

**“YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH”**  
**John 8:31,32**

**Introduction:**

1. Society is built upon the supposition that truth exists.
  - a. Laws of science, mathematics, and logic are built upon it.
  - b. God’s revelation in the Bible is also built upon it.
2. Pilate asked: “What is truth?” (John 18:37, 38).
  - a. Jesus Christ is THE Truth (John 14:6).
  - b. God’s Word is Truth (John 17:17).
3. Some characteristics of truth are:
  - a. It is always consistent (Tit. 1:2).
  - b. It is unchanging (Jam. 1:17).
  - c. It is objective, not subjective.
  - d. It is invincible:

“Truth crushed to earth shall rise again;  
The eternal years of God are hers;  
But error, wounded, writhes with pain,  
And dies among its worshippers.”

**Discussion:**

**I. IS TRUTH ABSOLUTE?**

**A. Many believe truth is relative.**

1. James Russell Lowell wrote: “Truth wears a different face to everybody, and it would be too tedious to wait until all all the world was agreed. She is said to lie at the bottom of a well, for the very reason, perhaps, that whoever looks down in search of her sees his own image at the bottom....”
2. Others affirm: “I am absolutely certain that we cannot be certain of anything.”

**B. The Bible deals in absolute truth!**

1. There is but one Gospel that saves (1 Cor. 15:1,2)!
2. The Gospel must not be changed (Gal. 1:6-9)!
3. If we reject God’s salvation, we do it at the peril of our souls (Heb. 2:1-3)!

**II. CAN WE KNOW THE TRUTH?**

**A. It is a reflection upon the character of God to suggest we cannot!**

1. Why give man the Bible if he can not understand it?

2. **A certain preacher said: "I don't understand all the truth; therefore nobody else does; therefore, we cannot be sure about anything."**
    - a. **Because I do not understand all the truth does not mean I cannot understand some of the truth.**
    - b. **Some are "always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim. 3:7).**
- B. Jesus taught that the truth can be known (John 8:32).**

### **III. THERE ARE FALSE VIEWS OF TRUTH.**

- A. "Truth in nature (science) and revealed truth (the Bible) do not have to agree," a college professor of mine once said.**
1. **Truth is always consistent!**
  2. **The same God who created nature gave us the Bible!**
- B. "Truth varies from culture to culture, circumstance to circumstance and person to person."**
1. **I was once reprimanded for taking the Gospel to Africa.**
  2. **A preacher said, "That's the truth as he sees it."**
  3. **Situation "ethics" is based on this idea.**
  4. **Truth is as unchanging as the God Who gave it:**  
  
**"Every good and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is variation or shadow of turning" (Jam. 1:17).**  
  
**"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).**
- C. "Truth mixed with error is just as good as pure truth."**
1. **Why mix arsenic with milk?**
  2. **God's Word must not be changed (Gal. 1:8; Rev. 22:18,19).**
- D. "There is a middle ground between truth and error."**
1. **Some would call this "shades of gray."**
  2. **We must understand that truth is often found between extremes.**
  3. **Truth cannot be compromised (Matt. 6:24; 12:30).**
- E. "Truth is not the exclusive way to salvation."**
1. **Does everyone have a right to his own belief?**
    - a. **Americans have freedom of religion.**
    - b. **Man has freedom of choice.**
    - c. **We will receive the consequences of our choices.**

**2. Jesus said:**

**“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life and there are few who find it” (Matt. 7:13,14).**

**“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves” (Matt. 7:15).**

**“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord’ shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven” (Matt. 7:21).**

**3. Obedience to Christ is essential (Matt. 7:24-27).**

- a. Those who do not obey the Gospel are lost (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
- b. Thomas Warren said: “The Lord is not going to judge us by our interpretation of the Gospel, but by the Gospel; He isn’t going to judge us by what we think the Gospel is, but by the Gospel. The Gospel teaches what it teaches without regard to what any man thinks it teaches.”

**IV. WHAT SHOULD BE OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE TRUTH?**

**A. We must search for it (Acts 17:11).**

- 1. The truth isn’t lost, but without it, we are!
- 2. Having found the truth, we must hold fast to it (1 Th. 5:21).

**B. We must love the truth.**

- 1. Some will believe a lie because they do not love the truth (2 Thess. 2:10-12).
- 2. if we love truth, we will accept correction (Gal. 4:16).

**C. We must walk in the truth (2 John 4).**

**D. We must defend the truth (Phil. 1:17; 1 Pet. 3:15; Jude 3).**

**Conclusion:**

- 1. God has revealed all truth regarding salvation (John 16:13).
- 2. Man can understand the truth that saves (John 8:32).
- 3. Man must obey the truth to be saved (1 Pet. 1:22,23).
- 4. Have you obeyed the truth of the Gospel?

