

Finding the Truth John 14:1-6

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Where do you find the truth about _____ life? Remember you're investing your _____. Today we're going to talk about the sure _____ of religious truth. God urges us, "Buy the truth, and do not _____ it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23). Your most important _____ comes in buying the truth about God and about your salvation. Where will you _____ the truth? A thousand _____ are confusing us with contradictory ideas and fanciful notions. Is there a _____? Is there a _____ and undeniable source of truth? Yes, there is!

You've probably heard: "No one really knows what the truth is," or "There are no absolute truths," or maybe you've heard "There is no right or wrong, only what people _____." Do you remember the exchange between Pontius Pilate and Jesus just before His crucifixion. Pilate said to Him, "'So You are a _____?' and Jesus answered, 'You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been _____, and for this I have _____ into the world, to testify to the truth. And everyone who is of the truth _____ My voice.' Then Pilate said to Him, 'What is truth?'" (John 18:37). That question has _____ in the hearts of many people: "What is truth?"

Webster defines truth as, "the true or _____ state of a matter." Truth conforms to _____ or to fact. Truth stands against what is _____. Courts seek _____ to determine innocence or guilt. Doctors test to find out the truth about our _____. Where do we find _____ truth? We want to know _____ we are, where we come from, _____ we're here, and _____ will happen to us when we die. Humans cannot _____ these questions on their own. We must _____ answers from above and hear from God.

Our reading comes from the words of Jesus in The Gospel According to John 14:1-6.

People search for truth, but some of their _____ aren't trustworthy. In fact, some of those sources are downright _____. Let's look at some harmful sources: First, some people look to their _____ for truth. Joseph's brothers got _____ with him; they sold him into slavery; but they _____ their father a wild beast had devoured him. Jacob _____ his ten sons and thought Joseph was dead. He mourned for years, even though Joseph wasn't _____ dead. The feelings were _____, but they were based on a _____. People often _____ their feelings. They want something to be true so badly they're _____ to believe a lie. What we feel often _____ from the truth. The Jews had a _____ for God, but it was not in accordance to _____ (Romans 10:2).

Second, some look to popular _____ or consensus for truth. They reason that if the majority believes it, it must be _____; but the majority isn't always _____. Opinion _____ are not always trustworthy. **Read the story in Acts 28:3-6.** Opinions and beliefs are as _____ and as

changeable as night and day. Spiritual truth is not like popular opinions; spiritual truths don't _____. You can _____ on spiritual truth from the Word of God that does not change. But you can't _____ on popular opinion.

Third, some go to _____. Authorities are a blessing, but they aren't always _____. Compare any history book, science book, or psychology textbook from 50 years ago to today, or even 25 years ago, to the present. Even your dictionary has more than _____ words in it that were not even in existence a century ago. People go to doctors and then they go to get a _____ opinion because they want to be sure that what the doctors told them is right. We have appeals courts because sometimes a court makes a _____ decision. Authorities disagree. We hear contradictory _____ about the foods we eat and the medicines we take. What is _____ for you in one report is _____ for you in another. We're often left confused and wishing for _____. The fact is, even authorities are human and make _____. Their knowledge and their judgments are imperfect and limited.

Some look inside their consciences for their moral _____. The conscience, if trained properly, can be a marvelous motivator to do what's right and to avoid what's wrong; but the conscience can believe a _____, and it can be _____. Paul said, "Brethren, I've lived my life with a perfectly _____ conscience before God up to this day" (Acts 23:1). He thought _____ Christians was the right thing to do at one point, it was already free in his conscience, but later on he found out that he was wrong! He admitted, "It's a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am _____ of all" (1 Timothy 1:15). He acted according to what his conscience thought was _____; but Paul's conscience was as wrong as wrong could be.

Some people's consciences harden to the point that they can't _____ anything. **Read 1 Timothy 4:1-2.** When a branding iron affects the skin, it destroys the nerve cells too, so the person can no longer _____. You might know people who get _____ feeling any remorse, who no longer have a conscience. If we're only looking within our consciences, within ourselves, for truth; we may not find that _____ of truth that is indisputable.

Where, then, do we _____ the truth? It is obvious that truth isn't in _____ (Jeremiah 10:23). Man, left to his own ingenuity, will _____ up what he wants but will _____ what he needs. Solomon said, "There is a way that _____ right to a man, but its end is the way of _____" (Proverbs 14:12). When people walk their own ways, never giving God a thought, they manufacture a false _____ for God. When people empty themselves of God they fill their lives with false gods, and false hope, and fairy tales. Without God, people lose their _____ of justice and morality.

Truth is essential to _____. Solomon urges us, as we've mentioned, "Buy truth, and do not sell it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23). Truth is _____ and it's _____. Telling the truth cost _____ His life. The apostles died because they wouldn't

_____ the Lord or His truth. One must _____ to get truth. Buying the truth may mean discovering what you believed before is _____. Truth requires you to leave an _____ error and start a _____ direction; it requires you to be _____. Buying the truth will lead you to _____ your ways. Confessing the truth means that we may have to _____. One reason people _____ to believe the truth is they don't want to change their lives even if that old life is destructive.

Once a person has the truth, he must _____ it and never sell out for shoddy thinking or worldly ways. It's tragic that some sell the truth to _____ some personal advantage. **Read how Paul challenged Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:2-4.**

We must find the truth because truth sets us _____. Jesus promised those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly _____ of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31-32). Whether we know the truth matters because truth sets us _____. Free from what? Free from the _____ that deceive, enslave, and destroy us. When we know the truth, we can _____ the lies. Then lies won't have the _____ to hurt us or to lead us astray.

Many preachers today tell people what they _____ to hear rather than what they _____ to hear. I fear many are sold on false _____ found in the teachings of men. Jesus said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be _____" (Matthew 15:13). The religions of men, because they _____ with the teaching of Christ, will not stand and cannot save you. When people push their own ideas and _____ to hear Jesus, they are planting something that will be uprooted. By forgetting God, people _____ themselves and the lives of their loved ones. Foolishness will never grant us _____ freedom. Freedom doesn't come from falsehood or deception, but from the truth; it's the truth found in the words of Jesus that will _____ us. That's what makes the truth of God's Word so _____ to our lives. Nothing can _____ it.

The Lord Jesus said, "I am the _____, and the _____, and the _____; and no one (no one, no one) comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6). Jesus personalizes what truth is all about. He's so real, so genuine, so authentic as the Son of God, that He is the truth _____. He is the _____ of right and wrong. Every concept, every belief, and every religious doctrine must be _____ against the life and the words of Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus said, "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the _____ I spoke is what will judge him at the last day" (John 12:48). We won't be _____ by our feelings, by opinions, by human authorities, or by our consciences. We'll be judged by what Jesus _____. Doesn't it make sense then that we know as much as possible about what His _____ is for our lives?

Read what the Lord Jesus said to the apostles in John 16:12-13. Jesus promised _____ truth would come to His disciples. The Holy Spirit would _____ from God and would tell them what God said. He would _____ the apostles and prophets of the first century into all the Truth. "All the truth." That means the Spirit _____ through the apostles in the first century every religious truth. God wanted us to _____ that truth. If it's true, then there are no _____ truths being revealed today since the apostles revealed all truth.

Jude, in his brief letter, confirms this understanding when he says, “Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was _____ for _____ handed down to the saints” (Jude 3). The faith that Jesus wanted us to know has been revealed _____ for all time within the pages of the New Testament—the Word of truth. We don’t need to search the literature of the _____ for truth. The truth that leads to heaven is found in the _____. We need to read it, love it, meditate on it, memorize it, obey it, and share it with others, so that they too can understand the truth.

Read what Peter said in 1 Peter 1:22-25. The Lord purifies our souls when we _____ the Truth! That is when we _____ Christians, children of God, washed in the blood.

Truth is one of God’s great _____. While such gifts are free, they aren’t _____. The truth can _____ your life, but only if you open your heart and _____. Truth is like a medicine, it only works when you are _____ to swallow it. It won’t do you any _____ if you merely look at it, play with it, judge it, or throw it away. It only works when you _____ it and _____ it. The truth can _____ you free from sin, free from the heartache and destruction that sin brings. Without the truth we’re all left in _____, trying things that won’t last or won’t give us life. The truth is where it’s always been, in the Word of God! Many Christians find little satisfaction because they seek to hold onto _____ with one hand and hold onto the _____ with the other. They’re never really happy in their Christianity and never really happy in the _____. Jesus said, “No one can serve two masters; for either he will _____ the one and _____ the other, or he’ll be _____ to one and _____ the other” (Matthew 6:24). Why not give God a _____ hearing. Decide to _____ to God, who created you and loves you, and will change your life for the best. God ought to have the _____ voice in your life. The world wants to _____ God because they would rather live on their own terms. They forget that they’ll have to _____ the consequences of their actions one day. When we shut God out, we destroy what is _____ and we throw away our _____.

We all need a good long look at the _____. Once we see the _____ of God, we’ll listen to Him. You can be _____ of Jesus Christ and His love. You can _____ your life on Him and what He teaches. You can find _____ because of His promises. The God who loves you will always keep His _____; He will never _____ to you. Put your loving _____ in the Lord. Believe the gospel _____. Jesus _____ on the cross for you; He was _____, and on the third day _____ from the dead. Trust Him with all your heart, turn from every sin in _____, _____ to all the name of Jesus, and be _____ (immersed) in water so that your sins will be forgiven. When you’re baptized the Lord will _____ you to His church and _____ you as His child. He will _____ your life in ways you’ve never imagined. Don’t be _____ by popular religion, or feelings, or the notions of men. Look to Jesus for every _____ to the questions of your life. You’ll never regret it!