

What is Truth

Reminder: Are you believing and living the truths you have already learned? Don't just be a hearer of the word and not a doer.

The Challenges We Face Today

The challenge that many people face today is to know what is true and what is not. Is there a way we can know what the truth is about life and death, good and evil, right and wrong or on any other issue of life?

- There is a lot of professed truth in our world about many things, but what truth is really truth and who defines it?
- There are many religions, philosophies, doctrines, teachings and thoughts about what truth is? Which one is right or are they all right?
- Is truth relative? My truth may not be your truth. Whose truth is the right truth?
- If man has an eternal destiny, it is critical we know the truth about this. Who has that truth and how do we really know it is the truth.

Understanding what truth is and knowing the author of truth is essential to ensuring we have the right perspective on life and the after-life.

Lesson Truth

I must know the truth if I am to journey through this life for the purpose of the one who created me. I must seek for truth and be able to discern truth from error so I do not get to the end of my life only to discover I missed it.

Lesson Goal

The goal of this lesson is for you to know what truth is and to be able to discern truth. Also to learn the source of all truth and to discover that God's truth is absolute, not relative.

Lesson Discussion

What Is Truth



John 18:38 ESV "What is truth?"

The dictionary defines truth as the true or actual state of a matter. In actuality it is a bit more difficult to define. The scripture above is taken from the scene when Pilate condemned Jesus to death. Jesus had made the statement to Pilate that everyone on the side of truth listens to Him. And Pilate responded "what is truth".

Many are asking that same question today and many will continue to go to their grave not knowing the answer. What is the real answer to that question? Many philosophers have professed ideas of what the truth is about life, about death or about how we were created or for what purpose.

Is there one overall encompassing truth or is truth valid only from the perspective of the one proposing it? Is the Bible true? Is the creation story true? Is the Koran true? Is the Big Bang theory true? Are any of the other hundreds of other books written about man's idea of truth true?

In the passage above Jesus says that everyone on the side of truth listens to Him. So from this reference it seems there is a right side of truth. If this is the case I would think most people want to be on that side and not the other side, which is error or a lie, the opposite of truth. Who wants to live their life and realize at the end they lived a lie.

Truth is a Person Not a Concept

For true Christians, the truth is not a concept or ideal, but a person. It makes it much easier to understand truth and removes the possibility of error or lies, if the truth is a person. Jesus identified Himself as the truth, the truth about God, the truth about creation, the truth about

life and death and what comes after that. If what Jesus states is true, than we can find all the truth we need from one undeniable source, the Son of God.



John 14:6 ESV “I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Even many Christians are confused about what Jesus is really saying here. If it is misunderstood, Christianity becomes a bunch of laws, rules, doctrines, teachings and controversies about the Christian way of life. But when the way and the truth and the life is a person, things become much simpler.

When truth is condensed down to one thing, it becomes very simple. One thing in life truly matters above everything else, and that one thing is a person and His name is Jesus Christ. Jesus is the one who revealed the Father to His disciples and taught them many truths about the Kingdom of God that even the Jews did not know.

For Jesus to make this statement that he is the truth instead of saying He knows the truth or is teaching truth, makes the life of Christians so simple. When you have Jesus in your life, guess what, you have the truth. In Jesus are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Who else do you need? What other teaching do you need? Go to the source, the truth, Jesus.



Colossians 2:2-3 ESV “That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

Choosing To Believe His Truth

The truth about the truth is that it comes from one source, Jesus. Anything you want to know about God’s viewpoint can be found in God’s Word. Maybe you say the Bible is just a book of stories and good teachings. The Bible is also Jesus. In the book of John it says “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” The Word embodies truth, both of which are from one source, Jesus.



John 1:1, 14 ESV “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

If Jesus is the Truth and Jesus is the Word of God, than we should probably pay pretty close attention to what He had to say. The Jewish leaders chose not to believe that Jesus was who He said He was and they missed out.

The Disciple’s Field Manual will present the truths of Jesus Christ, truths, that if they are embraced and truly believed, lead to a new life, a life that is truly life and that can be found no other way.

You must choose to believe Jesus even if you have doubts or are uncertain. These truths must be received and obeyed through faith, faith in Him. Whether you like it or not or whether it lines up with what you think or believe, Jesus has the final word and will always have the final word because He is one with the Father and everything that comes from Jesus comes from the Father.

If you do not already know Jesus and do not have a personal relationship with the Way, the Truth, and the Life, the next lessons will show you how you can experience God, receive His salvation and receive the Holy Spirit.



One Step for Living This Truth

The step you need to take is to simply accept and acknowledge Jesus as the way, the truth and the life so that after you can find freedom to experience peace, contentment and joy in your life as you enter the life that is truly life.

ACTION STEP

Read the first chapter in the Book of John. It may be helpful to read it a couple times over the next few days. Then continue reading the New Testament beginning with Matthew, reading a chapter a day. Review the scriptures at the end of this lesson.

Spend some time alone with God and think about these things that you have learned. Ask God to open your eyes to the truth He wants you to know. If you are a true seeker of truth you will begin to see things clearer and a new hope will begin to build in your heart.

Bumper Sticker Summary

Jesus is the truth and all truth is in Jesus. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Jesus. As you begin to line up your life with the truth, you begin to be set free to experience the life that is truly life.

Illustration

Chris had been a Christian for many years, attending many bible studies and was active in the church. He knew a lot of the bible and was leading a bible study in his church. Yet he was struggling with his life because he had all this knowledge of God's Word but it did not seem real to him.

It seemed something was missing because he still struggled in many areas of his life, his work,

his relationships, his finances and habits and thinking patterns that he knew was wrong. He did not know why he was not living, acting, and speaking according to what he professed to believe.

Paul did not have peace and contentment in his life and very little of the joy of the Lord. He had lots of worry, anxiety, stress, fear and doubt about many things in his life. He felt trapped by all the cares and concerns he faced each day and struggled with relationships, especially people who annoyed him or people he could not get along with.

He met a man in his church who seemed different, whom seemed to be living what he professed to believe. So one day he asked him how he was able to have peace and contentment consistently. The man shared with him that having knowledge of the truth is not enough.

He told him that he must have the truth alive in his life and the way to that state is to understand that truth is not a concept or statement, but is a person. It is a living, active relationship with the one who is the Truth and then you can truly know the truth and the truth will set you free. That person is Jesus.

The man told Paul that a disciple is one who accepts the Truth, obeys the Truth, who loves the Truth and devotes his life to the Truth. It leads to a life that can then live the truth it professes to believe. Paul took this wisdom to heart and asked the man if he would help him learn to live this kind of life. The man was happy to help Paul on this journey and it changed Paul's spiritual life dramatically. He began to experience the peace, contentment and joy that had been missing in his life.



Scriptures on Truth

You may want to review each of these scriptures in context of the chapter where they are found to understand how they are used in that context.

John 8:31-32 ESV “So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Romans 1:18 ESV “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.”

Romans 2:8 ESV “but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury”.

1 Corinthians 2:13 ESV “And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual”.

Galatians 5:7 ESV “You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?”

Ephesians 1:13 ESV “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,”

Ephesians 4:21 ESV “assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus,”

Ephesians 6:14 ESV “Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,”

Colossians 1:5 ESV “because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,”

2 Thessalonians 2:10 ESV “and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.”

2 Thessalonians 2:12 ESV “..in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

2 Thessalonians 2:13 ESV “But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first

fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.”

1 Timothy 2:4 ESV “who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

1 Timothy 6:5 ESV “and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain.”

2 Timothy 2:15 ESV “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:18 ESV “..who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.”

2 Timothy 3:7 ESV “..always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.”

James 1:18 ESV “Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.”

1 Peter 1:22 ESV “Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,”

2 Peter 2:22 ESV “And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed”

1 John 2:16 ESV “If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth”

1 John 2:4 ESV “Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,”

1 John 3:18 ESV “Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”

2 John 1:4 ESV “I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father.”

Psalm 25:5 ESV “Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.”

Psalm 86:11 ESV “Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.”

Proverbs 23:23 ESV “Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.”

John 1:17 ESV “For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

John 4:24 ESV “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

John 8:44 ESV “You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

John 14:17 ESV “...even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

John 16:13 ESV “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come”

John 17:17 ESV “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

John 1:17 ESV “For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

John 5:33 ESV “You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth.”

Psalm 86:11 ESV “Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth, unite my heart to fear your name.”

Psalm 119:160 ESV “The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.”