not be involved with, or fellowship godless men and their teachings. Should one be gullible and spend time with the teachings of godless and evil men one would deprive them self from the knowledge of the truth (see 2 Timothy 3:1-7).

Note the advice that Paul gave Timothy, which is good advice to us also, resist and follow Paul’s doctrine—but read to know and learn 2 Timothy 3:10-17. It is an exhortation to steadfastness. And that is needed, because the wrong attitude toward truth can and does cause men, yea Christians, to turn from the truth and turn aside to fables—read and study 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Therein is great admonishment for what to do and what not to do also. Truth—*“The right attitude to final reality.”* Having the attitude with a loving heart (mind) we learn what to do. Can we say, *“We did?”* It is the mind-thing! With a mind of knowledge so is the right attitude. That is the same equation *“as one thinks so are they.”* Thinking right and with the right attitude brings joy and many other desires to mind and none is greater than to talk and act upon the truth, which we are so blessed to know. A believer is so richly blessed because he knows the truth and has accepted his responsibilities when he obeyed. Now we must speak that truth—and that is right and is the right attitude. Attitude that is full of faith; love, compassion will show in action.

Attitude! That has to do with what we think, doesn’t it? How we think, including what we think about. It will determine what we learn (know) and you know that He knows; that we shall know the truth and we shall speak the truth to all nations. Paul speaks these blessed words to us as he said, *“But you have not learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, putting away lying, ‘Let each one of you (us) speak truth with his neighbor,’ for we are members of one another”* (Ephesians 4:20-25).

We cannot live and know Christ and not tell others about Him. Read that again! There is great value to our relationship and salvation by giving serious dedication to knowing Christ and telling others about Him. To know Christ is to love Him. *“If you love me keep my commandments”* (see 1 John 5:2). That has to do with our conduct before we put on the “new man.” Because God has created us for holiness, (the new man—a Christian), we are members one of another, in the body of Christ. The greatest of relationship is, being God’s children and brethren doing God’s will in Christlikeness, but it can be summed up to say, *“Walking in truth”* hand in hand with Jesus.

Please ponder this testimony: *“For I rejoice greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth”* (3 John 3-4). Read all of 3 John please, there are only 13 verses.

What a joy to receive testimony from brethren who come our way in their travels and visit and “speak the words of truth and reason” (Acts 26:25). We should always stand ready to declare the words of truth and reason. Declare—that is an interesting word. The apostle Paul used it quite frequently i.e., “Therefore I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27). Paul again used “declare” in (Romans 1:1-6) the Sonship of Christ and, “through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name among whom you (us) also are called of Jesus Christ.”

Now we should be out and about declaring [proclaiming] Christ. That is God’s will, and doing His will is an obligation, which we accepted at the time of our obedience. The right attitude, my ‘O my, it is so important in all aspects of the Christian life. Our attitude is affected by how we think (Proverbs 23:7). Is our attitude “fine-tuned” when we worship? *“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and truth”* (John 4:23-24).

There are questions each of us should ask...and answer. Define a “true worshiper.” Define “worship in spirit and truth.” Does “wholeheartedly” and “sincerely” impact (affect) our attitude? Please do study these, God will bless you! *“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of truth”* (1 Timothy 2:3-4). Let’s confess...that scripture is true, it is truth. Now the question is; what is the attitude we must have toward truth?

The over-all theme of this study is “TRUTH!” The point, the statement of truth, is, “God desires all men to be saved and “come to.’ ” Again, that is the truth and confessing that, what then is the obligation and/or responsibility? I submit to all that children of God who has come to the knowledge of truth has the responsibility to be diligent and teach that truth which is one of our greatest stewardship obligations.

“Go ye into all the world and preach (teach) the gospel to every creature...” (Mark 16:15). Here is how it goes--When we were taught God’s word, and the word was explained and we came to the understanding of the truth, and responded, at that point we realized that the blessed obligation was our charge and with that responsibility, in love and concern for others, and it is God’s will, we were to teach others and in teaching them to teach others they were too teach others to teach. It is a God sanctioned plan of a never-ending evolution (development).

All of this can be expressed by saying; it’s the right attitude toward the truth by handling accurately the truth. *“Be diligent to present yourself approved of God, a worker (steward) who needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15). The greatest blessing one will ever have is that expression, “rightly dividing” the word of truth. Knowing truth then teaching His truth and it going forward and the one(s) being taught will come to the knowledge of the truth. Amen!

“Since you have purified your souls (you believers—you Christians) in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever because ‘All flesh is as grass,

and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withers, and its flowers falls away, but the word (truth) of the LORD (God) endures forever' "... (1 Peter 1:22-25).

This scripture has great meaning to us today and is just as applicable to us as it was when the apostle Peter wrote it, (in the mid 60s AD), by inspiration, to the Christians in what is today Turkey or Asia Minor

It is the truth and the truth of God's Word was applicable then and applicable today and will remain applicable always. Let us never forget to always possess the truth, with the right attitude toward truth: believing; knowing; handling accurately; obeying and being established in truth. This is the will of God our LORD, our creator. Amen!

I am using the data in this paragraph to show the flip side of truth which is of course "untruth." However it is a part of the lesson, and a very important part. Please take it that way and make sure you absorb the last part, about the beauty of truth. The flip side of truth is, of course, untruth. Said another way or the meaning of untruth or bearing false witness. I am thinking that most people know it is a sin to bear false witness but there is fear, on my part, that many do not realize false witness is sometimes disguised or hidden. So to help us and to show the seriousness of the sin of untruth I am inclosing this (borrowed) list that identifies some of the many faces of false or untruth words are masked:.....

TWISTED WORDS: Making a person say something he did not say

TWISTING TRUTH: Clever wording to make a lie out of fact

SHADING THE TRUTH: A perversion of the facts

MISSTATEMENT OF FACT: Just a plain unvarnished lie

JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS: Assuming you know when you don't

CRAFTY QUESTIONS: Creating a doubt and unwarranted suspicion

SLANDERING: Uttering false charges, which damage reputation

BODILY MOVEMENT: A wink, a nod, a smile conveying deception

JUDGING: Arriving at a verdict of guilt without the facts

GOSSIPING: Including in sensational, intimate chatter

EXAGGERATING: Enlarging a thing beyond the bounds of truth

PRESUMING: Accusation backed up by possibilities instead of facts

ACCUSATIONS: Condemning a person on purely circumstantial evidence.

INSINUATIONS: Making a statement, this leaves untrue impressions

INFERENCE: A chain of reasoning, which leaves untrue impressions.

INNUENDO: A veiled reflection on one's character or reputation

SURMISE: Placing guilt when the evidence is scanty or slight

SUSPICION: Casting a cloud of mistrust without evidence

SILENCE: Withholding information, which could clear the guilty one

FLATTERY: Insincere and excessive praise for motive of self-interest

QUOTATION: Making another person do you're lying for you

WHITE LIES: Just plain black lies some hypocrite has tried to whitewash

How beautiful TRUTH. Do we realize how much good truth does? How destructive untruth is, and do we know and realize how tragic the results of it? God help us to always be truthful? Thy "WORD" is truth! AMEN!

In our lives—let Christ and TRUTH become and remain preeminent!
Brother Philip Hines, Minister, Hartselle Church of Christ gave me the below “preeminent-saying”. I wonder if he remembers doing so. It’s been a few years ago that he closed out a Wednesday night lesson with it. What truth sometimes reveals of or about us by pointing the finger of guilt causing us to realize that truth is truth [no matter the source] and the applicability thereof!

“In every Christian, Christ is present,
In some Christians, Christ is prominent,
In a few Christians, Christ is preeminent.”

The scriptures and commentary that have been set forth in this study has been of great benefit to me. The wonderful scriptures and principles that we studied together have been motivating to my conscience. It is my prayer that you have read and studied this lesson and that you will accept all truth herein and that it will be a conscience server to you also. Accepting truth and acting responsibly is truly a great blessing.

The well-trained conscience is equal to the knowledge, abiding faith, and love that we expose or submit our mind to. With confidence I say that you studied this lesson with faith, love and that it will be of great benefit to you.

With confidence I also say, that you desire to be blessed, to gain more knowledge, [true abiding biblical knowledge], which is associated with responsibilities, and create a desire to seek, to search diligently, to accept when found, to associate with, and be an active part of, and that you will abide faithfully in the Lord’s Church until death.

The church that I am speaking of is the church you read about in the Bible. It cost the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is His Body, His Kingdom, which is His Church. Please be an obedient dedicated part of the church of the Bible. Christ’s church is the ONLY church that we read about in the Bible. Can anyone deny that? You cannot pass through Heaven’s gate if you are not in His Body, His Church. That is the truth. That is what the Bible teaches.

I invite you to view my Website, www.geocities.com/dubbyt please note other consecrated writings. There is a writing posted on my site that I am sure you will want to view and maybe copy. The writing title is, “The Church of The Bible, Christ’s Church.” It has a two-page enclosure, which has the title, “What Must I Do to Be Saved.” Please study these “biblical-truth” writings, along with your Bible, and with an honest and receptive heart that you may gain truth and knowledge, and to become obligated to obedience, and thus to walk with the LORD. You will be blessed! God bless you for studying with me on this great subject. God loves you...and I do too! Your servant in the Lord...

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