

Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Truth

(2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises
But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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Truth.

INTRODUCTION: It is very common in Christian churches to hear the words, "We have the truth," but what does it really mean. Some churches apply it to every teaching of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, but when Jesus, the apostles and Paul use the words, "The truth" did they have in mind all the history of Israel and every teaching and prophetic message of the entire Bible or did they have something else in mind? Certainly everything that is true is truth, whether it is biblical or secular, whatever is not a lie is truth whether its Bible truth or secular truth. The focus of this study is not upon all truth, but upon the truth Jesus, the apostles and Paul had in mind when they talk about keeping the truth, following the truth and walking in the truth.

To gain an insight into what Jesus, the apostles and Paul had in mind when talking about the truth we will begin by taking a brief look at most New Testament Scriptures that talk about truth. Before we do let me say that this study is not about explaining the verses, but simply to discover what the focus of the truth contained in them is upon.

- Everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed, but whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God (John 3:20-21).

Truth in these verses is in the context of corrupt deeds and good deeds it's about right behaviour and wrong behaviour.

- Jesus said: the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24).

Prior to these verses Jesus refers to the worship of the Jewish fathers and the Jews at Jerusalem in his day. The Jewish fathers worshipped God, but God said their heart was far from Him, and the religious leaders at Jerusalem (the chief priests, the Pharisees and scribes) worshipped God, but they not only rejected Jesus but also plotted to have him murdered.

Worship in Spirit and in truth in this context embraces the following two things: -

1. Believing message of the cross and the truth that Jesus is the Son of God and Saviour of the world.
 2. Worshipping from a true and honest heart as opposed to one that is just going through the motions like the Jewish fathers and the chief priests, the Pharisees and scribes at Jerusalem were doing. It is worshipping from a reality of love for God and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ as opposed to worshipping from a prideful and hypocritical heart of pretence or from a sense of legalistic duty or to look spiritual to others.
- Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (John 8:31-32).

The context this verse is in is about being set free from sin and the only truth that will set us free from sin is the Gospel message of the Lord Jesus Christ. Truth in this context is about salvation it is about the Gospel message that leads to salvation and eternal life

- Because I tell the truth, you do not believe me, which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? (John 8:45-46).

Truth in this context is about the claims Jesus made of himself (i.e., he was the Son of God) and the words Jesus spoke concerning the Gospel message of salvation and about sin.

- If you love me you will keep my commandments and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper (Comforter in KJV) to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth (John 14:15-17).

This verse shows that the Helper is the Spirit of truth and the following verses shows that this Spirit was to help the apostles proclaim the Lord Jesus Christ and comfort them in the face of persecution.

- When the Helper (Comforter in KJV) comes, whom I will send to you (the apostles) from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me (John 15:26-27).

Truth in this context is any teaching that testifies to Jesus.

- I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter in KJV) (the Spirit of truth) will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you and when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment (John 16:7-8).

Truth in this context is about conviction of sin, right behaviour and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you (the apostles) 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. He will glorify me for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. (John 16:13-15).

Truth in this context is all about Jesus and all teachings concerning him.

- For I have given them (the apostles) the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you and they have believed that you sent me (John 17:8).

Truth in this context is the truth Jesus came from the Father and the truth God sent him.

- Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world— to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice" (John 18:37-38).

Truth in this context is the truth Jesus was born to be a King and that his Kingdom is not of this world and embraces all the words Jesus spoke.

- The law the embodiment of knowledge and truth (Rom. 2:20).

Truth in this context is about the law specifically the Ten Commandments these ten laws are the personification and heart of truth. It should be highlighted that the underlying Spirit of these laws is love they embody love since each of the six laws concerning mankind protects the innocent from harm.

- Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (1 Cor. 5:8).

Truth in this context is about sincerity, honesty, decency and integrity in contrast to malice, deceit, hypocrisy and pretence.

- The truth of Christ is in me (Paul) (2 Cor. 11:10).

Truth in this context is all truth concerning Christ.

- We (apostles) cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth (2 Cor. 13:8).

The truth in the context is refers to everything that is in accord and in harmony with the will of God and teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? (Gal. 5:7).

This verse links back to the previous verses of the chapter in which Paul is rebuking the Galatians for departing from salvation by faith and grace and returning back under the law to earn righteousness that leads to eternal life. The truth in this context is the truth that we are saved by faith and grace and not works of the law.

- 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 (Ephes. 1:13).

This entire chapter is about the glory of Christ truth in this context is the Gospel, of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ and everything concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.

- 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 Tim. 2:15-16).

Truth in this context is about living a lifestyle that is in accordance with the teachings of Christ, the apostles and Paul and correctly teaching the message of the cross and the Gospel message of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Some have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened and are upsetting the faith of some (2 Tim. 2:18).

Truth in this context is about false teaching concerning the resurrection of Christ and by extension would embrace all teaching that is contrary to the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, the teachings of the apostles and of Paul.

- If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth (1 John 1:6).

The truth is in this context it about confessing that we believe in Christ and yet living a lifestyle of sin.

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8).

The truth is in this context is about self-deception, self-righteousness and believing we have no sin.

- Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth (1 John 3:18).

Prior to this verse Jesus said whoever sees a brother in need and does not do anything to help cannot have God's love dwelling in them, truth in this context is about good deeds and helping others.

- This is he who came by water and blood Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood and the Spirit is the one who testifies because the Spirit is the truth (1 John 5:6-12).

The truth in this context is about testifying that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Saviour of the world.

- The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth (2 John 1:1).
- The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth (3 John 1:1)

Truth in these verses embraces the following two things

1. Paul honestly and sincerely loves this woman and Gaius with a heartfelt bond of kinship and brotherly and family love because of their faithfulness to the Lord.
2. All things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ and the apostle's and Paul's teachings that proclaim Jesus, is the Son of God and came from the Father and was sent by him. He was crucified and buried and raised to eternal glory and at this present time is seated at the right hand side of God in heaven and until he returns in glory salvation to eternal life is through faith in his name and by God's grace.

- I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father and now I ask you, dear lady— not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning— that we love one another (2 John 1:4-6).

The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ does not only teach the message of salvation, but also embraces right behaviour. Walking in the truth is biblical language for behaviour and lifestyle truth in this context is about right behaviour and showing love to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

- Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true (3 John 1:12).

Everyone who knew Demetrius spoke well of him including the apostles because of his godly behaviour and his sincerity to the Gospel message of Christ. Truth in this context is about godly behaviour and correct teaching concerning the Gospel message of the Lord Jesus Christ.

SUMMARY.

This study began with the statement, everything that is true is truth, whether it is biblical or secular, what is not a lie is truth, nevertheless it did not set out to discover all truth but focused on what the New Testament biblical writers had in mind when they spoke of the truth.

From these verses it becomes very clear that when Jesus, the apostles and Paul spoke about the truth they did not have in mind all the history of Israel and every teaching and prophetic message of the entire Bible, but the message of the cross and everything pertaining to Jesus, the grace of God, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and teachings that lead to right behaviour.

It is interesting to notice the following three things: -

1. When Jesus, the apostles and Paul speak about Abraham and David their primary goal is not upon teaching the history of Abraham and David, but using them to prove to unbelieving and doubting Jews that Jesus is the promised seed of Abraham, and of David and when they speak of the Old Testament Scriptures their primary goal is not upon teaching them, but using them to prove to the Jews that Jesus is the promised Messiah the Christ and Saviour that the Scripture proclaim and is the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy, the better covenant and the deliver Moses said was to come like him and the faithful prophets of old said was to come.
2. When Jesus, the apostles and Paul were speaking to the Gentiles they spoke in parables and stories and things the Gentiles could relate to since the Gentile nations knew nothing about Abraham and David etc., and God's promises to Israel and his dealings with them since their focus was upon pagan gods not Israel's God.
3. The focus of every chapter of the New Testament is about some aspect of the Lord Jesus Christ or some aspect of behaviour (good or bad).

This study shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that when Jesus, the apostles and Paul speak about the truth the only things in their minds is the things we need to know concerning the way to salvation and right behaviour. This is because know one needs to know the Bible from Genesis to Revelation to be saved to eternal life and no one has to be a walking Bible encyclopaedia before they can enter the Kingdom of God.

The Bible says: -

- Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book (Heb. 10:7).

This means that the entire central message of the prophets and the Scriptures is Christ and the central theme of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation is Christ, because whoever has Christ and faithfully follows him has eternal life. Even the faithful of the Old Testament looked by faith toward the appearing of the promised Messiah the Christ to come and when Jesus died on the cross his cleansing blood does not just cleanse those who believe in him from his resurrection onward, it flows back like a spiritual river overflowing its banks cleansing all the faithful of the Old Testament all the way back to Adam and Eve.

When the New Testament talks about the truth it refers to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the Gospel of grace that leads to salvation and eternal life. Obviously the Bible is not the only truth everything that is true is truth whether it is biblical or secular, but the Bible contains the only truth that teaches about God, his eternal plans, purposes and promises and the way to reconciliation with God, salvation and eternal life.

When a careful study is done through the New Testament it becomes very clear that when Jesus, the apostles and Paul spoke of the truth that they did not have in mind all Old Testament history or every doctrine of the Bible, but only that truth that relates to the following two things: -

1. The Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Right behaviour and doing-good.

The truth as used by Christ, the apostles and Paul embraces everything pertaining to Jesus, the grace of God, the Gospel and teachings that lead to salvation, eternal life and right behaviour.

NOTE: this does not mean that it is not profitable to study and learn the truths about Abraham, David, the prophets, Israel and their history and God's dealing with them. Though we do not need to know these things to be saved to eternal life knowing them will give us wisdom, strengthen our faith, give us insights into God and his ways and strengthen our hearts and minds in what we believe.

For further information see the titles: -

- Gospel.
- Doctrine (True and Sound Doctrine).

Both titles are in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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