

## **“The Truth, The Whole Truth, and Nothing But the truth”**

**Intro: “Truth is the foundation of all knowledge and the cement of all societies.” (John Dryden). If Dryden is correct, then we can see why our society is unraveling at the seams. The concept of truth is suffering greatly. We live in an age of relativism, where all ideas are equally valid and no objective standard of right and wrong is allowed in public discussion. Never has there been a greater need to stress again the importance of truth.**

**Solomon taught that TRUTH is absolutely indispensable to our relationships with both God and man.**

*Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man. (Pr. 3:3-4)*

**Nothing can take its place! Everything that can be done must be done to secure and safeguard truth**

*Buy the truth, and do not sell it; also wisdom and instruction and understanding. (Pr. 23:23)*

**We need the truth!**

***Truth is available! (God has made truth available to us!)***

*Thou art near, O Lord, and all Thy commandments are truth. (Psalm 119:151)*

*“Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth. (John 17:17)*

*In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.*

*(James 1:18)*

***Truth is knowable!***

*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 the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3-4)*

*Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:31-32)*

*So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (Ephesians 5:17)*

***Truth is applicable!***

**CALL** upon the Lord in truth

*The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. (Psa. 145:18)*

**SERVE** the Lord in truth

*“Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. (1 Sam. 12:24)*

**WALK** before the Lord in truth

*Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name. (Psa. 86:11)*

WORSHIP the Lord in truth

*"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 those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (Jn. 4:23-24)*

### **We need the whole truth**

***Our hearts must be open to the truth, not merely the preservation of what we believe or what others have believed.***

John Locke: "To love truth for truth's sake is the principal part of human perfection in this world, and the seed-plot of all other virtues." (Letter to Anthony Collins, Esq., Oct. 29, 1703)

Paul warns of the consequences of not loving the truth as we should! *And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness. (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12)*

***We are not worthy of the blessings of truth if we are not willing to say, "I want all the truth".***

*"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. (John 16:13)*

This is a wonderful promise. God does not promise to reveal all truth to each of us individually; but he did reveal all truth to the apostles. If I want all the truth, I have to listen to them and to all that they said. *We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. (1 John 4:6)*

***Sometimes, what I don't know does hurt me. Did you ever say to someone after a long period of anguish, "Why didn't you tell me that?" Or, did you say, "If I had only known..." Bill Crews wrote the following plea about truth:***

If you are my friend, if you are concerned about my soul, give me the truth. Do not flatter me. Do not praise my virtues while remaining silent about my vices. Do not fear that truth will offend me. Do not treasure our friendship, our friendly relations, above my salvation. Do not think that by ignoring my sins you can help me. Do not think that being blind to my sins will prove yourself charitable. However I

may react to it, whatever may be my attitude toward you after you have done it, *give me the truth*. For the *truth*, and only the *truth*, can make me free from the shackles of sin (John 8:32), strengthen me in the pathway of righteousness and lead me to the joys of heaven. If I am wavering, weak, lukewarm, indifferent, neglectful; if I have been overtaken in a trespass; if I have been drawn into the pleasures of the world; if I have left my first love; if I have been led astray by error; or if I have done none of these, but simply need to grow in knowledge and be edified, GIVE ME THE TRUTH!

### **We need nothing but the truth**

***What happens when our faith is corrupted by erroneous ideas? There can be great danger for us.***

Teachers may teach things about the Lord that compromise the gospel plan of salvation..

*I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:6-9)*

Teachers may teach things about the life of a Christian that lead us into a life of fleshly living from which we were saved.

*For speaking out arrogant words of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved. (2 Peter 2:18-19)*

### **Conclusion: Value the concept of truth!**

***Make it your first priority about every religious question to ask, “What is right? What has God said about it?”***

***Don’t be afraid to ask for authority for a religious practice. Where does the Bible teach it?***

***Listen with a questioning mindset! Ask for reasonable proof!***

***Don’t be content with what you know! Keep seeking to know more!***

***Don’t be angry when someone tells you the truth! Instead look for how to apply it and become a more faithful servant of God!***

**In doing these things you prove your loyalty to “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth”.**