

**How important is Truth?**  
**“The Truth As We Know It”**  
**9/13/15**

This week I want to talk about the importance of the Christian Church teaching the truth that can be confirmed by historical and biblical sources. If what we teach is based on tradition or fables than it is no better than any other of the many religions out there. In the next couple of weeks I want to establish the appropriate time of Jesus' birth which could not have taken place in the middle of winter, but had to take place when the shepherds were still in the fields.

Tradition is extremely hard to overcome! I am a personal witness to that in my own life. I was raised in an Old Order Amish home and we were very tradition minded. Many of the teachings we lived by were not based on biblical truth, but of the fact that we had always done it this way. Though we lived a very good life, we did not understand the Gospel of salvation through faith in Christ along. We lived in the hope that the disciplined life of sacrifice and good works would satisfy our need for righteousness. We did not understand that our righteousness was just dirty, filthy, smelly rags in God's eyes.

But when storms happened I would be afraid. Praying that God would let me live. I had no real peace with God. So when my Christian girlfriend broke it off with me because I was not a Christian, I knew she was right.

It is truth that carries the power of God! In Psa 25:4-5 we read, "Show me your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me: for you *are* the God of my salvation; on you do I wait all the day." And in Psa 33:4 we read, "For the word of the LORD *is* right; and all his works *are done* in truth." And in Psa 91:4 we read, "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shall you trust: his truth *shall be* your shield and buckler." And in Psa 100:5 he tells us, "For the LORD *is* good; his mercy *is* everlasting; and his truth *endures* to all generations."

When we stand before God in judgment, we will not be judged by tradition, but by the word of God in truth. It matters not what we have always done or what our fathers and grandfathers believed and practiced. We will be judged by what the Bible says. In Psa 96:13 we read, "The LORD cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth." In James 1:22-24 we are told, "But be you doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man seeing his natural face in a mirror : For he sees himself, and goes his way, and straightway forgets what manner of man he was." God sees us as the Word describes us, not as we think we are or look and he makes no exceptions.

The Christian community is riddled with tradition and fables that have no bases in biblical truth. The Easter Bunny, The Christmas Tree, and Santa Clause are just some easy examples. The birth of our Lord and savior, Jesus, at Christmas time is another. There is no biblical evidence that Jesus was born at Christmas, yet Christians world wide think they are celebrating His birth during that time. Over the next couple of weeks I want to make an attempt to show from scripture the season of His birth.

I want to emphasize that teaching the truth, no matter how unpopular it might be is critically important. In

John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." And in John 8:32 He said, " you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." He told the woman at Jacobs well in John 4:23-24, "The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth." Notice the terminology: 'Worship Him is Spirit and truth' God is not worshiped in a lie! It does not matter how nice it may sound.

We are admonished to, "Buy the truth, and sell *it* not; *also* wisdom, and instruction, and understanding." in Pro 23:23. It may cost us our friends and associates, but it is so necessary. When people turn away from the truth, they have serious problems as is pointed out in 2 Thes. 2:10 where we read, "With all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." And in verse 12 where we read, "That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Jesus taught us in Mat 5:6, "Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." What we believe and practice DOES matter. Just because we have always done it a certain way does not justify our ignoring the truth as taught in the scriptures.

I fear we are at a time the Bible speaks of in 2Ti 4:3-4 where we read, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, because they have itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

Many people are not interested in hearing the truth, they would rather hear what helps them feel comfortable in their sin. Jesus said in John 3:19-21, "This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hates the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

God tells us in Psa 119:142, "Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and your law is the truth." And in John 1:17 we read, "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

In John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." And in John 1:14 we read, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." Jesus' prayer for us was, "Sanctify them through your truth: your word is truth." in John 17:17. And in verse 19 we read, "For their sakes I

sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth."

In that beautiful analogy in Eph 5:25-27 where he describes the relationship between Christ and the church, He describes how the church was to be cleansed by the Word. And we read, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." It the washing of our lives by the Word of God, not by the commonly excepted customs of the time. Remember, God does not change! What was sin yesterday is still sin today and will be sin tomorrow!

Thank God for Grace & Mercy! It is new every morning!

Listen again next week.

This we do know, The Bible is God's Word, God's word is true, Jesus Christ is God's son, Jesus died to save us from our sin, Without Jesus we are eternally lost. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we might be saved. Atheism is a temporary condition, for every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! Jesus stands

ready to save you now, Will you call on Him today?

Until next week, God bless.