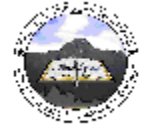




On The Frontier



“For The Glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

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The Popularity Of Truth

People often confuse facts with truth. A fact may be verified and thus deemed genuine. In such a case a fact or facts may be considered *true* but never *truth*. Why? Because facts change but truth remains constant. For instance, George W. Bush is the President of the United States of America. That's a fact, a true fact. Prior to his election this could not be said of him. When his term is up, sans re-election, he will no longer be the President. Should he be re-elected he will retain his position for the election term but at its close his position will change. Facts change, truth does not! Truth is eternal! Truth is that which is unchanging! For example:

Hebrews 13:8
Jesus Christ the same yesterday,
and to day, and for ever.

Our Lord and Savior will not change. He will continue to be all that he is for us throughout eternity. Note what he had to say of himself:

John 14:6
Jesus saith unto him, I am the way,
the truth, and the life: no man
cometh unto the Father, but by
me.

The way! What way? The way to life eternal! The truth! What truth? The truth of God regarding him. The life! What life? That eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested unto us! Glory be to God! Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life. He is the truth found on the lips of God which leads the way unto

eternal life. What a magnificent Savior we have! This is the truth and truth is the same yesterday, today and forever.

John 17:1-17
These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.

For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came out from

thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*.

While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

In the above wonderful prayer our Lord is on record as saying "thy word is truth." God's Word is truth! It will never change, it is eternal even as God is. The truth of God will live and abide forever!

I Peter 1:23

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

Just look at the last phrase in the above verse: ". . . the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

The Bible in Basic English:

I Peter 1:23

Because you have had a new birth, not from the seed of man, but from eternal seed, through the word of a living and unchanging God.

The word of a living and unchanging God! His Word is living and unchanging because He is! This is Truth! His Word is Truth! His Word will never change because He will never change!

Malachi 3:6a

For I am the LORD, I change not;

Isaiah 40:28-31

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of his understanding.

He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

I think I'll wait upon the Lord. How about you? All else will fail save Him. As for truth, there is none outside of His Word. His Word is absolute truth!

There are those who don't believe there is absolute truth and I suppose that's their privilege. But this has no effect on truth. If you'll remember, those in Christopher Columbus' time believed the world to be flat. That didn't make it so as those with courage soon found out. By the same token, our believing the truth of God's Word doesn't make it more genuine. His Word is the truth whether we believe it or not.

II Timothy 2:13

If we believe not, *yet* he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

Truth is wonderful and we should expend every effort to saturate our lives with it.

Proverbs 23:23

Buy the truth, and sell *it* not; *also* wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

We should give whatever it takes to get His Truth. There's nothing of greater value, nothing more worthy of our time and energy.

Matthew 13:44-46

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

How does one find out about the kingdom of heaven apart from the truth of God's Word? Therefore, we should be willing to sell all we have to acquire the Truth! In other words, nothing should stop us from getting to God's Word. NOTHING! Because nothing is of more value. NOTHING! Truly the Word of God is a "pearl of great price."

Psalms 19:7-11

The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple.

The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.

More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is thy servant warned: *and* in keeping of them *there is* great reward.

No wonder the Psalmist is recorded as having said:

Psalms 119:72, 162

The law of thy mouth *is* better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.

I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.

Many years ago a wise man taught me an invaluable truth. That is, "Your attitude towards God's Word will determine your spirituality." Consider this in light of the following passage:

Psalms 85:8-13

I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.

Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed *each other*.

Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Yea, the LORD shall give *that which is good*; and our land shall yield her increase.

Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set *us* in the way of his steps.

Isn't that a beautiful passage? "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed *each other*." Such fabulous imagery! "Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven." Isn't that glorious? And all of this for those that will hear what God the LORD will speak. Truth shall spring out of the earth! Righteousness shall look down from heaven! God will give that which is good and our land shall yield increase! Oh yes, all this and more!!!

Of course this passage speaks of some future events regarding the Messiah but also things relevant to all of God's people who are willing to give an "ear" to truth. Here we see four wonderful endowments that bring salvation to those who fear God. They are: mercy, truth, righteousness and peace.

TRUTH makes known the Will of God for the Word of God is the Will of God.

RIGHTEOUSNESS which is received as a result of obedience to the Truth.

MERCY which relieves man's suffering providing for him forgiveness of sin and its consequence.

PEACE which kisses righteousness when mercy and truth have met together.

Scripturally truth has at least sixteen associates. They are:

1. Mercy - Proverbs 3:3
2. Kindness - II Samuel 2:6
3. Sincerity - I Corinthians 5:8
4. Righteousness - Ephesians 5:9
5. Peace - II Kings 20:19
6. Meekness - Psalm 45:4
7. Love - II John 3
8. Light - Psalms 43:3
9. Goodness - Exodus 34:6
10. Uprightness - Psalm 111:8
11. Faithfulness - Isaiah - 25:1
12. Judgement - Zechariah 8:16
13. Soberness - Acts 26:25
14. Grace - John 1:14-17
15. Life - John 14:6
16. Spirit - John 4:23, 24

Truth is awesome, God's Word IS truth. When we have it and believe it He can set us in the way of his steps. Yet there have always been those who have no stomach for truth.

John 8:31-47

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

The word which Jesus spoke to them was God's Word and as such the Truth. The Word of God is for those who believe, not for those who don't. Look what happens next as the unbelieving Pharisees enter again into the conversation.

Verses 33-37

They [the Pharisees] answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever.

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

The Word (Truth) had no place in them, they wouldn't allow it! Imagine that!!!

Verses 38-43

I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, *even* God.

Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word.

They could not hear the Word (Truth). Weymouth translates the latter part of the above verse this way: . . . "It is because you cannot bear to listen to my words." They had no stomach for Truth (God's Word). How sad, how very sad. Yet, this was their choosing. They were not "predestined" to reject the Truth. They shut their ears to it and worse.

Verse 44

Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

It is therefore safe to say that a rejection of the Truth is devilish. The devil rejected God's Word and refused to stand in it, consequently there is no Truth in him.

Verses 45-47

And because I tell *you* the truth, ye believe me not.

Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God.

One is ungodly when one refuses to hear the Truth, regardless of who one is. Personally, I am VERY happy to impregnate every cell of my brain with the Truth. I consider it an awesome privilege to do so. How about you?

Mankind has always had a problem with the Truth, despite appearances and positions.

Luke 18:18-27

And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none *is* good, save one, *that is*, God.

Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

He had the Truth, Jesus gave it to him. Yet, he didn't want it. Instead of rejoicing and following Jesus, he went away very sorrowfully. So it is with

many today, they have no stomach for the Truth. Tradition not Truth is what most want. Nowadays, people only want to believe what they already believe, they don't want their agendas threatened. They reject the Truth and walk away, just like that man did that day some 2,000 years ago. I'm sorry to say, not much has changed since.

Verses 24-27

And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved?

And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

Thank God that a Way has been provided! How rich in love and kindness our God is!!! We certainly don't deserve His love and yet He showers us with it daily.

Psalms 68:19

Blessed *be* the Lord, *who* daily loadeth us *with benefits*, *even* the God of our salvation. Selah.

The Lord God is so wonderful. He has given us His Word AND His Son! We must never forget that it is His written Word that makes known Jesus Christ and it is Jesus Christ who makes known God. If you love God you must love His Word. However this has not always been popular. Even when the Apostle Paul taught so much of God's Truth that the entire civilized world had an opportunity to hear. The Bible says all Asia got to hear the Word in

just two years and three months.
That's moving the Word!

Acts 19:8-10

And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

Not every one that heard believed but there were copious opportunities for all. Sadly, men's hearts waxed fat with unbelief and thus the Church of God became barren regarding Truth.

II Timothy 1:15

This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.

You must ask yourself if the "all" referred to in this verse is the same "all" as dwelt in Asia and heard the Word of the Lord. Of course those who turned from Paul would and did justify their actions. They laid the blame on him. It was Paul who they couldn't stand. Or was it?

II Timothy 2:18

Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

Having turned from Paul they soon found themselves in error regarding the truth. To complicate matters, their words and deeds caused others to fall.

God compares these individuals to the pagan magicians in Pharaoh's court who endeavored unsuccessfully to withstand Moses.

II Timothy 3:8

Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

After being in error, their problems escalated to the point that they were resisting the Truth. There's only one place left to go after that.

II Timothy 4:4

And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables [foolish stories].

Once you turn your ears away from the Truth you are left only one option. Sadly the relationship that mankind has held with the Truth has been ruinous since that ill-fated day in the Garden of God. Tragedy has been the comrade of man ever since. Hosea says it best:

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Note carefully that their lack of knowledge was due to their rejection of it. God is not to blame, man is.

Today we see increasing numbers in our Churches. General consensus suggests we're at the end of the age.

So, the multitudes look to man as Hollywood has taught them. Surely the right man can avert Armageddon and thwart the Adversary, regardless of what the Scripture has to say. Well, there is a man and he is the right man. But he will not avert Armageddon no matter where they place it in the time line. Why, because he lives in alignment with "It is Written." He is "It is Written," for that which is Written is about him. He will lead the armies of the Living God in that final conquest and he will do all things in perfect accord with the Word of God. This will happen as God has said and not as religion has peeped. Yes, Jesus Christ is the context of God's Word from Genesis 3:15 to Revelation 22:21. And while the Truth is not popular today, there is a day coming when every eye shall see, every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. That is the Truth for it is written in God's matchless Word.

Few there are my friend who will believe what God's Word has to say. Fewer still who will wholeheartedly accept what the Bible has to say about Jesus, who he is. Ask yourself. What do you believe and why?

Truth is not enjoying the popularity due it and the masses continue to cry "Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas." So what! Truth is still truth and God is still God. I'm happy therefore, to be in the minority who love God and His Word. Aren't you?

Psalms 115:1

Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, *and* for thy truth's sake.
