

The Bible is Truth

“And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad. But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness”

(Acts 26:24-25).

Long ago a man asked, “What is truth?” (John 18:38). This question has been repeated countless times throughout the ages. The world is quickly filling with various religions, and within these religions there is a multitude of varying opinions. Which one is correct? Which one teaches truth? The wise teacher admonished, “Buy the truth, and sell it not” (Proverbs 23:23). But, how do we find this truth in the maze of religions available? Truth can be found in the Holy Bible, the written Word of God. *The Word of God is the measurement of truth.* Jesus prayed, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17). The “God of truth” wrote the Bible (Isaiah 65:16; Psalm 31:5). In fact, Jesus claimed to be “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).

“What is popular is not always right; what is right is not always popular.”

God’s truth is passed from generation to generation and is being passed to you today. Like David, a man after God’s own heart (1 Samuel 13:14), we believe that “thou desirest truth in the inward parts” (Psalms 51:6).

The Bible explains, “For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise” (2 Corinthians 10:12). It is dangerous to measure ourselves against what others believe, or solely on what our church says.

We need to measure ourselves with the Word. We cannot put confidence in tradition for the Bible warns, “Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye” (Mark 7:13). It has been said, “What is popular is not always right; what is right is not always popular.”

Paul was committed to preaching the truth. Throughout the Book of Acts the gospel is preached and truth explained. “The importance of the book of Acts is in its preservation of the main doctrinal themes presented in apostolic preaching” (*New Testament Introduction* by Donald Guthrie as quoted in the *MacArthur New Testament Commentary*).

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).

Explain

The Christian and The Bible

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Ed Cole once said, "A person's beliefs hold the greatest potential for good or harm in life." What we believe about our salvation matters much as we consider our destiny. We need to adjust to the truth of God's Word. If someone says something that is wrong, and then a thousand people say that it is correct, it is still wrong.

Carlton L. Coon, Sr. in his Bible study series Take Root states, "What men are taught determines what they believe. What they believe determines what they do. What they do determines their destiny."

As each doctrine is discussed, a question needs to be asked, "Does the Bible really teach this? Is this what the Scripture says?" This should be the first question in assessing any sermon, tract, or book.

The Bible states clearly that you should "study to shew thyself approved unto God" (2 Timothy 2:15). Why must we study? So that you can "rightly divide the word of TRUTH." E. Stewart in his study, "Truth Never Changes" tells us this Scripture implies that the Word can be wrongly divided.

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Peter 1:20-21).

Stewart says, "In 2 Peter 3:16 we find Peter writing about actual people who misapply or distort the scriptures to their own destruction." These are people who are "unlearned and unstable" who "wrest" (means distort, twist the nature or meaning of, divert to an improper use; misapply) the "...Scriptures, unto their own destruction." He further advises, "We should conform our lives to the Bible instead of conforming the Bible to our lives."

Let us begin to, "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).

Study Questions

1. Locate these Scriptures, or the reference that support the following statements:

_____ 1) "Buy the truth and sell it not."

_____ 2) "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

_____ 3) The Bible is our message from the "God of truth."

_____ 4) Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life."

- _____ 5) David was “a man after God’s own heart.”
- _____ 6) “Thou desirest truth in the inward parts.”
- _____ 7) These lessons are designed to “shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth.”
- _____ 8) In this verse, Peter writes about actual people who misapply or distort the Scriptures to their own destruction.
- _____ 9) “Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.”
- _____ 10) “Study to shew thyself approved unto God . . . rightly dividing the word of truth.”
- _____ 11) “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.”
- _____ 12) “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”
- _____ 13) We should follow the example of those “who received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”
- _____ 14) “For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves:”
- _____ 15) Long ago a man asked, “What is truth?”

2. What does Donald Guthrie claim to be the importance of the Book of Acts? _____

3. What question did Pilate ask in John 18:38? _____

4. What is the only measurement of truth? _____

5. What does John 17:1 say? _____

6. How is truth passed on? _____

