

WHY BELIEVING THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD IS ESSENTIAL

Jno.17:17,19

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In a previous lesson we asked and discussed the question “What Is Truth?” with reference to salvation and serving God wherein we considered some of the various erroneous attitudes and false concepts concerning the matter among people of our time; such as that of: Scepticism, Modernism, and that of Postmodernism, or the postmodern mindset with reference to truth.
2. In that lesson the emphasis was on the concept taught by so many that as far as being saved here and hereafter in heaven truth is unimportant or there is no such thing as absolute truth, and that one view is as good as another.
3. In this lesson the emphasis is on the fact that the preferences and the pronouncements of men and religions in general or of the so-called “clergy” do not determine whether or not truth is essential to one’s salvation.
 - a. Neither can the “feelings” nor the “testimonies” and or the “traditions” of the religious world adequately answer the question as to the essentiality of truth.
 - b. The written word of God, the Bible, and it alone, is able to authoritatively answer the question.
4. We suggest that a serious consideration of the following Bible **FACTS** should convince every Bible believing, truth loving, sincere person that believing the truth of God’s word is absolutely essential to salvation from past sins and to eternal life in heaven!

II. DISCUSSION

A. TRUTH CAME BY JESUS CHRIST, Jno.1:17. Cf. 14:6.

1. This declares that grace and truth came.
2. That grace and truth came by Jesus Christ in whom is life. Cf. Jno.1:4.
3. In this case, that grace and truth which came by Jesus Christ of necessity must refer to and include:
 - a. The gospel of the **grace** of God, the word of his **grace**, that brings salvation to man teaching us, or to the word of the **truth** of the

gospel, the gospel of your salvation; the one gospel of Jesus Christ, as declared in the following passages: Ac.20:24,32; 14:3; Gal.2:5,14; Eph.1:13; Col.1:5; Tit.2:11-14.

- b. The whole of the **truth** of the gospel – the fullness of it summed up in Christ and the doctrine of Christ.
4. The essentiality of the truth that came by Jesus Christ is evident by the fact that those who do not believe and obey it, or who transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God, 2Jno.9,10.

B. JESUS CAME TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE TRUTH, Jno.18:33-37.

1. Pilate's question in V.33: "Art thou the king of the Jews?"
2. Jesus' answer in V.36. take note:
 - a. Had Jesus simply answered Pilate's question with a "Yes" or "No", with no further explanation, he would have left a false impression.
 - b. If he had simply said, "Yes, I am a king," Pilate would have considered the charge of the Jews justified.
 - c. Had he simply said, "No," he would have left Pilate with a false idea as to his true nature and position.
 - d. Therefore, he replied that he was truly a king, with a kingdom, but that his kingdom or his reign was not of this world or of this order or nature of things; that it was not an earthly kingdom; not a secular, political one, maintained and perpetuated by the sword.
3. Pilate's further question in V.37a: "Art thou a king then?"
 - a. As if to say, You deny being king of the Jewish nation; yet, you speak of your kingdom; you must then be some kind of king! King then you must be.
B "So then, after all, thou art a king, even thou?"
4. Pilate's persistence required Jesus to speak specifically regarding why he came and of his mission in the world. Thus his response to Pilate in V.37b.
 - a. "Thou sayest that I am a king." Or, Yes, I am a king.
 - b. "To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth,"
 - (1) Which, of course, he did by both word and deed.
 - (2) Also, both he and the Father bore record of his witness, Mt.3:16,17; 17:5.
 - c. "Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

- (1) Hears and obeys his voice, not that of false teachers. Cf. Jno.8:47; 10:14,16; 1Jno.4:6; Jno.12:48-50; Heb.5:8,9
- 5. As king in his kingdom, the everlasting kingdom of O.T. prophesy, he reigns at the right hand of God in heaven with all authority in heaven and earth, Dan.2:44; Ac.2:36; 1Cor.15:22-26; Mt.28:18; Eph.1:19-23; 1Pet.3:22.
- 6. How, then, can any professed Bible believer fail to see the absolute essentiality of the truth of God's word?

C. TRUTH MAKES THE SINNER, THE SERVANT OR SLAVE OF SIN FREE, Jno.8:34,31,32.

- 1. The one who committeth (practices) sin is the slave of sin, V.34. He is of the devil, 1Jno.3:6-10.
- 2. Freedom from the bondage of sin comes through knowledge of and obedience to the truth, the word of the Lord, the gospel of Christ, the grace and truth that came by Jesus Christ, Jno.8:31,32; 1Pet.1:22-25; Rom.6:16-18; 8:2.
- 3. This being true, two things are evident:
 - a. There is such a thing as truth, absolute truth.
 - b. The absolute essentiality of the truth of God's word is clear.

D. THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD BY MEANS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AS THE AGENT SANCTIFIES OR SEPARATES ONE FROM EVIL THINGS AND EVIL WAYS UNTO GOD, Jno.17:17,19.

- 1. See Rom.15:16; 1Cor.6:11; 2Th.2:13,14; 1Pet.1:2.
- 2. Obviously, this sanctification unto God is through the word by the agency of the Holy Spirit.
- 3. But when we remember that "the word of God is the sword of the Spirit," Eph.6:17 –
- 4. Surely we are impressed with the fact that the word of God is absolutely essential to salvation from past sins and to eternal life in heaven!
- 5. With this in mind we cannot be "tossed to and fro" with the postmodern mindset!

E. TRUTH PURIFIES, 1Pet.1:22-25.

- 1. According to 1Pet.1:22-25 men of faith and hope
 - a. Purify heir souls.

- b. Purify their souls in obeying the truth.
 - c. Purify their souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit.
 - d. Being born again...by the word of God, which liveth and abideth (endureth) forever.
 - e. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.
2. This is elsewhere identified as “the gospel of the grace of God, the word of his grace, that brings salvation, or the word of the truth of the gospel, that one and only gospel of Christ, that grace and truth that came by Jesus Christ.
 3. Thus there is truth --- absolute truth --- saving truth --- the truth of God’s word!
 4. How, then, can any professed Bible believer fail to see and accept the absolute essentiality of the truth of God’s written word?

III. CONCLUSION

1. It is God’s desire that all man come to a knowledge of the truth in order to be saved, 1Tim.2:3,4.
2. Jesus Christ is the author of eternal salvation unto all who believe and obey him who is the truth, the way, and the life, Jno.14:6; Heb.5:8,9; Lk.6:46.