

- I. Session 71: The Truth of God Part 2: New Testament
- a. Purpose: In this session we shall explore the attribute of the truth of God as taught in the New Testament and also draw implication for the Christian life as a result of our study.
  - b. What is the truth of God? The two main words in the New Testament:
    - i. *Alethes*: It is referring to the reality of a thing, what is actually the case.<sup>1</sup>
    - ii. *Alethinós*: This term has the idea of “being genuine or conforming to the ideal.”<sup>2</sup>
  - c. What is the truth of God? Definitions:
    - i. Wayne Grudem: “God’s truthfulness means that he is the true God, and that all his knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth.”<sup>3</sup>
    - ii. John Feinberg: God “knows the truth and only speaks the truth.”<sup>4</sup>
  - d. What does the Bible in the New Testament teach about the truth of God?
    - i. Note: The New Testament reinforces the truth that is taught in the Old Testament. It also tells us more about the truthfulness of God than the Old Testament did.
    - ii. Like the Old Testament we see God tells the truth instead of lies:
      1. “*May it never be! Rather, let God be found true, though every man be found a liar, as it is written,*” (Romans 3:4a)
        - a. Here Paul is responding to the hypothetical question whether people’s unbelief would nullify God’s faithfulness.
        - b. The answer of course is a strong nuanced no when Paul said “*May it never be!*”
        - c. The reason is because Paul want that “*God be found true*”
        - d. “*God be found true*” is so critical that Paul would rather that “*every man be found a liar*”
      2. “*in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,*” (Titus 1:2)
        - a. Here we see the verse Paul says God cannot lie.
        - b. If God does not lie that means He tells the truth and is therefore a God of truth.
        - c. Being a God of truth He will keep what He “*promised long ages ago.*”
      3. “*so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.*” (Hebrews 6:18)
        - a. Again here we see the verse Paul says God cannot lie.
        - b. If God does not lie that means He tells the truth and is therefore a God of truth.

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<sup>1</sup> John Feinberg, *No One Like Him* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2001), 370.

<sup>2</sup> John Feinberg, *No One Like Him* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2001), 370.

<sup>3</sup> Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan), 195.

<sup>4</sup> John Feinberg, *No One Like Him* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2001), 370.

- c. Because He is a God who cannot lie this becomes the foundation for our hope and encouragement.
  - 4. Verses that mention that God is a God of truth: **Mark 12:32, John 7:18, 8:14, 8:26, Ephesians 4:21, Revelation 3:7, 3:14, 6:10, 21:5, 22:6.**<sup>5</sup>
- iii. Like the Old Testament God is true in the sense that He is real: *“For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,”* (**1 Thessalonians 1:9**)
  - 1. Here Paul described the Thessalonians’ conversion.
  - 2. Part of their conversion was to turn to the God of the Bible which is described as *“a living and true God.”*
- iv. Jesus is Truth
  - 1. Note: This is something we don’t see in the Old Testament; that Jesus who is the Second Person of the Trinity is also truth.
  - 2. *“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”* (**John 1:14**)
    - a. Jesus is the Word according to the context of **John 1**.
    - b. Jesus being God (John 1:1) now have become incarnate in becoming *“flesh, and dwelt among us”*
    - c. Yet in becoming flesh Jesus was still *“full of grace and truth.”*
  - 3. We see that Jesus as the Truth matters in relations to salvation *“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**)
    - a. Jesus being the Truth is the basis for why the only way to God the Father is through Him!
    - b. It isn’t that there is more than one way to God, one way being God’s way and then the second way being that of Jesus. If the Trinity is true, then it makes sense to still there is one way.
- v. The Holy Spirit is Truth
  - 1. Note: This is something we don’t see in the Old Testament; that the Holy Spirit who is the Third Person of the Trinity is also truth.
  - 2. *“that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.”* (**John 14:17**)
    - a. The Spirit is definitely not just a force but a person in light of the use of *“Him”* pronouns.
    - b. Note how the Holy Spirit here is called *“Spirit of truth”*
  - 3. *““When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,”* (**John 15:26**)
    - a. Again the Holy Spirit here is called *“Spirit of truth”*

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<sup>5</sup> John Feinberg, *No One Like Him* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2001), 373.

