

## What Is Truth

Pontius Pilate asked the \_\_\_\_\_, “What is truth?” Today, we’re going to consider Pilate’s question, and see what the Scriptures say about \_\_\_\_\_. Proverbs 23:23 says, “Buy the truth, and do not \_\_\_\_\_ it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding.” It \_\_\_\_\_ to know the truth. We have to \_\_\_\_\_ for it and struggle to learn it; but once we know the truth, we must never let it go. Without the truth, we can’t have confidence in anything; we’re left in \_\_\_\_\_ without any answers; but with the truth, we can have confidence and hope.

People in our \_\_\_\_\_ often say phrases like “your truth” and “my truth.” They think, “what’s true for you is true for you, but it’s not necessarily true for me.” They’ve stopped believing in \_\_\_\_\_ truth, but they think that all truth is relative. They believe there’s no settled truth in \_\_\_\_\_ but believe that all ideas are equally true and valid, even if they contradict one another. They often \_\_\_\_\_ what is true by what we think or feel; they believe people can manufacture their own truth. They assume the truth is subjective rather than objective, and they determine the truth by their \_\_\_\_\_. People use these kinds of ideas to \_\_\_\_\_ any view that they don’t like or to keep them from facing up to what God has to say about some belief, some practice, or some moral view that they hold.

Do truth and morality exist, or is everything simply someone’s \_\_\_\_\_? Can we know the truth? If we’re left only with opinions, we truly are in the \_\_\_\_\_. An opinion is merely a \_\_\_\_\_ in the absence of evidence. If the inspired Word of God is true, and we have evidence it is, then we cannot ignore it. Truth arises out of \_\_\_\_\_. The resurrection of Jesus declares that He is truly the Son of God. So let’s \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

### **Our reading today is from The Gospel According to John 18:33-38.**

Pilate asked the question, “What is truth?” Truth refers to the actual state of matters and verifiable \_\_\_\_\_. Truth also refers to propositions and principles that \_\_\_\_\_ the way things really are! When you believe a true statement, you can \_\_\_\_\_ on it. When you believe a false statement, you’ll be misled and perhaps suffer false \_\_\_\_\_. When you have no basis for determining what is true and what is false, you become confused and easily fooled.

We serve a \_\_\_\_\_ and righteous God. Titus 1:2 speaks of the God “who cannot lie” or “who never lies.” He tells the truth when He \_\_\_\_\_. In a prayer to the Father, David said in Psalm 86:15, “But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.” Psalm 119:142 says, “Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your \_\_\_\_\_ is truth.” Verse 160 repeats the concept: “The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.” The Lord today \_\_\_\_\_ to us through His Son, Jesus Christ. We can \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ to tell us the truth. John 1:14 says, “And the Word became \_\_\_\_\_, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” The same Jesus who was full of grace was also full of truth! You can trust Him! If you follow Jesus Christ, you’ll \_\_\_\_\_ be led astray.

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**Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.**

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This study sheet is prepared by Jerry Campbell – [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org)

The apostle Paul was amazed that Christians could \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus for a different gospel. He made it clear: “I’m amazed that you’re so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we’ve said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!” (Galatians 1:6-9). A false doctrine disturbs the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church. A person who teaches a different gospel, no matter who he or she is, will be accursed.

Jesus knew people and knew how easily people could be deceived by traditions and popular ideas that appealed to their \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus said, “This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men \_\_\_\_\_ the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But he who \_\_\_\_\_ the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought (or worked) in God” (John 3:19-21). The teaching of the Lord Jesus provides for us a \_\_\_\_\_ to distinguish truth from error and right from wrong.

The truth matters, because it distinguishes the \_\_\_\_\_ disciples of Jesus from those who merely \_\_\_\_\_ they are His disciples. The Lord Jesus said to those Jews who had believed in Him, “If you \_\_\_\_\_ in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you \_\_\_\_\_” (John 8:31-32). When people get away from the words of Jesus, they cease to be \_\_\_\_\_ disciples. Some Christians are so concerned about what people think and say, they lose \_\_\_\_\_ of what the Lord has said. They believe the \_\_\_\_\_ lie rather than listen to the eternal truth.

Jesus had to deal with some Jews who were deceived by their human traditions and would not \_\_\_\_\_ to Him. He explains, “Why do you not understand what I am saying? It’s because you cannot hear My word. You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the \_\_\_\_\_ of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a \_\_\_\_\_, he speaks from his own nature, for he who is a liar and the father of lies. But because I speak the truth, you don’t believe Me” (John 8:43-45). It was a real surprise to Jesus that they would hold to a lie rather than the truth.

Jesus was not \_\_\_\_\_ about asserting His authority. He said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; and no one (no one) comes to the Father but through Me” (John 14: 6). There is only \_\_\_\_\_ way to heaven, and that way is through Jesus Christ. After His resurrection from the dead, the Lord Jesus said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18). All authority means He has \_\_\_\_\_ authority than anyone else does. He has more authority than any human religious \_\_\_\_\_, more authority than any human \_\_\_\_\_, and more authority than any human \_\_\_\_\_ does. He is the ultimate and supreme authority, and no one, no one, no one, can \_\_\_\_\_ Him. The Lord said, “He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day” (John 12:48).

God’s Word spoken through Jesus cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ or rewritten to suit our culture. Psalm 119:89 says, “Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.” The Lord Jesus Himself said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My \_\_\_\_\_ will not pass away” (Matthew 24:3). Do you remember the words of Jesus? How He told Pilate, “For this I have been born, and for this I’ve come into the world, to testify to the \_\_\_\_\_. And everyone who is of the truth \_\_\_\_\_ My voice” (John 18:37). If you want a basis to determine what is spiritually true and what is false, \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus

Christ. If you wish to know what morals matter, listen to Jesus. Everyone who is of the truth will \_\_\_\_\_ His voice, that is the voice of Jesus Christ. Don't miss His voice. Don't presume that you can challenge His authority and still \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

Preachers can say whatever they please about morals or what to do to be saved, but they can't \_\_\_\_\_ the words that Jesus spoke. Councils and conferences can write papers and declare their rules on a host of topics, but the Lord alone will have the final say on the last day. Jesus is the one and only Lord, and He has already spoken the truth on all things spiritual and moral. You can reject what the Lord says yeah, but your rejection will not keep you from being judged by His words! You may think you can judge the teaching of Christ, but in the end His teaching will judge you.

Some folks are not willing to \_\_\_\_\_ the price to buy the truth. They listen to other people and accept whatever they say rather than \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures for themselves. Some religious leaders want you to come to them for \_\_\_\_\_ rather than going to the Bible, to God, for yourselves. Acts 17:11 speaks of the noble Bereans: "Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the \_\_\_\_\_ with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures (the Bible) daily to see whether these things were so." Don't simply listen to what some preacher's opinions are, examine the Scriptures to see whether he is speaking the truth.

When you study the Scriptures, study \_\_\_\_\_ that they say about any topic. Many hang onto \_\_\_\_\_ verse and what that verse says and fail to pay attention to the rest of the Scriptures that speak about that topic. Paul warned, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). We're "saved by grace through faith" (Ephesians 2:8), but Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of eternal salvation "to all those who obey Him" (Hebrews 5:8-9). We shouldn't unfairly judge others (Matthew 7:1), but we should judge with righteous judgment (John 7:24). We must learn to \_\_\_\_\_ the old covenant from the new covenant, realizing that we're not under the Law of Moses but serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

When we study the Bible we need to know who is speaking and to whom he's speaking. The Bible is actually a library of sixty-six books. We need to know the social and historical background of each book. Some parts of Scripture are narratives, some are laws, some are poetry, and some are prophecy. It's helpful to know about each kind of literature. We need to know the occasion for each writing, and what the author intended to communicate to his readers.

Properly understanding Scripture means hearing what the author is \_\_\_\_\_ rather than trying to read into the text of Scripture something that was never there. It's important to know the \_\_\_\_\_, the surrounding material, of each passage. Some select a passage out of its context and then teach things that \_\_\_\_\_. Sometimes people speak of baptism as a sprinkling of water, but the word translated as baptism refers to an immersion in water. Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River (Mark 1:9); and John baptized at Aenon, because there was \_\_\_\_\_ water there (John 3:23). When Philip baptized the Eunuch in Acts 8, they went down into the water and came up out of the water. Paul speaks of baptism in Romans 6 and Colossians 2 as being "buried with Christ." This is the biblical concept, burial with Christ, baptism and immersion. Hundreds of years later people \_\_\_\_\_ sprinkling and calling it baptism. They did this for centuries, and people were fooled into thinking that their sprinkling was a baptism; but it was not an immersion, and it was not what He wanted them to do. Rather, it was an innovation, something new and different from what God said.

When a religious leader makes a compromising statement about morals or teaches some doctrine that disagrees with the truth found in Scripture, you need to \_\_\_\_\_ fully what the Scriptures

actually say. One leader recently said you can go to heaven even if you don't believe in God; but the Scriptures say, "And without faith it's impossible to \_\_\_\_\_ Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He's a rewarder of those who seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). Another leader said, you don't have to believe Jesus is the Son of God; but the Lord Jesus, "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you \_\_\_\_\_ that I am He, you will die in your sins" (John 8:24). Truth matters! You can't believe anything that you \_\_\_\_\_ and remain right with God.

The Lord Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who \_\_\_\_\_ the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will \_\_\_\_\_ to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness'" (Matthew 7:21-23). Here were religious leaders who called Jesus, "Lord, Lord" but did not \_\_\_\_\_ the will of God. They were lawless, they were involved in religious \_\_\_\_\_ but never were accepted by the Lord. They were "lawless," and taught their own doctrines, and practiced their own ways. They didn't listen to the Lord; they failed to practice the truth.

Hebrews 2:1-3 says, "For this reason we must pay much \_\_\_\_\_ attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we \_\_\_\_\_ if we neglect so great a salvation?" Are you listening to the Lord? Do you know and love the truth?

The Lord Jesus said to the apostles, "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into \_\_\_\_\_ the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come" (John 16:12-13). The Holy Spirit inspired the \_\_\_\_\_ to give us God's Word in the New Testament. We can trust the New Testament is true because we have the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_.

We \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God. The Lord Jesus said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on \_\_\_\_\_ word that proceeds out of the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:4). If the Word of God is necessary for life, shouldn't we listen and \_\_\_\_\_? The Lord Jesus said, "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not \_\_\_\_\_ what I say?" (Luke 6:46). Jesus will not be your Savior, unless He is \_\_\_\_\_ your Lord. Will you do what He says?

To be a Christian is more than merely \_\_\_\_\_ that you believe. It is a commitment to love the Lord with all your heart and all your soul. Yes, you \_\_\_\_\_ believe He is the Christ, the Son of God and be willing to confess Him before others. It's a commitment to \_\_\_\_\_ yourself, and to take up your cross daily, and to follow the Lord. You must be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ from your sins and live for the Lord. You must also be willing to be \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38). When you're baptized, the Lord washes away your sins, makes you His child, and adds you to His church. Won't you obey Him today?

We ask that you do focus your heart on God, and do it today by worshiping at church. Everybody needs a church family. And there's probably a church of Christ in your area. And if you're looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we'll be happy to help you find one. We'll be back next week, Lord willing. So, as we always say, God bless you and we love you from all of us at In Search of the Lord's Way.