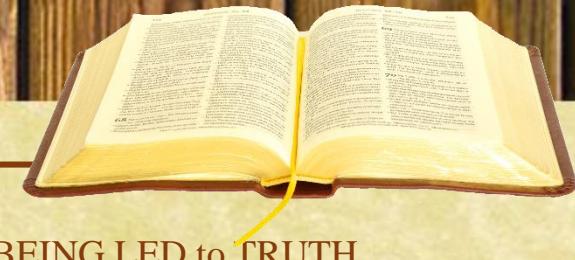


TRUTH THAT SETS US FREE



‘You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’ (John 8:32)

‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’ – John 14:2-6

WHAT IS TRUTH?

- When man is searching for life, he is searching for Jesus.
- When man is searching for the way to God, he is searching for Jesus.
- When man is searching for truth, he is, in reality, searching for Jesus.

Jesus himself is the personification of truth.

- Though God, as the First Father, is the originator of all things, Jesus Christ is mankind’s immediate creator, father, and brother, who incarnated on our planet as Jesus of Nazareth. The prophet Isaiah described the incarnated Jesus this way:
 - “For there has been a child born to us, there has been a son given to us; and the princely rule will come to be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” - Isaiah 9:6
- No doctrines or creeds outside of the truth in Christ Jesus can develop in us the kind of faith that will help us find the Father.
- More than likely, man’s so-called truth will:
 - stifle creativity
 - imprison imagination
 - unfairly limit personal freedom
 - lead us to more confusion.
- The Apostle Paul showed this in his counsel to Timothy: “Just as I encouraged you to stay in Ephesus when I was about to go my way into Macedonia, so I do now, that you might command certain ones not to teach different doctrine, nor to pay attention to false stories and to genealogies, which end up in nothing, but which furnish questions for research rather than a dispensing of anything by God in connection with faith.” – 1 Timothy 1:3-4
- Living the truth reaches further than our conduct. Truth should affect our thinking, our reasoning, and our conclusions.
- It was always the First Father’s purpose that earthling man become ‘perfect as our heavenly father is perfect’ - Matthew 5:48 - To be adopted as His spirit sons and daughters to be with Him in the heavens.
- Man continued his pursuit of the Father in the best way he knew how after the default of Adam and Eve.
- Man went from one idea to another, from one philosophy to another, from one religious concept to another until our planet was in total confusion.

“Light that gets lighter and lighter.” - Proverbs 4:18

- The spirit will not lead you to glorify men or teach the commands of men.
- The spirit will enlarge, expand, deepen and illuminate Jesus’ teachings and show you how to better apply them.
- The spirit will give enhanced meaning to the parables and illustrations Jesus used without altering their fundamental message.

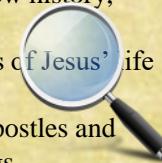
- Beginning in the first century, and every century thereafter, many Christian groups believed the book of Revelation was having its fulfilment in their time and they were certain they understood its meaning.

PREPARING OURSELVES FOR TRUTH

- If the average man or woman took him or herself to task:
 - Emptied themselves of all their hidden sins and secret grudges
 - Preconceived or poorly conceived ideas about life and God and truth
 - Sought to make amends for their wrongs against others - there would be nothing to prevent such persons from living in truth, out loud and unashamedly.
- Two truths formed the foundation of Jesus’ only commandments: “ ‘You must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. The second, like it, is this, ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments the whole Law hangs, and the Prophets.” – Matthew 22:35-40

RECEIVING TRUTH

- The Bible:
 - Section 1 - Genesis to Malachi - which contain the Hebrew history, experience and understanding of God
 - Section 2 - Matthew to John - which contain the accounts of Jesus’ life and teachings
 - Section 3 - Acts to Jude - which contain the acts of the apostles and disciples and their understanding of Jesus and his teachings
 - Section 4 - Revelation - which contains a great and complex prophecy



If there is a discrepancy between what Jesus taught and the other portions of the Bible, it is best to side with Jesus and seek to understand the other portions in relation to, and subject to, what Jesus taught.

LIVING the TRUTH

- Overview of Jesus’ ministry:
 - He restored to man his dignity. He let them know that though they were suffering, God had not forgotten them – Matthew 5:3-11
 - He told men not to hide in the shadows of society as they had been doing, they should stand up, and courageously let their God-given light shine so that they can be a positive influence on others to develop courage to let their light shine and glorify the Father - Matthew 5:13-16
 - He assured them that he was not there to tear down or destroy their manner of worship. He wanted to uplift it. He explained that they were following the letter of the law; whereas he wanted them to follow the spirit of the law - Matthew 5:17-47
 - He told them the ultimate goal in their journey of spiritual growth, the one thing the Father desires from all of his children: “You must accordingly be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” – Matthew 5:48

Without the Spirit of Truth we are left to the custody of men and are subjected to their personal understandings and interpretations. As a result, we would be nothing more than “the blind leading the blind.”

BEING LED to TRUTH

- “Perceptive powers are trained to distinguish both right and wrong.” - Hebrews 5:14
- The Spirit of Truth takes us:
 - from learning facts to understanding them – information.
 - from understanding facts to wise application of them – wisdom.
 - from the wise application of facts to living the truth - knowing by personal experience.

BEING FREE

- The truth as personified by Jesus does more for mankind than simply satisfy his curiosity about God or answer his troublesome questions. It does much more than simply promote a successful way of living. Jesus’ truth gives us:
 - Freedom from intellectual bondage to the physical world. Truth broadens our vocabulary and our mental capacity to understand facts, and allows us to think beyond the physical into the spiritual.
 - Freedom from spiritual darkness. Truth enlightens and empowers the individual so that he cannot be held spiritually captive by the weak and mundane ideas of men.
 - Freedom from moral uncleanness. Truth raises our standard of behavior without law. It moves us to act in our own best interests and in the best interests of others without compulsion.
 - Freedom from a sense of loneliness and isolation from one another. Truth promotes the realization of a worldwide fraternity, a united brotherhood of man.
 - Freedom from a sense of loneliness and isolation from God. Truth enfranchises the individual as a faith son of God and a citizen of our vast universe.
 - Freedom from the fear of extinction. Truth shows us the way to life, eternal life, the real life, in the heavenly realm after the physical body has been exhausted.
- The accounts of Jesus’ life and ministry reveal that he was:
 - bold, yet respectful
 - courageous, but not reckless
 - enthusiastic, but not fanatical
 - emotional, but not flighty
 - imaginative, but always practical
 - unique, but not eccentric
 - pious, but not sanctimonious
- A boon of dispensationalism and end-time speculation called Eschatology, hence, there is a long trail of faith destruction and economic disaster to this day.



TRUE FREEDOM	FALSE FREEDOM
Self Respect	Self Admiration
To Uplift and Encourage our Brothers	To Exploitation of Others for Selfish Means
Righteousness	Possessing unjust Power over Others
Led by the Spirit of Truth	Driven by the Flesh