

1 **How important is truth?**

What We Believe

2 **A word on my motivation**

- A pastor plays several roles in Scripture:
 - Comforter – Prays with you and stays with you when you are hurting
 - Leader – Encourages you to follow the direction that God is taking him
 - Protector – Protects you from the “wolves” of error and wrong attitudes that would devour your faith

3 4 **JOHN 8:44**

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.

5 **Romans 1:25**

Romans 1:24–25 (KJV 1900) — *Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*

6 **...but can't we all just get along?**

- We can demonstrate the love of Christ to all people.
- If one person believes that salvation is by grace while another believes that a work of man or a sacrament of the church is necessary, can both be right? No.
 - Truth is exclusive! There is truth and there is error.
 - The devil delights in distracting us to error.

7 **The devil is a subtle serpent**8 **THE EXAMPLE OF THE GALATIANS**9 **Galatians 1:6-9**

Galatians 1:6–9 (LEB) — *6 I am astonished that you are turning away so quickly from the one who called you by the grace of Christ to a different gospel, 7 not that there is a different gospel, except there are some who are disturbing you and wanting to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim a gospel to you contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let him be accursed! 9 As we said before, and now I say again, if anyone is proclaiming a gospel to you contrary to what you have received, let him be accursed!*

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10 **The problem in Galatia**

- Paul had started the Galatian church and gave them the true Gospel
- Judaizers came to the area and told these Gentile Christians that they could not truly be Christians unless they were first made Jewish by being circumcised and keeping certain Jewish feasts

11 **Another Gospel**

- Paul says, "I marvel that you are so soon removed from the Gospel of Christ unto another Gospel."
– ἕτερος = another of a DIFFERENT kind
- 1:7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.
– ἄλλος = another of the SAME kind

12 **Paul's judgment**

- The Galatians had fallen prey to the lies of the Judaizers believing that they needed a sacrament (ritual or ceremony from an ecclesiastical authority to bring about an element of salvation)
- Paul told the Galatians that they were now following a totally different (and false) Gospel because they were trusting works instead of grace.

13 **Paul's judgment (continued)**

- Galatians 1:8–9 (LEB) — 8 *But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim a gospel to you contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let him be accursed! 9 As we said before, and now I say again, if anyone is proclaiming a gospel to you contrary to what you have received, let him be accursed!*
- *Anathema* = "something delivered up to divine wrath, dedicated to destruction and brought under a curse."
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14 **THE NECESSITY OF TRUTH**15 **Unity must be based on truth**

- Amos 3:3 — *Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*

16 **Truth is a prerequisite to worship**

- John 4:23 — *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*

17 **Truth is a prerequisite to worship (2)**

- 1 Samuel 12:24 — *Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.*
- Psalm 25:5 — *Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: For thou art the God of my salvation; On thee do I wait all the day.*

18 **Pilate's big question**

- John 18:38 — *Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.*

19 **What is truth according to God?**

- But what does God see as truth?
- John 1:17 — *For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*

20 **John 16:13**

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

21 **John 17:17–19**

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

22 **Deuteronomy 32:4**

He is the Rock, his work is perfect: For all his ways are judgment: A God of truth and without iniquity, Just and right is he.

23 **Truth is from God, not men**

- So, God's truth has the power to change lives
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13 — *For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.*

24 **Truth can be personally discerned**

- You must apply a proper biblical method of study
- You must realize that the Bible is the ONLY accurate rule of faith and practice.

25 **1 John 2:27**

- *But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.*

26 **WHAT DOES TRUTH DO?**

27 **Truth preserves us**

- Psalm 40:11 — *Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O LORD: Let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve me.*
- Psalm 91:4 — *He shall cover thee with his feathers, And under his wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.*

28 **Truth hears the voice of Jesus**

- John 18:37 — *Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.*

29 **Truth causes love to rejoice**

- 1 Corinthians 13:6 — *[Love] rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth.*

30 **Truth identifies true ministers**

- 2 Corinthians 6:4–6 — *But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, 5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in watchings, in fastings;*
 - *By pureness,*
 - *by knowledge,*

- by longsuffering,
- by kindness,
- by the Holy Ghost,
- by love unfeigned, ...

31 **Truth identifies true ministers**

- 2 Corinthians 6:7-10
 - By the word of truth,
 - by the power of God,
 - by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,
 - By honor and dishonor
 - by evil report and good report:...

32 **Truth sets us free**

- John 8:32 — *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*
- Proverbs 16:6 — *By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: And by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.*

33 **Truth saves us from damnation**

- 2 Thessalonians 2:12 — *That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*
- IF we receive it!

34 **Truth saves us from shame**

- 2 Timothy 2:15 -- *Make every effort to present yourself approved to God, a worker having no need to be ashamed, guiding the word of truth along a straight path.*
- Knowing God's principles (truth) and following them causes you to receive His blessings rather than shame.

35 **Truth parents us into the new life**

- James 1:18 — *Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*
- Two spiritual parents:
 - The Word of God
 - The Spirit of God

36 **Truth purifies us**

- 1 Peter 1:22 — *Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*

37 **Truth brings joy to our spiritual parents**

- 3 John 4 — *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.'*

38 **So just how important is truth?**

- God's Word is replete with the benefits of His truth
- God's Word shows that truth is the basis for both:
 - Spiritual fellowship
 - Spiritual worship

- Knowing the importance of truth, the devil tries to distract us from truth or pervert the truth. So we must be alert!

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39 **Truth does not come from public opinion**

40 **Truth comes from God's Word**

41 **Our Statement of Faith**

- The Scriptures are God's inerrant revelation, complete in the Old and New Testaments, written by divinely inspired men as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (II Tim. 3:16; II Peter 1:21). Those men wrote not in words of human wisdom but in words taught by the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 2:13).

42 **2 Timothy 3:16**

- LEB -- *All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.*
- 2 Timothy 3:16 (KJV 1900) — *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

43 **2 Peter 1:21**

- *...for no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

44 **1 Corinthians 2:13**

- 1 Corinthians 2:13 (LEB) — *things which we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual things to spiritual people.*
- 1 Corinthians 2:13 (KJV 1900) — *Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

45 **Our Statement of Faith**

- The Scriptures provide the standard for the believer's faith and practice (II Tim. 3:16, 17), reveal the principles by which God will judge all (Heb. 4:12; John 12:48), and express the true basis of Christian fellowship (Gal. 1:8, 9; II John 9-11).

46 **Hebrews 4:12; John 12:48**

- Hebrews 4:12 (KJV 1900) — *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*
- John 12:48 (KJV 1900) — *He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*

47 **2 John 9-11**

2 John 9–11 (KJV 1900) — *Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: 11 for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*

48 **Definition of "the authority**

of the Bible”

The Bible, as the expression of God's will to us, possesses the right supremely to define

1. what we are to believe, and
2. how we are to live

49 **The phrase “authority of scripture” can make Christian sense only if it is shorthand for “the authority of the triune God, exercised somehow through scripture.” When we examine what the authority of scripture means we’re talking about God’s authority which is invested in Jesus himself, who says “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”**

(Mt. 28:18) —N.T. Wright

50 **Errors / falsehood must be intentionally resisted**

- Galatians 2:4–5 — 4 And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: 5 To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.
- Some would pervert the Gospel of Christ
- Galatians 3:1 — 1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?
- Galatians 1:7 — 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.
- Error masquerades as "gospel"
- Galatians 1:1–10 — 1 PAUL, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;) 2 And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia: 3 Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, 4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: 5 To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. 6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. 10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.
- Subtopic
- Distractions, philosophies, and bad theology derail us from the truth
- Galatians 5:7 — 7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?