A man was once appointed to a special traffic committee in his city to improve the laws for safety.

He enthusiastically attended all the meetings, made numerous suggestions and proposals, and voted for better enforcement of the regulations.

But often, when returning from work late at night, he drove right through the stop signs along the way… and exceeded the speed limits in his hurry to get home.

To him, many of these same laws for safety did not mean what they should have meant.

It is not enough just to believe in a law, a rule, or a command.

When one does not obey, they prove by their actions, that it means nothing to them.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

2 John V1 – 2

The O.T. meaning of truth denotes “security” (you can take that check to the bank and it will cash). N.T. Meaning is “true”.

The Truth is always true. It never changes with ever changing cultural beliefs. You can count on it!

Sounds pretty important, Huh?!

How many prefer something other than Truth?

John 18:37, 38

Pilate asked; “What is truth?”

John 8:31-32 – Truth… is the teachings of Jesus, the Christ. There are some who may believe that only means the red letters of Christ in the N.T., but wouldn’t that devalue the O.T.?

Students of the Word however, know John 1:1

Jesus’ exemplified and quoted the teachings of the O.T., He did not invalidate it.

He even said that He did not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it.

(Matthew 5:17)

Jesus is the “entire” Truth of God’s Word… and says, “whoever holds (abides, lives, dwells, remains) in His teachings (Word of God)…

Contradicts the belief of some very popular churches, Because not only does Jesus imply that obedience to the TRUTH is possible, He attaches the promise of freedom to all those who choose to obey His TRUTH.

In 2 John V3 John says that Grace, mercy, and peace (I want those, amen?) will be with us how?

2 John V3

In TRUTH and love (both working hand in hand)

2 John V4

3 John V3-4

Why only “some”? Apparently the majority of folks in that local church, for whatever reason, chose not to love Christ enough to abide, live, dwell, remain in His Word.

Loving Jesus, brings no guarantee of abiding, living, dwelling, remaining in God’s Word.

Which always begs the question: How can I know if I am abiding, living, dwelling, remaining in the TRUTH of God’s Word?

Isaiah 55:10-13

If you’re love & faith has you “holding” to the TRUTH of Christ, your life is bearing the fruit of Christ. God’s Word always produces for the Kingdom of Heaven.

When we’re living by the Word of God, “Heaven” has:

* Entered you
* It’s occurring in you
* It’s growing in you, and most importantly…
* It’s falling out of you!

When that happens, people come to faith in Christ thru you, they are discipled and the process continues until you hear Matthew 25:21…

“Well done thy good and “faithful” servant”.

You may not ever preach a message or teach a class…

A simple life lived by faith and love… according to the Word of God will prove to the world that God exists.

It will also show the world the tremendous VALUE & FREEDOM that living by the TRUTH of God’s Word brings to a human life.

2 John V5-6

1 John 2:5-6

2 John V7

1 John 4:1-3

How do we test the spirits?

The word “acknowledges” (2 John V7) is interesting. Other versions of the Bible say; “confesses” that Jesus has come in the flesh…

The actual Greek meaning (in addition to the two I just read) is:

* Give Thanks – does their life demonstrate giving thanks that “Jesus has come in the flesh”. Imposters don’t
* Promise – is God’s promise that “Jesus has come in the flesh”, visible in them, do they resemble Jesus… Is heaven (occurring, growing, falling out of their life).

Promises aren’t kept with words, but action.

I personally see a big and meaningful difference between the former two and the latter two. How about you?

2 John V8

Do you have any idea what has been invested, to get you where you are today Spiritually? Think with me for a minute…

* Beginning with God the Father sacrificing His Son
* Jesus sacrificing His life in obedience to the Father.
* All of the disciples who faithfully promised their lives to Christ and the message Christ.
* All of your former pastors/teachers

I personally invest 15-20 hours preparing one sermon… multiply that by the number of sermons/teachings that you’ve heard so far in your Christian life.

You are loved… incredible sacrifices have been made, HUGE amounts of time have been invested so that you can receive the TRUTH of Christ… to but to live by.

The last thing that any of those people want, is for you to lose the growth they have invested tremendous amounts and even given their lives to see produced in you.

How many of you have worked so hard and invested so much in a garden only to see your vegetables get:

* Eaten by pests
* Scorched by the heat or
* Eaten by animals

You and I are the same, but Spiritual fruit! Beware, watch out!

I only wish that my vegetable garden could have and warded of the attacks of the enemy as John encouraged this local church to!

How can we know who to steer clear of?

1 John 2:3-4

* Those who oppose Christ do not live by His Word.
* They are possessed by the spirit of “anti-Christ”.

Are you living by God’s Word when it comes to even basic truths of God’s Word, like

* Attending church whenever the doors are open to grow?
* Growing by serving Christ both inside and outside His church
* Give the 10% tithe that His Word commands that we give

Does your life reflect God’s Word or oppose It?

2 John V9

How can you and I prevent from “running ahead” and suffering such a catastrophic loss?

Galatians 5:25

James 1:23-25

The true believer and follower of Jesus is a “doer” of God’s Word, not just a “hearer”.

2 John V10

Be the reason someone WELCOMES you in!!

Romans 16:17-18

2 John V11 – OUCH!

2 John V12-13

Please stand as the praise team comes forward for our closing song:

If there are areas of God’s Word that you are struggle to obey, come to an altar and talk to the Lord as we sing “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”…

Talk to God, He loves, hears, forgives and helps us get back on track!