

# Bible Study and Notes

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## WHAT IS TRUTH?

### (APPENDIX 2)

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#### What Is Truth?

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Our title is taken from the words spoken by Pilate while interrogating Jesus Christ. John 18:38 tells us, "*Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault [at all].*" Too bad Pilate did not wait around for the answer because Truth was right under His nose (John 14:6 states, "*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me*").

What makes this subject a prophetic concern is because of the end time prophecies. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 says, "*[Even him], whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*" In the last days, we want to make sure we are following truth and love it so

much that we are willing to obey it.

Another place to find truth is revealed in Psalms 119:142, which says, "*Thy righteousness [is] an everlasting righteousness, and thy law [is] the truth.*" God's Holy Ten Commandments is truth.

The third place to find truth is in John 17:17, which tells us, "*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*" Notice that we are sanctified or made holy by the Word. This is the focus of the lesson.

The actual battleground for truth is over the Word. The ultimate question to ask is, "Are we Bible believing Christians or not?" The Apostles and early Christians were tortured, imprisoned, and even put to death over the Bible. Many that challenged the Antichrist with the Word were tortured and even burned at stakes in addition to every foul word heaped upon them. The sad part is that the vast majority of professed Christians were the ones name calling and even partaking in their deaths. Some names that were heaped upon them were fanatic, lunatic, cultic, and of course heretic. To say that the same is not expected today is to say that they sacrificed their lives for nothing and to call Jesus a liar. Matthew

10:25 says, "*It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more [shall they call] them of his household?*"

But with thousands of teachings floating around, many contradicting each other, what is the truth?

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#### What Is the Test?

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1 Corinthians 3:12-13 says, "*Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.*" So, clearly we see that there is a test.

Even Jesus brought this out in Matthew 7:21-27, which states, "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess*

*unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."* The question comes down to, what type of foundation are we building. Every Christian claims to use the Bible, but is it sand or rock. You see, when one builds a theory on a handful of verses, it cannot stand up to the tide of all the other verses that plainly contradict that theory. On the other hand, if one uses ten, twenty, or more verses to build a theory, it will stand against the rain of one or two other verses that "seem" to contradict.

Many teachings are based on man's theories or feelings. The most popular theory is the phrase, "I don't think it's that important to God." Then why did God put it in the Bible? Amen! On top of that, why would He repeat certain issues so many times if it were not important? In fact, what is important to God, people seem to brush aside as not so important, while other things are deemed very important when God does not seem to focus too much on it. A case in point is God's Law which is still binding and is stated as

such over two hundred times, yet people say it has been done away with or changed. Even the Sabbath is mentioned one hundred and forty-seven times as something to be kept, yet people think God has now substituted a one-hour church service on a pagan day. But mention the Mark of the Beast, and that is a different story? Much religious programming and printed materials cannot get enough of the subject, yet God mentions it only six times. Armageddon is another popular topic, but is only mentioned once in the Bible. Something is wrong.

Basically, it comes down to following man's teachings or the Bible's teachings. Following our own way or the Bible's way. God's answer is in Mark 7:13, which says, "*Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.*" God is not pleased when people follow teachings perpetrated by humans especially above a "Thus Saith the Lord!" Ezekiel 13:3 tells us, "*Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!*"

What did the early church follow? 2 John 1:10 says, "*If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into [your] house, neither bid him God speed.*" They were taught that if any one taught contrary to the teachings of the Bible that they were not to even receive him.

Note what bench mark the early church used with Paul in Acts 17:10-12, "*And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and*

*Silas by night unto Berea: who coming [thither] went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few."* They checked the scriptures. Too bad most Christians today do not check it out in the scriptures. If they did, no one would be keeping Sunday holy because it is not taught in the Bible. People would not be following the antichrist. People would not believe that a certain credit card is the mark of the beast.

This issue will be over following the truth or a lie. 1 John 2:18-22 states, "*Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would [no doubt] have continued with us: but [they went out], that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."* 1 John 4:3-6 says, "*And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [spirit] of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come;*

*and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."*

Are we sure that the Word is the issue? 2 John 1:7-9 tells us, "*For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*"

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### **How Does Satan Attack the Truth?**

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Daniel 8:12 says, "*And an host was given [him] against the daily [sacrifice] by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered.*" The Antichrist slowly cast down the truth. Paul even saw it by writing in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 about it: "*Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is*

*worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*" This did not happen over night. That is why full power was not exercised until 538 AD and also why it ruled for 1,260 years. It took that long to eradicate the truth. Quick moves make for easy detection.

But what permits the Antichrist to get away with casting down the truth? 2 Timothy 4:3-4 says, "*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; And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*" And one of the greatest teachings to come out of the Antichrist is that the writings of Moses are fables – that creation did not occur in a week; the Red Sea is not where the Israelites crossed; and no one could survive in the desert for forty years just to name a few. But what does Jesus say? John 5:46-47 reveals, "*For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?*"

But "born again" Christians should want to hear the truth. Matthew 7:13-14 says, "*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide [is] the gate, and broad [is] the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*" Strait of course means strict. Luke 13:24 says, "*Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and*

*shall not be able.*" There is no other way but by the Truth. John 3:21 tells us, "*But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*"

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### **What Way Should We Follow?**

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People's prayers are quite interesting. They pray for something but do not always appreciate the answer, or they pray contrary meaning that how they pray may cancel out the answer. For example, the effect of some prayers is similar to "Lead me Oh God, but do it my way." All of us at one point probably uttered similar words. But what does the Bible say? Psalms 25:5 states, "*Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou [art] the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.*" If God truly leads us, we will end up in the TRUTH, which is in Jesus, the Law, and the Word. Amen?

And what is God's way? Psalms 86:11 says, "*Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.*" Again, the TRUTH appears. Note as well the reference to the heart and fearing His name. The heart is not always the thing pumping blood but rather it refers to decisions based on love that occurs in the mind. And the Seal of God is to have the Father's name. In this verse, the connection to God's truth is made with His name.

Speaking of the Seal of God, during the persecuting times, one will not be able to buy and sell unless they have the Mark of the Beast. Note Proverbs 23:23 says, "*Buy the truth, and*

sell [it] not; [also] wisdom, and instruction, and understanding." Notice how important it is to get a hold of the truth now and not let it go before the Mark is enforced because once that happens, one may not be able to get the truth.

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### **Does It Matter How People Study The Bible?**

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2 Timothy 2:15 tells us, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." It is commanded that people rightly study the Bible, but before we address rightly dividing the Word, let us consider an important fact. Jesus is the Truth and not Truths, which means if properly studied, all should come to the same conclusion, right? Maybe then the proper method of Bible study is not being conducted.

So, let us look at some basic steps in studying the Word, keeping in mind that a college degree does not guarantee the understanding of Bible truth. 2 Timothy 3:7 says, "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." People could quote book, chapter, and verse but may not have the understanding. Oh, be so careful of the professed "learned," they can be Satan's most affective tools.

What is the first step? 1 Corinthians 2:14 tells us, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually

discerned." **The first step is to pray for guidance by the Holy Spirit which leads us in all truth** (John 16:13).

What is the second step? Psalms 73:24 says, "Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me [to] glory." And note that we cannot come to the conclusion that each can have their own interpretation of the Bible for that would contradict the Word of God. 2 Peter 1:20 warns, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation." **The second step is to have the proper attitude.** We do not bring our thoughts to the Bible looking for supporting texts, rather we bring our questions to the Bible and ask for guidance.

What is the third step? 2 Corinthians 13:1 tells us, "This [is] the third [time] I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established." Isaiah 28:10 states, "For precept [must be] upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and] there a little." To fulfill this step, a concordance is quite helpful. **The third step is to find all the verses by more than one witness (writer) on the topic from Genesis to Revelation.**

What is the fourth step? Luke 11:28 says, "But he said, Yea rather, blessed [are] they that hear the word of God, and keep it." Revelation 1:3 tells us, "Blessed [is] he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time [is] at hand." Revelation 22:14 states, "Blessed [are] they that do his

commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Jesus tells us where the hope should be. Luke 8:21 says, "And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it." The Bible is the Word of God. Anything more or less is human traditions or feelings. **The fourth step is to accept and apply the Word of God -- not simply agree with it.**

What is the fifth step? Mark 16:15 says, "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." James 5:20 tells us, "Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." **The fifth step is to let others that are ignorant of the teaching know what you have found in a kind and loving manner.**

What is the sixth step? Psalms 119:11 says, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." 2 Timothy 2:15 tells us, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." **The sixth step is to develop a daily routine of Bible study.**

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### **How Important Is It To Follow the Bible?**

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2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of

*God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”* First, all scripture is important.

1 Timothy 4:16 tells us, *“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”* We are saved through the Word in more ways than one. We can avoid diseases, problems, and more by the guidelines in the Word. Also, by helping others to see the light, we can have a closer relationship with God. The whole plan of salvation is outlined in the Word. Jesus even said, *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me (John 5:39).”*

John 8:32 tells us, *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* Thank God for the truth, even when it hurts. God has given us a 24-hour period, every seven days to recoup and worship Him. We are not in bondage to Satan but rather have the blood of Jesus to cleanse us from all my sins. And each time we see revealed truth and apply it, we are set free from that specific snare of Satan. It is a step-by-step release from the grips of sin.

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### ***What Role Does the Holy Spirit Play?***

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John 16:13 says, *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”* Note that it is ALL the truth. That means if any spirit is teaching

that the Law is done away with, that is not the right spirit. The Bible even says so. 1 John 2:4 says, *“He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”*

If a spirit is leading towards feelings above the Bible or is teaching that the Bible is not the final word, that is not the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit's job is to draw us to the Word. Ephesians 1:13 states, *“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.”*

If a spirit is teaching that Jesus in fulfillment is permitting us not to walk as He walked, that is not the Holy Spirit because the Spirit is to draw us to Jesus. John 15:26 warns, *“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, [even] the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.”*

Ephesians 5:9 tells us, *“(For the fruit of the Spirit [is] in all goodness and righteousness and truth).”* Any spirit that leads away from the truth is not expressing the fruit of the Spirit. And Jesus said, *“Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them (Matthew 7:20).”* Notice the verse right before it. Matthew 7:19 says, *“Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”* That is serious!

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### ***What Does It Come Down To?***

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1 Samuel 12:24 says, *“Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great [things] he hath done for you.”* Look what God has done for you. He has given you life, many opportunities, sent His Son to die for you, and provided for your every need, just to name a few. The least we can do is follow His loving truth for it is the safest way. It not only protects in this life but also leads to life everlasting.

How does God want us to worship Him? John 4:23-24 says, *“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth.”* God says if we knowingly are following error, then we are not considered a true worshipper.

How important is it to follow all three areas of truth? 1 John 2:4-6 tells us, *“He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”* The Law is in verse 4, which if any one tells you that you do not have to keep it, they are a liar. The Word is in verse 5 where the love of God is perfected in those that keep His Word – not our own thoughts or somebody's

tradition. Verse 6 refers to Jesus in that He is the example that we ought to follow.

What shall we do with the truth?

3 John 1:8 tells us, "*We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.*" When we accept the truth from all three locations, that is the truth having us, we will then become fellow helpers of the truth. What is a fellow helper of the truth? It is one that is not a pew warmer but an active agent in promulgating or distributing the truth. They will not shrink from proclaiming it. And the greatest proclamation of the truth is in living it.

May God bless you and may it be in your heart to love of the truth so much so that you would want to be an effective witness for the kingdom.