

Truth Pt 4 The word of truth- scripture & the gospel

This is our fourth teaching on the topic of truth. In our previous study we covered three points- (i) Jesus taught: The Comforter is the Spirit of Truth He proceeded from the Father and testifies of Jesus (who is truth), (ii) Jesus taught: the Spirit of truth guides God's children into all truth, and (iii) Jesus taught: the Spirit of truth teaches truth.

In this teaching we will establish three points: (i) The word of truth is the Lord's precepts, judgments, testimonies & commandments and His law, (ii) The word of truth is the gospel of Christ, and (iii) Salvation is by belief of the truth.

Let us first establish a meaning of the word truth from the scriptures, by considering the various links.

1. The word of truth is the Lord's precepts, judgments, testimonies & commandments and His law

[40] Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness.

[42] So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word.

[43] And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments.

[44] So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever.

[46] I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.

[47] And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. (Ps.119: 40, 42-44, 46, 47).

2. The word of truth is the gospel of Christ

[12] That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

[13] In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation... (Eph.1:12, 13).

The gospel is truth

[3] But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:

[4] And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:

[5] To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you. (Gal.2: 3-5).

3. Salvation is by belief of the truth

Salvation is through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth

[13] But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

[14] Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(2 Thes.2:13, 14).

For those who will not ensure sound doctrine, and turn their ears away from the truth,

* they shall be turned unto fables

[3] For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

[4] And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. (2 Tim. 4: 3, 4).

* God will hand them over to strong delusion- that they be damned

[11] And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

[12] That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness

(2 Thess.2:11, 12).

God would that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth

[3] For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

[4] Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. (1 Tim.2: 3, 4).

God has appointed us to salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ

"For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thes.5: 9).

An illustration to help apply the teaching to our life today.

I will never forget the night I sat on my bed and read Romans 1-12 in the Good News Bible, what I believed to be the bible when I was in the Presbyterian church. I finished reading and wept, woke next morning and threw away my \$150 packet of cigars, booze, and soon after I realised that the Lord had helped me to put off four "worldly lust" (Titus 2: 12). I did not know the truth of holy scripture, and nobody had preached the gospel of Christ-crucified. But God must have seen in me, a heart that believed what ever revelation of Himself I had received, and then progressively when I heard the gospel and the truth of the Authorised Holy Bible I believed them to be truth.

Questions to think about.

i) Why does a person believe not the gospel as truth?

ii) What does it indicate to us- when a person says they are a Christian, they have believed the gospel of Christ-crucified but they do not believe the Authorised Holy Bible- is truth?

iii) Why is the gospel of the Christ-crucified truth?

iv) What is the benefit in preaching truth: from the word of truth: the Authorised Bible, the gospel of Christ?

Answers from the scriptures.

i) Those who reject the gospel as truth:

* They are blinded by the god of this world (2 Cor,4: 4), and

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them (2 Cor.4: 4).

* have pleasure in unrighteousness-

2 Thes 2: 12- "That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness", and

* they receive not the love of the truth that they might be saved: so they perish

2 Thes.2: 10- "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved".

ii) If a person claims to be a Christian but then rejects the scripture of truth, the Authorised Bible, then:

* They are also blinded by the god of this world

* It indicates that they are disobedient- ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth

[1] This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

[2] For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers...

[3] Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce...

[5] Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

[6] For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

[7] Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (2 Tim.3:1-3, 5-7).

iii) The gospel of Christ-crucified is truth because it is the power of God unto salvation-

[15] So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

[16] For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. (Rom.1:15, 16)

iv) The benefit is the potential for immediate- fruit when they hear the gospel, believe and are sealed with the Spirit

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise". Eph.1:13-

Where those who have a heart that loves the truth are saved, when they hear the truth (2 Thes.1: 10).

I have often been challenged by those who reject the Authorised Holy Bible on the basis that they claim you a lost person can get saved from any Bible text. And I am living proof of that as fact. BUT, only by God's grace, and what follows will be evidence of loving the truth- 2Thes 2:10- "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved". Let each of us today encourage the brethren that do not believe the Authorised Holy Bible to be truth, let us encourage them to believe it and the gospel of Christ, that they may teach others also! Amen!