

T r u t h

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall
make you free.” ~John 8:32

I. All can obtain the truth.

- A. The truth is not hidden from any man.
- B. “What is truth?” was the question of Pilate (John 18:38). This question is being asked by many today.
 - 1. Many believe that truth is in the eye of the beholder.
 - 2. Others are certain that truth cannot be known (see 2 Timothy 3:10).
 - 3. Jesus answers this age old question in John 17:17 (see also Romans 3:4). Jesus is the truth (John 14:6).
- C. It pleases the people of God to see others walk in the truth (3 John 4). Love rejoices in truth (1 Corinthians 13:6). The church is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15).

II. Few will obey the truth.

- A. The truth is hard to bare.
 - 1. It can make enemies (Galatians 4:16). How can telling the truth make enemies?
 - a. The world says, “If it feels good, do it!”
 - b. Many in the church say, “I don’t see anything wrong with it!”
 - 2. Some of Jesus’ follower turned away (John 6:60-68).
 - 3. Though Jesus told the truth, some just did not believe it (John 8:45, 46). There are some like this today.
- B. Many do not know the truth (but see Colossians 1:23). Others wait for the convenient season to obey the truth (Acts 24:25).

III. Many will object to the truth.

- A. Those who say there is no God will object to Genesis 1:1.
- B. Those who believe we direct our own steps will object to Jeremiah 10:23.
- C. Those who emphasize form over true faithfulness will object to 2 Timothy 3:5.
- D. Those who rest in humanism will object to 2 Timothy 3:7.
- E. Those who wish to embrace the liberal agenda will object to 2 Timothy 2:13.
- F. Those who want to be saved without baptism will object to Mark 16:16.
- G. Those who want be like the denominations will object to Matthew 16:13-18.

IV. Others will obstruct the truth.

- A. The devil was the first to obstruct the truth (Genesis 3:4), and he is the father of all who do so (John 8:44).
- B. Some preached the truth of the Gospel out of envy and strife (Philippians 1:15).
 - 1. These must have been the Judaizing teachers, who insisted on the necessity of connecting the Mosaic rites with the Christian institutions; and, probably, denounced Paul to the Jews dwelling at Rome as not only an enemy to the law and the prophets, but also as a very imperfect Christian, because he declared strongly against the doctrine of circumcision, etc.; and no doubt endeavored to prejudice him with the heathen Romans (Clarke).
 - 2. It would seem, however, that even in Rome there was a party which was jealous of the influence of Paul, and which supposed that this was a good opportunity to diminish his influence, and to strengthen their own cause (Barnes).
- C. Some preached Christ to add afflictions to Paul (Philippians 1:16). Some are guilty of the same today. Consider Ephesians 4:15.
- D. Those who obstruct the truth endanger souls (Galatians 3:1 & 5:7). Paul paints a sad picture in 1 Timothy 1:20.

V. All will observe the truth.

- A. The final day will be a day of observation.
 - 1. Jesus will come (2 Peter 3:9-11).
 - 2. Judgment will commence (John 12:48).
 - 3. Justice will be the conclusion.
- B. Every eye shall see (Revelation 1:7).

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In the survey taken in early 1991, interviewees were asked, "Do you agree strongly, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or disagree strongly with the following statement: There is no such thing as absolute truth; different people can define truth in conflicting ways and still be correct." Only 28% of the respondents expressed strong belief in "absolute truth," and more surprisingly, only 23 percent of born-again or evangelical Christians accepted this idea!

What a telling revelation! If more than 75 percent of the followers of Christ say nothing can be known for certain, does this indicate, as it seems, that they are not convinced that Jesus existed, that He is who He claimed to be, that His Word is authentic, that God created the heavens and earth, or that eternal life awaits the believer? That's what the findings appear to mean. If there is no absolute truth, then by definition nothing can be said to be absolutely true. To the majority, apparently, it's all relative. Nothing is certain. Might be. Might not be. Who knows for sure? Take your guess and hope for the best!

-James Dobson, December 1991 letter, quoting George Barna, *What Americans Believe*.

<http://www.sermonillustrations.com/a-z/t/truth.htm>

Scripture Sheet

Joh 18:38 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*.

2Ti 3:10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

Joh 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Joh 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

Joh 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Joh 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there ye may be also*.

Joh 14:4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

Joh 14:5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

3Jo 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

1Co 13:6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

1Ti 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Gal 4:16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

Joh 6:60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard *this*, said, This is a hard saying; who can hear it?

Joh 6:61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, **Doth this offend you?**

Joh 6:62 *What* and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

Joh 6:63 **It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.**

Joh 6:64 **But there are some of you that believe not.** For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

Joh 6:65 And he said, **Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.**

Joh 6:66 From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

Joh 6:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, **Will ye also go away?**

Joh 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

Col 1:23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Act 24:25 And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Jer 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

2Ti 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

2Ti 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2Ti 2:13 If we believe not, *yet* he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

Mar 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Mat 16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

Mat 16:14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.

Mat 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

Mat 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Mat 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Gen 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

Joh 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Phi 1:15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

Phi 1:16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

Gal 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

Gal 5:7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

1Ti 1:20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

2Pe 3:11 *Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness,

Rev 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.