



# Truth in the Church

*How Much Is Enough?*

I would like to preface my presentation by letting you know that I do not have a bunch of letters behind my name, but I love the truth, I seek truth, and I am always open to discussion. As a believer we should not be afraid to discuss controversial topics. We will either grow in our knowledge, or we will be strengthened in what we believe.

Doctrines, or biblical teaching are always worthy of discussion and study. My presentation is not meant to stir up strife, but to *arouse and stir you up*, as David implores God in Psalm 35.

We should love truth enough to be able to ask ourselves questions and discuss these things as sincere and genuine seekers of truth, desiring to know the truth about hard and debatable matters.

So, to begin, I would like to pose the following questions. Should a Christian and the church try to be politically correct, fit in with the majority, be all-inclusive and do all it can to *not* be different or negatively labeled?

OR, should the Christian and the church be willing to stand unapologetically for truth, often alone, like our ex-JW brethren do? When they make a stand for truth, they are shunned and lose practically EVERY relationship in their lives, not to mention the body they have sometimes fellowshiped with for years, and often a lifetime.

I propose that the church should be willing to stand unapologetically for the whole truth of Scripture, and not only a few core doctrines. As truth seekers, we ought to always desire to know the truth about any biblical matter, not just those we consider “salvation issues.”

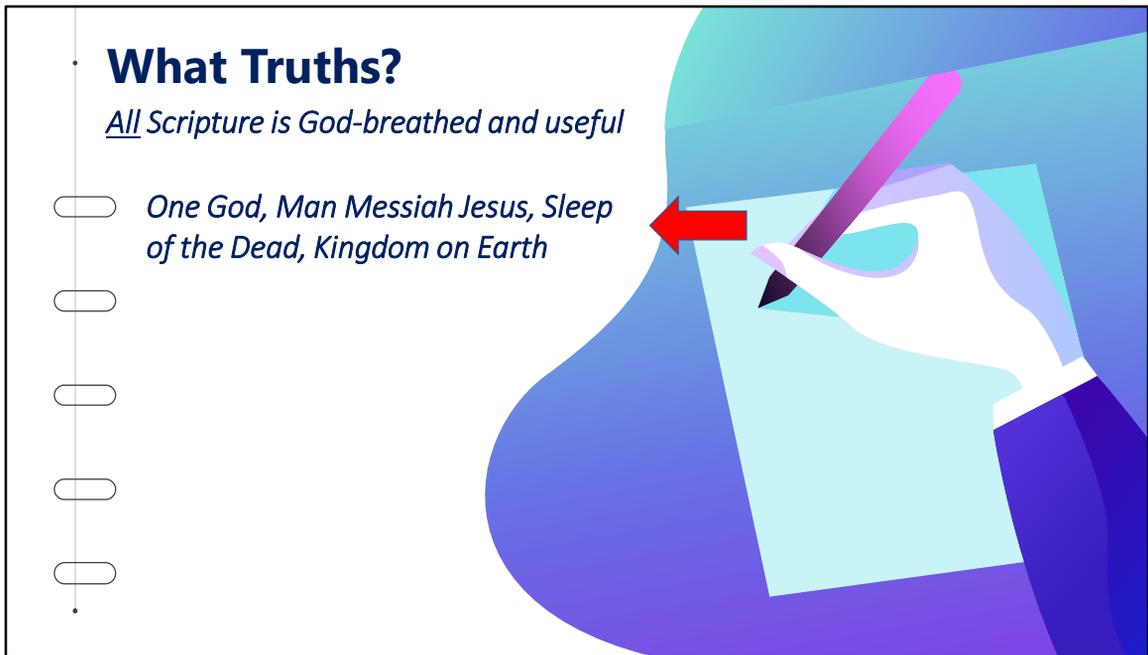
If we want true growth, perhaps we should draw a line in the sand and not deny truth by being silent, or tolerating half-truths.

True church growth depends upon the church holding to and practicing truth. It will do no good to have a large church or movement if those same people miss out on kingdom life in the age to come because they never knew the truth that saves.

People came into the early church because of the truth, and they boldly preached what they received, often sacrificing their lives. If people didn't like it, they just didn't “join”. We see throughout Scripture that the leaders and the church were warned against false teachers and those who distorted the word of the kingdom and of the Messiah.

2 Timothy 3:13-17 is a good example. It warns us that evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived. Yet we are exhorted to continue in the things we have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom we have learned *them*. We are reminded that we have known the sacred writings which are able to give us the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. The simple truth is that all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that we may be adequate and equipped for every good work.

Jesus' church is not “all-inclusive” as the world defines “all-inclusive.” His church includes all sinners AFTER they have repented and obeyed what is written, and were baptized. Jesus' church is filled with saints who are doing their best to walk out and grow in the truth they have accepted, and to walk in righteousness.



Every topic, belief, or “doctrine” can and should be supported and followed as taught in Scripture. Again, **“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.”** (2 Timothy 3:17)

Our holy Scriptures give us adequate information on who God is and His plan, and they are there to equip us for every good work that God has for us to do. Discussion about the Scriptures is good, but in the end, our main goal should be good works, that is, doing the Great Commission and sharing the truth so all people have the opportunity to hear and be saved. Discussion should always lead us to action.

According to Scripture churches must teach, practice, and live all truth. So, what biblical teaching would you leave out? **What would Jesus leave out? What part of the sermon on the mount could be edited out of the life of a believer?!**

Most of us here agree on a several teachings of Scripture that the masses of professing Christianity deny or view differently. Often when discussing biblical matters and when people believe differently on a particular topic, we hear, “we just have different interpretations.” That may be the case, but there is still only one truth. If we truly are seekers of truth, wouldn’t we want to find out whose interpretation is correct so we could believe it? **We can interpret things anyway we want, but that does not validate beliefs or**

**make them right or acceptable in God's eyes.**

If we are claiming to be Christians, followers of Christ, we must know and believe what he taught. We must also not only know, but walk in the truths Messiah taught, live them out in our lives, and in the church.

Most of us here would probably agree that some of the main doctrines we must understand are, 1) who God is, 2) who Messiah is, 3) what happens when we die and the mortality of man, and 4) the truth about God's kingdom.

Many say that these are "SALVATION ISSUES", or the minimum we must believe. I think we would all agree that Jesus will be the righteous judge, but I am torn between mercy and grace and, "no other name by which we can be saved." That is, no one, but through God's chosen human

Messiah Jesus, can be given immortality and the Earth as Abraham's descendants, and be saved from the Lake of Fire.

**What then happens to the importance of the Great Commission if it doesn't matter what one believes as long as they are a good person or sincere in their false belief?** Why would it be so important to go tell people if it really doesn't matter what they believe? Why would our brethren be willing to sacrifice their lives for truth, if it really didn't matter and they would still "get in?"

Maybe Jesus just wanted everyone to be a part of the first resurrection in order to take part in the millennial reign because it is going to be so wonderful? But throughout Scripture it still seems that what we believe is important, and truth, not half-truth, leads to salvation!

In addition to those four core teachings, although I am not going to expound upon this today, I believe that it is also important to understand the signs of the times in regards to when Christ will return, and that there will only be one resurrection from the dead, at the END of the tribulation when Jesus comes visibly with the trumpet call of God and he sends his angels to gather the dead saints who will rise, and also those few faithful believers that will be alive at that time who have made it through the Great Tribulation. (All if this is clear in Matthew 24, 1 Corinthians 15, and 1 Thessalonians 4) If we don't get that right, we or future generations could be deceived and then it becomes a salvation issue.

When I hear, "that's not a salvation issue," I wonder then, why does it say that **all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching? Should we not search and study all things the Bible addresses?** If it is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, then perhaps we ought to take our faith a bit more seriously and get to the bottom of what is written.

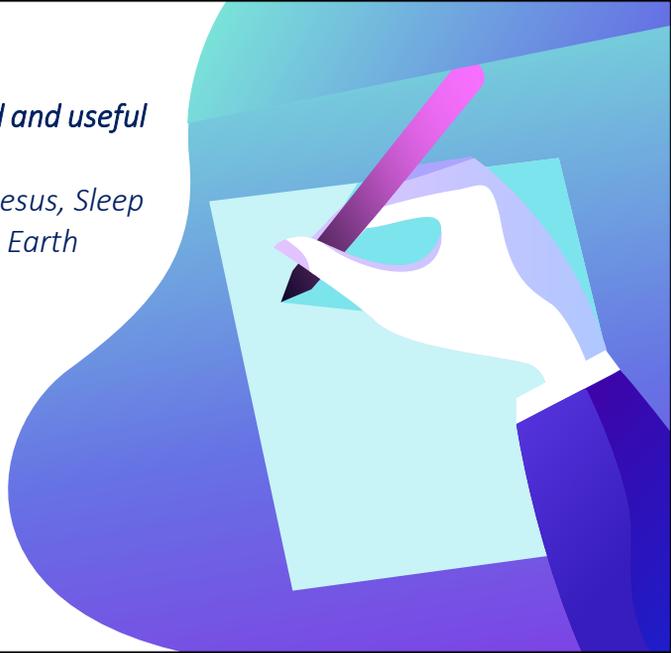
Following, I would like us to consider several other biblical teachings that are often pushed aside because of differing opinions or "interpretations."

## What Truths?

*All Scripture is God-breathed and useful*

One God, Man Messiah Jesus, Sleep of the Dead, Kingdom on Earth

**Baptism** ←



First is baptism. I am not sure why this is even an issue among those claiming to follow Christ. It is a command (Acts 2:38, repent and be baptized every one of you). It holds a promise (Acts 2:38 – and you will receive the gift of holy spirit). And Jesus did it to fulfill all righteousness (Matthew 3:15). If we are claiming to follow Jesus, we ought to follow his example and what he did, especially if we have no righteousness of our own.

Acts 2:41 tells us that “...those who had received his word were baptized...”

Acts 8:12 clearly states that, “when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the **kingdom of God** and the **name of Jesus Christ**, they were being baptized, men and women alike.”

Acts 10:44-48 tells us that while Peter was still speaking these words, the holy spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the holy spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, “Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the holy spirit just as we *did*, can he?” **And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.** Even when God’s spirit was manifested in the new converts by speaking in unknown tongues, they were still ordered to be baptized in water!

Acts 16:14-15 tells that the response to what is heard leads to the action of baptism (which means, baptism must have been a part of the message they heard!). When a heart is opened to respond to the Good news of the kingdom and of Jesus, this then leads to baptism. Verses 16:31-33 shows us the same response when the jailer believed. They said, “**Believe in the Lord Jesus**, and you will be saved, you and your household.” And they **spoke the word of the Lord** to him together with all who were in his house. and **immediately he was baptized**, he and all his *household*. We see the same was preached, or shared, with a person in Acts 12. People need to hear about Jesus and hear what Jesus spoke about, the kingdom of God. They must accept Jesus as the Messiah, Jews, Gentiles and professing Christians alike. It is not sufficient to just “believe in Jesus”, whatever that means in the evangelical world. Belief in Jesus means knowing who he really is, God’s chosen Messiah, a man, son of God, and not God, and one must believe in what he taught to the point of obeying what he said and living it out.

Acts 18:8 says that **when they heard they were believing and being baptized**. People hear and then respond by believing or accepting what they heard, and then obeying.

Acts 19:1-10 asks, “Did you receive the holy spirit when you believed?” And they *said* to him, “No, we have not even heard whether there is a holy spirit.” And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” And they said, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” **When they heard this, they were baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the holy spirit came on them, and they *began* speaking with tongues and prophesying. (We also see here the kingdom of God preached once again.)

Even though it is a decision each must make on his own, this is a good reference to the question if one should be re-baptized once they hear and receive the truth about Jesus. Once these people heard and received the truth, they were re-baptized into Jesus’ name. Understanding truth was essential to the commitment.

Verse 9 also tells us that when some heard Paul’s message they were becoming hardened and disobedient, they did not receive the truth or obey. Unfortunately, this is still happening today.

In Acts 22:16 Ananias asked Paul, “Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.” I ask some of you the same question, why do you delay?

**Throughout the book of Acts, which is the record of the early church, we see people hearing the message and then responding with water baptism.**

In 1 Corinthians 1:17 Paul said that he was not sent to baptize, but to preach. Yet if we read this in context, we understand why he said this, and when we read the whole of Scripture, we see that preaching included the message of baptism. Some sow and some reap. Some do

the evangelism and preach and others baptize. Paul was a preacher, and a very good one.

Acts 8:36-39 tells us about Philip and the eunuch. “They went along the road and they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they **both went down into the water**, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. When they **came up out of the water**, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.” This all happened after Pentecost and was the result of the believers doing the job they were given and empowered by holy spirit to do.

1 Peter 3:21-22 says that **baptism now saves us**. Being immersed in water is nothing magical. The act of baptism is not what actually saves us, but it is a matter of obedience. **If we choose to obey, we reap salvation, if not, can we even call ourselves a Christian if we are not following Christ and obeying and doing what is written?** Dipping seven times in a dirty river did not cure Naaman of the leprosy, and just building the Ark did not save Noah and his family. Getting in the dirty river and getting in the ark is what actually healed and saved them. Their willingness to obey led to salvation by the One who was able to save. Could you imagine Noah just hearing God, preaching to the people and then not getting IN the ark?! (*“Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.”*)

1 Corinthians 10:1-2 gives another example of obedience saving people. Just as the Israelites passed through the sea and were baptized, this obedience saved them from Pharaoh. They could have followed Moses all the way up to the sea, but if they did not obey cross through, they would have been destroyed.

Romans 6:4-5 explains that we have **been buried with Him through baptism** into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of his resurrection. We are promised a new life now and the assured hope to be resurrected when Jesus returns.

Col 2:11-12 talks about circumcision and baptism. Baptism is symbolic to being buried with Jesus and having the faith of being raised up when he returns. **When pondering this, a question that came to my mind was, could a man be a Jew and not be circumcised? Likewise, can a man be a Christian and not be baptized?**

Mark 16:16 says that after hearing the gospel, “**he who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved**; but he who has disbelieved (and didn’t believe and didn’t get baptized) shall be condemned. Even though this may be a controversial verse, we see this same message supported throughout Scripture.

Are there exceptions? Yes, of course! The thief on the cross was obviously not baptized. Maybe someone on their death bed, or someone in the desert won't be. But these are exceptions, not the rule. God knows the heart of man and Jesus' judgement will be right, but this does not negate the rule, to obey and be baptized.

Galatians 3:22-29 states that the promise is given to those who believe (and belief leads to obedience). All who were **baptized into Christ have clothed themselves with Christ. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.** This sums it up quite well. One must be clothed with Christ through baptism in order to be an heir and receive what is promised.

We saw what happened to the Israelites who did not obey. Hebrews 4:6 "those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience"

Romans 1 and Romans 16 talk about the *obedience* of faith. If we say we believe, we show that belief by obeying the one we put our faith in. If we love God and Jesus, we will obey them.

**What Truths?**  
*All Scripture is God-breathed and useful*

- One God, Man Messiah Jesus, Sleep of the Dead, Kingdom on Earth
- Baptism
- Filled with the Spirit**
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When we talk about being spirit-filled we must first define terms. **Filled with the spirit is not the equivalent to speaking in an unlearned tongue. If someone is “spirit-filled” this does not mean that they speak in tongues. Having “more of the spirit” does not mean, getting the gift of tongues.** And being filled with the spirit is not the same as having any specific spiritual gift, although if you have a gift, God’s spirit is in you working.

We can read in Galatians 5:22-23 what having God’s spirit in us produces in our lives. **And the more spirit in us, the more fruit we will produce!**

Acts 1:8 tells us *why* they were given the spirit. They **received power** when the holy spirit came so that they could **be Jesus’ witnesses to the world**. Then in Acts 2 we see the beginning of the holy spirit manifested in the lives of the believers for the purpose of evangelism. All the people heard them speaking in their own native tongues. Peter then preached that this was prophesied in Joel and now the time had come.

In Acts 11 we see the spirit manifested in unlearned languages in Gentiles as in Pentecost (11:18) so the Jewish believers in Messiah would see that “God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance *that leads* to life.”

1 Corinthians 12 and 14 tell us that spiritual gifts, or manifestations of the spirit are: (12:7)

for the common good of the church, and (14) – to edify and instruct believers.

We would all agree that we must teach, encourage and practice the gifts given for the building up the local and global body. We would also probably agree that we ought to desire and encourage the gifts that most benefit the body, as it says, which are the gifts of preaching and teaching.

The same spirit is behind each gift, ministry or effect and works all these things.

The gift of speaking in different languages, or tongues as most call it, seems to be the one gift that there is much disagreement and misunderstanding about.

I have a question. Why does the gift of languages, or tongues, get so much attention and why do so many people yearn for this gift when we were told it is the least of the gifts and we should desire the greater gifts, like preaching and teaching? How often have you heard people asking God to give them the gift of prophecy? When asked, “Do you want more of the spirit?” How many answer, “I do! Please lay hands on me and pray that I would teach and prophesy!”

Why do we not hear of people desiring or practicing the gift of healing or miracles, or see videos on YouTube teaching how to heal? The gift of healing would certainly have more use in the church today with so many sick and unhealthy people.

Not once have I seen “tongues” used in accordance with what Scripture teaches. In the Bible a lot of time is not spent on the topic of speaking in tongues, or different languages, but the little that is written and the examples we see, it is clear that the majority of those claiming today to have this gift do not practice it in accordance with Scripture.

I would like to make a few points that we must keep in mind when evaluating if speaking in tongues or unknown languages, is from God or not, and if it is being practiced in accordance to Scripture.

Is it true? God would certainly not have someone speak lies in a tongue, and why would He give false teachers and believers His power and this gift if it was not to bring them to hear His truths? **If tongues are for edifying the church, wouldn't He use them in the trinitarian churches to have someone tell others in those churches the truth?**

Can the supposed gift be from the spirit of truth if the truth is not being taught in the church? (John 14:16-17) There are many other religions that practice speaking in tongues and I think we would agree that it is not YHWH's spirit that is empowering the Hindu, Pagan, or Shaman tongue speaker.

Is it controlled and orderly when practiced? The Bible is clear as to how this gift should be practiced.

- If to speak in tongues only a few should speak, and in their own turns, not all at

once, and there must be interpretation.

- The tongue speaker must keep silent and not practice speaking in unknown languages if there is no interpreter. Is this how it is practiced?
- There should be order in the service and in prayer, not a loud din.

Tongues are a sign for unbelievers. (So, if there are no unbelievers in church, why use this gift? Just like if all are healthy, why practice the gift of healing?)

Even if praying in a tongue between you and God, you should pray to interpret so your mind would not be fruitless.

- Speaking in tongues edifies yourself, not the church (unless interpreted).

Not all speak in tongues, just like not all are prophets or miracle workers. So, if a church teaches that all should speak in tongues as a sign of being a believer, that is a false teaching. I recently read one statement of faith that said, "God desires that every Christian speak in tongues, which is a believer's only absolute guarantee that he has received everlasting life." This is false and there is NO biblical teaching to support this!

And a big question of mine is, if God is giving everyone the gift of speaking in a different language, why would we need to teach people how to do it or even tell them to do it? Did Jesus say, go learn how to speak in tongues and then I'll pour my spirit out on you? Was there a Pentecost 101 tongue speaking class? If God's spirit is being manifested in someone as the gift of speaking in tongues, a language they do not know, they will just speak. They don't need training or prompting, and certainly not YouTube videos. (By the way, it is interesting, as I said, I don't see any YouTube videos on teaching people to heal others, do miracles, or raise the dead. Why do you think this is? My guess is because you can't teach or fake raising the dead, healing or other miracles.)

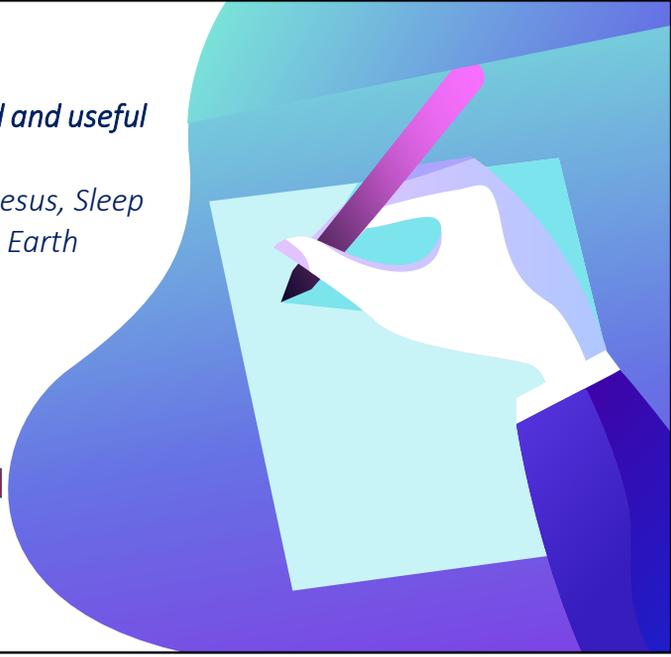
(14:12) If you are zealous for spiritual *gifts*, seek to abound for the edification and instruction of the church, and remember, **Scripture is clear, spiritual gifts are given to the body so they can edify and instruct the brethren, and God's spirit is given so that we can be Jesus' witnesses where we live and to the whole world.**

How are you using your gifts?

## What Truths?

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- Baptism*
- Filled with the Spirit*
- Love of Enemies* ←
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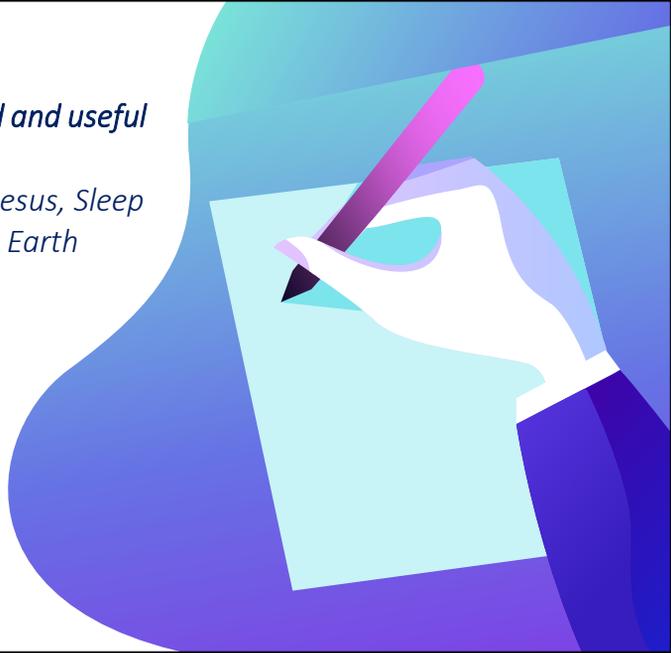
Jesus preached a sermon on the Mount of Olives (Matthew 5-7). One very important point he made that many professing Christians are divided on was to LOVE one's enemies. This simple command was not a suggestion. And in this command, there are two very important words, – "Love" and "Enemies". Other places in the Bible it tells us what love is. For example, 1 Corinthians 13 beautifully and thoroughly describes what it means to love.

Scripture tells us that love does no harm, and it also tells us to feed our enemies. We were never told to harm or kill our enemies. In fact, we are told to overcome evil with good. Christians, especially Americans, need to align themselves with our king's kingdom and stand for his anthem, enlist in his army, and follow his commands. We should not fear him who can kill the body for a few years; we must fear Him who can destroy us for eternity. And better yet, we should have peace in death, whether natural causes or murder, that we will be resurrected when Jesus comes and be made immortal and live forever in God's perfect kingdom.

## What Truths?

*All Scripture is God-breathed and useful*

- One God, Man Messiah Jesus, Sleep of the Dead, Kingdom on Earth*
- Baptism*
- Filled with the Spirit*
- Love of Enemies*
- Be Separate* ←



We have been set apart and we are called to righteousness; but to what extent? Did Jesus preach a sliding scale in his sermon on the mount? We are told to be perfect as God is perfect, yet we all know that we fall short at times. However, each day we still should be striving for perfection. People should see us becoming more like Jesus every day. Do our choices of games, movies, books and music reflect Jesus?

Many of these earthly pleasures open doors to the enemy and to temptation and sin.

God told the Israelites to “have nothing to do” with the nations around them. He didn’t say go mingle with them or take on their customs and holidays and change them to be Mine. He demanded that they stay separate, even to the point of destroying false idols.

At this point many mistakenly use Romans 14 to try to justify different opinions, or “disputable matters.” If to read the context, this is talking about food and holy days, both which under the new covenant became obsolete for the believer. This is not talking about idol worship or other things that God condemned. Throughout Scripture the truth of these matters is evident, like sexual immorality, witchcraft, or even lying.

I have heard that even whether Satan is real or not is just an “interpretation.” Both cannot possibly be true. This is a very important topic that many are not willing to discuss or teach

so not to offend others. Certainly, we should not use offensive speech, but Jesus said that he and his words would cause people to be offended. Truth causes many to be offended, even those who are professing to follow Christ. If we don't know our enemy, we can't very easily stand against him. How much more if we don't even think he exists! This is important to understand and to teach new believers.

Matthew 13:18-23 explains the parable of the sower. (Vs. 19) When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the **evil one comes and snatches away** what has been sown in his heart. And in the Parable of the tares the devil is the one who sowed the tares. The reapers are angels. There are heavenly beings and angels and the bible clearly speaks about the obedient and disobedient angels, which can also be called demons. Angels are messengers and demons are adversaries, or angels with a false message.

We have a real adversary! Some of his heavenly followers even ended up in prison until the end of this present evil age. Jude 1:6 says that the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day.

Luke 4:41 says that Jesus spoke to demons and they to him. If Satan and his demons are not real, please define these demons that Jesus spoke with.

In fact, the lake of Fire was prepared for the Devil and his angels. Matthew 25:41

Satan is real and he wants to destroy you and your hope for being resurrected to immortality in the age to come. He wants you to disobey God and he slyly deceives. We must be separate and consecrated to God and we must acknowledge our enemy and stand firm against him.



I think we would all agree that if we were to fill the church with atheists, Buddhists or Hindus that refused to change their beliefs and accept God's Messiah and his teachings, but still agreed to sit there most Sundays, we would not count that as church growth, or even as a healthy church body. So then, why are many pleased with numerical growth or impressed with larger groups with many activities and ministries that fail to believe or practice clear biblical truths?

If we desire to be strong and vibrant with true eternal rewards, we must be building what will last through the test of fire. **God does not compromise, and neither should we! Following Christ and his teachings will cost us something!! Is there anything that are you holding back or holding on to? Or is your life on the altar?**

## Impossible for God to Lie



*In later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons.*

*1 Timothy 4:1-2*

*Set them apart in the truth; your word is truth. John 17:17*

If God is true and has an established truth in all matters, should we not seek to know and understand what HE says is true in as much as He has provided us with information and answers?

I realize that He has only given us so much knowledge and understanding, but we ought to dig into what He has given us, and at the same time, make sure that we are not adding on to it or taking anything away.

### **Definition of *lie* according to Merriam-Webster:**

1a : an assertion of something known or believed by the speaker or writer to be untrue with intent to deceive.

b : an untrue or inaccurate statement that may or may not be believed true by the speaker or writer.

2 : something that misleads or deceives

Verb: to tell an untruth, imputing dishonesty

**There is no lie found in God. God cannot and will not lie.** It is impossible for God to lie. (Numbers 23:19, 1 Samuel 15:29, Hebrews 6:18, Titus 1:2) **If God does not and cannot lie, do you think He will accept lies?** If He doesn't, we certainly shouldn't! We should agree that

God expects that there can only be one truth about who He is, who His Messiah is, and about what is evil and what is good. There can only be one truth about where the righteous will reside and when they will reside there. We cannot possibly be immortal and mortal at the same time, and we either go to heaven when we die or we stay dead in the grave until Jesus returns, and only then are we resurrected and given immortality. Jesus cannot be both God and man; he must be one or the other. We cannot both kill our enemies and love them.

**God has given us brains and He has given us enough information on these subjects to know what we need to know now. He has given all the information He wants us to have at this time. Therefore, we must seek and speak truth and not follow or condone lies and false teaching. We certainly should not be united with known lies or accept false teachers. There is no unity between truth and error. Things are either true or false. And if it is false, it is a lie.**

**If someone is preaching something contradictory to Scripture, it is false. A lie is the opposite of truth, and if it is not true it is dishonest, whether the speaker intends to be or not.**

There are a lot of peaceful Buddhists, kind people, and people committed to their faith. But if it is a commitment to a lie or to a false teaching, God is not honored and it is not the narrow path through God's man messiah Jesus.

In fact, the Bible tells us that liars will not be in the kingdom (Revelation 21:8). This seems to say that speaking truth and not lies is quite important.

**God told His people to come out and be separate.** He never told us it would be easy. In fact, He told us we would need to sacrifice and crucify ourselves and our desires. God never promised that in this age we would have the perfect life or live like those around us. This life is not about us and our pleasures, it is about leading many to righteousness (Daniel 12:3) and into the kingdom.

1 John 2:22-23 tells who the liar is. Who is the liar? The one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the son. Whoever denies the son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the son has the Father also.

**1 John 2:21 states that no lie is of the truth.** This clearly says that half-truth is not acceptable or good enough for God.

**The first Lie has affected Christianity ever since! Genesis 3:4 "You will not surely die."** **John 8:44 tells us that Satan is a liar and the father of lies.** This lie has not only perpetuated into most religions, but into many that call themselves Christian.

Titus 1:2 and Hebrews 6:18 state again that God cannot lie.

Romans 1:25 says that people exchanged the truth of God for a lie (so there is the truth and there are lies, you must pick one and you can't have both!)

Numbers 23:19 says that God is not a man, that He should lie. Men can lie, God can't.

Proverbs 12:22 boldly states that **lying lips are an abomination to the Lord**. One would think that preaching lies about who God is, who Jesus is and what our reward is, would also be detestable to God.

**We must be aware and we must be on guard!**

**1 John 4:1 warns us to not to believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.**

Matthew 24:24 says that false Christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

We must not close our eyes to these false prophets, welcome them as brothers, or sit amidst their teaching. We must test what they say and not be led away from God's precious truth, no matter how charismatic they are or how many good programs they offer. If we are so easily swayed by worship style or children's ministry, what will happen when they are doing great signs and wonders?

1 Timothy 4:1-2 warns us that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared.

This was a real problem back then in the church, and it remains a real problem today, and we have been warned.

**The result of not loving truth, and accepting false teaching, is found in Revelation 21:8, But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**

**We cannot compromise! John 17:17 implores the believer to sanctify (consecrate, set apart, devote exclusively) themselves to the truth; and God's word is truth.**

# Global Brethren Sacrifice

*Are we willing to stand with them?*

*with one mind*

*Acts 2:46-47*

*unity of the spirit*

*Ephesians 4:1-6*



Theresa,  
USA

Edwin,  
Peru

Igor,  
Croatia

Maksim,  
Russia

***Our Brethren around the World***

Genuine truth seekers are leaving churches and organizations that do not teach Bible truth. They are sacrificing families, friends, and long-time church fellowship. They are alone in whole cities and countries. It concerns me that many in America are compromising the truths they have been blessed to know, many having them passed down through generations, and then dissenting the faith, the truth, for half-truths and outright lies, and worse yet, raising their children in a church of liars for the sake of a bigger youth group or better music.

Where will you stand? Your ministry? Your church? Your Conference? Your movement? Your college? I urge you to maintain integrity. God blesses those who stand firm in truth and are willing to proclaim it without shame. If we are ashamed of or compromise the truth we will not prosper in our ministry, which in reality is not our ministry at all, but God's.

We should not be ashamed of the true gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16)!

Jesus said he didn't expect many to still be standing when he returns. Contrary to evangelical Christianity and their reports, true Christianity is not growing by the millions.

**It is growing one believer at a time as people submit to God and cry out to know and**

**understand the truth about who God is and the hope He offers.**

Those of us who are blessed with truth should not be compromising ourselves and our fellowship for other things that do not save. **Only God's truth can save, and only God's truth brings true church growth.**

Acts 2:46-47 says, "Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved."

Ephesians 4:1-6 implores us to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

**Which Piece Would  
Jesus Have Left Out?**

# Integrity



Nowhere in Scripture have I found where it says that half truth is acceptable. We are told to be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48).

We are told not to lie. We are told to love truth. I have found no exceptions! We are told that truth saves and we must have integrity in our beliefs, our teaching and our preaching. We must have uncompromising integrity if we are representing the coming king who will reign over all the nations of the earth!

If to have the same integrity as Jesus, we cannot compromise or partner up with people and organizations that we know teach lies or half truths. We can, however, try to converse with them, study with them and pray for them. We should not throw our lot in with them, support them or bless them, with words or money.

We cannot risk the salvation of our hearers and our young people. They are the next generation. If they get a watered down or only partial truth, they will not be equipped to pass the whole truth of Scripture to the following generations if Jesus would tarry. Once a piece of the puzzle is forgotten, it is lost. What will be left after a few generations that compromise and whittle away the truths Jesus taught?

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. <sup>2</sup> Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers,

beware of the false circumcision; <sup>3</sup> for we are the *true* circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, <sup>7</sup> But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, <sup>9</sup> and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith, <sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; <sup>11</sup> in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. <sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; <sup>16</sup> however, let us keep living by that same *standard* to which we have attained.

<sup>17</sup> Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* enemies of the cross of Christ, <sup>19</sup> whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>21</sup> who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Philippians 3:12-13



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In conclusion, John 8:32 gives us encouragement. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

**The church should be willing to stand unapologetically for the whole truth of Scripture, and not only a few core doctrines if the church desires to be free from false teachers and if it desires grow and to be known among the nations.**

**2019 Theological Conference**  
***Truth in the Church, Tracy Zhykhovich***