



March 1, 2019

## The Truth

**Do you know the truth?** Many people think or say that they know the truth, but do they really? We want to get to the bottom of this. **What is the truth? And how do you know if you have found it?** It's important to know if you know the truth or not.

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.’” John 14:6 NASB.

**If someone doesn't know Jesus, really know Him, then they really don't know 'the Truth.'** *Someone may think that they know 'all truth,' but not know 'the Truth.'* *Knowing right from wrong is a good place to start, but in order to do what is right you need a power beyond yourself. Many make the mistake of thinking that a mere knowledge of the truth and the belief in it is enough, but it is not unless they know Jesus, because He is the only way and the truth and the life.* Without the power to be good, knowing the truth is not enough. **If you don't know Jesus, you will not have that new life that He wants to give you, or have life more abundantly.** John 10:10; 1 John 5:12. *You need to know Jesus in order to be born again. Jesus declared that only those who are born again will be able to enter the kingdom of Heaven.* John 3:3, 5. If you have the Son you have the life, if you do not have the Son you do not have the life! 1 John 5:12 NASB. **If you want to know 'the truth,' you must get to know Jesus, because He is 'the Truth.'** Otherwise you do not have it. This life from Him that He longs to give you is a vibrant relationship with Him, where He opens to you the way of the truth and gives you the power to do it! Do not be deceived, without knowing Him you cannot do or keep the truth and will stumble on the way.

**What did Jesus mean when He said that 'no one comes through the Father but through Me?'** Those who think that they are going to be saved because of their knowledge of the scriptures, or because of their knowledge of the truth as given by other inspired Christian authors, or because of their own good works, without having to go through Jesus to be saved will be in for a rude awakening at the second resurrection.

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power \*\*\*” Revelation 20:6 KJV. **But what is the second death? And why is it that we don't want to be resurrected at the second resurrection?** Because Jesus said, “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come

forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28-29 KJV. **The two resurrections Jesus describes here are: 1) the resurrection of life, and 2) the resurrection of damnation.** This is why Revelation 20:6 declares that 'blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection,' because the second death is the resurrection of damnation! **The second death does not sound good, does it? We don't want any part of that!**

**Many people think that a knowledge of the truth or their belief in it will save them, but it will not, unless they get salvation from Jesus.** No one can be saved, except those who come through Jesus to get to the Father. **Only Jesus' blood forgives their sins and makes them acceptable to God.**

There may be some people who are saved, who didn't know Jesus or the basics of Christianity. God can choose to forgive them based on the blood of Jesus,' this is His prerogative, since He is a God of love and justice and fairness. **But doesn't this contradict what we just stated? No.** God doesn't hold someone accountable for what they didn't know and couldn't learn in their lifetime. *This is important to understand. People who don't know about Jesus can still be saved by Jesus, not by anything that they have done or not done.* We are all saved by the merits of Jesus' blood alone. **Are we saying that you don't have to be a Christian at all to be saved?** Not exactly. **In the times of ignorance God winked, but He is now commanding men and women everywhere to repent and believe in Jesus.** The apostle Paul declared: "Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." Acts 17:29-31 KJV. Jesus loves poor sinners who don't know Him, and will plead His blood for them if they were honest and doing the best that they could with what they knew. **But no one can be saved without Jesus' blood. No! It is impossible! That is what Jesus meant.** *But as Paul plainly indicated, even though that in the times of ignorance God winked, there will come a day when people who don't know Jesus will be held accountable for their ignorance (including those who believe that they are Christians but don't really know Him), if they fail to avail themselves of the opportunity of learning about Him, and they resist the Holy Spirit. So once they learn about Jesus, they need to come to Him for forgiveness and life, and not try to be saved in any other way, or through their own merit or goodness.* **It must be remembered, that the unpardonable sin for a sinner is resisting the Holy Spirit or failing to obey His pleading in their heart.** John 16:8-11; Acts 7:51; Mark 3:22-30. The unpardonable sin is the one sin that will keep someone out of Heaven - which is resisting the Holy Spirit.

**It is possible to study the truth of the Bible your entire life and not know the most essential truth of them all - Jesus.** *This is the one thing you cannot do without!* **How does this happen?** It is done by doing your own thing, or by rendering less than a full consecration to God, and resisting the pleas of the Holy Spirit. **If you cooperate with God and listen to the Holy Spirit, He will testify to you of Jesus, so that you can know Him.** John 15:26. It's your choice what you will do and whether you will have the new life that Jesus is offering you or not. **Someone who "knows" the truth, who doesn't know Jesus and has**

**not devoted themselves to Him cannot help but have deep spiritual problems.** When someone tries to keep the truth without knowing Him, they will either sink into a legalistic quagmire, or into a careless state that some folks have who think they can do what they like, since they are 'saved.' (This is the way they have been taught by the lukewarm professors of 'the truth', where 'the truth' is picked out and made to contradict other portions of the Bible and against itself.) A lot of God's people seem to fall in either one of these categories. **Neither of these groups know Jesus, because He plainly declared that if the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed."** "If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed." John 8:36 NASB. Jesus stated this in response to what took place here: "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.' They answered Him, 'We are Abraham's offspring, and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You shall become free?'" Jesus answered them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. And the slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever.'" John 8:31-35 NASB. **Jesus' response indicated that they needed to be made free.** They believed that they were OK since they were descended from Abraham. But Jesus told them that since they had committed sin that they were slaves of sin, needing to be made free. Thus they were not really free like they thought they were. They were in as much need of being free as we are in our day! No human being is not in need of being made free; we all need this freedom which only Jesus can give. Those who have addictions to sin that they can't break out of are definitely not free indeed. Clearly these do not know Jesus yet, because He came to free the captives (Isaiah 61:1-8; Luke 4:18) and make them free indeed.

**Therefore if the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed!** Just believe it. He cannot lie! If He has made you free, you will be free indeed! Has he made you free dear reader? This is the real gospel that Jesus and the disciples preached. Freedom! This freedom can be yours too if you greatly desire it! Jesus has promised this to you if you are tired of being a slave to sin! **Why not claim this promise for yourself and finally be free? You owe it to yourself to do this!** This is the best thing that will ever happen to you and will help you on your way to Heaven!

**Those who do not know Jesus cannot be free indeed.** Those who do not know Jesus cannot obey Him. Those who do not know Jesus cannot possibly please Him, regardless of how many Bible texts they try to stack up to indicate that there is no need to. They try to drown out God's requirements in the Bible that declare that the wages of sin is death [Romans 6:23] and that we need to live holy lives for Him [1 Peter 1:15-16], confessing our sins to Him. 1 John 1:9. And unfortunately many today also teach that confession of sin to God is not needed for someone who gets 'saved,' because they say 'it was finished' at the cross or some other mumbo-jumbo nonsense. But someone who knows Jesus will want to please Him! It is automatic. They won't be doing it to save themselves, but because they love Him, and because He gives them the power to obey. Those who don't love Him, don't please Him and don't obey Him. Maybe this is the problem.

**The Bible should never be read or studied in such a way as to make it contradict itself; we should seek out the closest harmony in it, because God is a God of order.** "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." 1 Corinthians 14:33 KJV. And: "Let all things be done decently and in order." 1 Corinthians 14:40 KJV. **Yes you are saved by grace alone, not by your works. But this does not negate the rest of the Bible. Yes God offers forgiveness for your sins and mistakes**

when you confess them, but He wants you to live a holy life, and He has provided a way for you to do so, if you will become a partaker of the divine nature through Jesus. “For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.” 2 Peter 1:4 NASB.

**Jesus declared: “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”** Matthew 5:48 NASB. Many people live, teach and act as if Jesus didn't mean what He said, and said what He meant here! They seem to think that it is impossible for them to live a good life this side of Heaven. But what did Jesus say? He said be ye perfect therefore as your heavenly father is perfect. This is a command, not something you can do if you want to. If what Jesus said was not true, this would make Him a liar! God forbid! Now who is the liar? The liar is the one who says we don't need to concern ourselves with what Jesus said here; they use other scriptures to try to negate it. The liar is the one who says that Jesus didn't come in the flesh (living as we do, tried and tempted as we are in all points, yet without sin [Hebrews 4:15] – thus showing us how to live). John writes: “For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.” 2 John 1:7 KJV. And: “Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.” 1 John 2:22-23 NASB. Anyone who teaches that we don't need to obey all of what Jesus taught, or that we can be saved by any other way than through Jesus is the liar. (Including that they can be saved merely through their knowledge and belief in ‘the truth.’) **How can anyone be right, regardless of their quotes or reasoning if they contradict Jesus? Who does John say this is? The antichrist! There, I have done it! I have invoked the title of the arch evil one for that lie, for he is the father of lies! The liar is the one who contradicts Jesus. The liar is the one who says that we do not need to crucify the flesh with its sinful passions and desires. Paul declares, “Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”** Galatians 5:24 NASB. The liar is the one who teaches others to not believe Jesus or teaches unbelief. There can be no misunderstanding of what Jesus stated here in Matthew 5:48 with someone whose mind is open to ‘the way, the truth and the life’ - Jesus. You don't have to have a doctor's degree in theology to figure out what He meant. He said be ye perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect, and that is what He meant.

**Jesus also stated that those who love Him keep His word, and that those who don't love Him do not hear Him or keep His word.** “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; ...’” John 14:23 NASB. And: **“He who does not love Me does not keep My words;** and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.” John 14:24 NASB. And: “Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love Me; for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. \*\*\* If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.’” John 8:42-47 NASB.

**The problem here is that unbelief blocks the plain words of Jesus, making them seem obscure or something that is unimportant or something that cannot be right, without considering the ramifications of this view. Of course many people don't view this as making Jesus a liar, but it's true. Either what**

Jesus said is true or what they believe is true that contradicts Jesus. But they cannot both be right. Those who truly believe in righteousness by faith, learn true faith. *When they learn that God is to be fully trusted, they start to take the word of God as it reads, and stop quibbling over what it says and simply believe it.* **All would do well to get to this point in their spiritual life, where they simply believe the word of God without any doubt.** (Take the Bible as it reads, unless you are reading a passage which is clearly symbolic and needs interpreting, but then study other portions of the Bible to learn what it means. The Bible will explain itself if you let it and want to know 'the Truth.')

But this language that Jesus used is so unmistakable, so unavoidable - a child should be able to understand it. So why is it that many adults cannot understand what He said? It is because of unbelief! People schooled in years of unbelief, stuck in addictions or trying to be good by themselves are those who come up with humanistic theories that contradict the plain word of God, such as the error that we do not need to be perfect or cannot be perfect. Jesus would not have commanded His followers to be perfect if it were not possible through His help to do so.

**If you wish to be saved and please God, you must believe what is written in the Bible, because it is the word of God.** You must believe in the promises of God to free you from sin and save you, otherwise you have no hope of being saved. John 3:16-17. **Why waste your time with a religion that doesn't offer you hope?** This is not the gospel of the Bible at all, but another gospel. 2 Corinthians 11:4; Galatians 1:6-26. This is not the gospel that Jesus, Paul, David or John or the many cloud of witnesses in the Bible preached. **"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;** who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2 KJV. But the devil's sophistry blinds people to the clear truth. If you want to be undeceived by his lies and deceptions, pray to God to be merciful to you a sinner and He will help you! Luke 18:13. This is something He will be happy to do! We promise you! And He will open your mind to 'the Truth.' **Is that what you want? But what truth is that? That you would know the one and true God and Jesus His Son, who made the sacrifice for your sins, that you might be forgiven and be made free indeed! Jesus prayed to His Father for all of His disciples** (which can be you too if you want to be His disciple): **"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."** John 17:3 NASB. This is the true gospel! Everything outside of this is another gospel and not the truth. Stop wasting your time on spiritual rubbish or half-truths that are of no value (Isaiah 55:1-3), and learn where real life comes from, and where the real power comes from – Jesus. **There is no other name than Jesus, given among men, whereby you must be saved.** Acts 4:12. If you just get to know Jesus, your life will be changed forever, as long as you abide in Him. John 15:4-6, 9-10. God guarantees it!

**All your righteousnesses are as filthy rags.** Isaiah 64:6 KJV. But this does not mean that God cannot provide you a robe that is pure and spotless! Oh no, this is not true! For this is the promise of the Gospel! The gospel is useless if it cannot make you a better, kinder and gentler person. The gospel is more than forgiveness, it takes away your shame and gives you hope - that you don't have to be or continue to be a miserable failure! The way many preach 'the gospel' today is no gospel at all. The real gospel doesn't give you a pass on your sins, or just heap upon you legal requirements that you can never meet. The real gospel forgives your sins when you confess them. The real gospel helps you to keep

God's requirements and makes you happy! **The real gospel provides a way to lift you up out of the mud and set you on high, in Heavenly places!** If the Son has made you free, you shall be free indeed!

**When will people start to believe what Jesus said, that if He has 'made you free, you will be free indeed?'** Why is it that so many people don't see their need of being free, or how or why Jesus will do this? Why can't people believe the word of God as it is written? Why is it that they can't see that Jesus wants to make them free? **Have they not heard that He loves them?** Have they not heard that He died on the cross for their sins? **Have they not heard that He promised to give them freedom and change them and save them?** Do they not love Him? **Do they not desire these wonderful gifts for themselves?** Or do they think that these are beyond the ability of Jesus to give? Or do they think that they can do this on their own without Him? - as many believe, because pride doesn't have to take the back seat when the person does it themselves, instead of humbling themselves before God. But pride comes before the fall (Proverbs 16:18), and no one can be saved without humbling themselves before God and getting His forgiveness and help to live a good life for Him.

**To summarize this lesson:**

Jesus said, that He 'is the way, the truth, and the life.' **Do you believe now?** *No one can enter into Heaven or get out of this world of sin, but through the blood He shed on the cross for their sins.* No one can come to the Father except through Jesus. **There is nothing you can do that will give you an entrance into Heaven, except through the atoning blood of Jesus for your sins.** *There is no way for you to know 'the truth,' unless you know Jesus.* No one can know 'the truth,' if they first do not know Him, really know Him, and have given themselves to Him. **No one can know 'the way,' unless they know Him.** There is no universal salvation that everyone gets. There is no salvation that anyone gets without knowing 'the Truth' - Jesus. **And no one can have 'the life,' if they do not know Him: It comes through Him alone.** Salvation is given only to those who know the way, the truth and the life. **Regardless of how many 'truths' someone learns from the Bible or by any other inspired writer, unless they know Jesus and are born again (John 3:3, 5) they will in no wise enter the kingdom of Heaven, regardless of which Bible texts they quote to show they can be saved in another way.** *The Bible doesn't contradict itself, and nothing that contradicts Jesus is correct.* Any interpretation of any Bible text which contradicts the plain words of Jesus cannot be the truth and is a lie, for He is 'the Truth.' Those who think that because they know and believe all of the truth in the Bible, who think that this makes them good and will save them, who haven't been changed by Jesus and softened by His love and made into kinder gentler people filled with His Spirit, have deceived themselves. **Jesus is coming back to save those whom He knows.** Jesus declared, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day [the judgement], Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:21-23 KJV. **In the day of the judgment, those who do not know Jesus - will have to depart from Him, and will be cast out into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth.**

**Dear reader, if you have found that you have relied on your own knowledge of the truth to save you, and did not really know Jesus, there is still time to repent and get to know Him.** Dear reader, if you didn't know that you needed to obey Jesus' commands, you can now seek for God's help today. This will

bring you much joy and power! ***None of your Bible knowledge or anything else, no matter how correct it is, will save you unless you know Jesus and are born again.*** Unless you love Him and His Father, and have allowed Them to fill you with the precious Holy Spirit, you cannot know the way, the truth and the life, regardless of how much you have studied the Bible or what any minister has told you. God loves you and wants to save you. Do not resist Him! **Put your full trust in Him, and in the merits of Jesus' blood to atone for your sins, and allow the Holy Spirit to convict you of sin, fill you, and help you to live a righteous life for God.** Let Jesus make you free indeed, breaking your slavery to sin and bad habits that are destroying you or hurting others. This is our prayer for you. Amen.

**May the grace of God be with you, as you get to know 'the way, the truth, and the life' - Jesus! Amen.**

By [John Foll](#), written between 2/23/2019 and 2/27/2019.

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