

The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Introduction:

The word of God calls man to be saved from the eternal consequences of their sins (II Thess. 2:13ff). This lesson shall examine the word of God so that unbelievers may know of its divine origin, identity, work, and how I should approach it. Such knowledge will lead one to fear, reverence, and complete trust in the validity of truth.

I. What is Truth?

- A. Pilate once asked this question (Jn. 18:38).
- B. Truth equals the gospel message (Eph. 1:13).
- C. The gospel is a set of instructions that if obeyed will lead one to heaven (Jn. 6:44-45).
- D. The truth is law (I Cor. 9:21; Gal. 6:2; James 1:25; Heb. 7:12, 18; 8:6-7).
- E. When I violate this law I sin (I Jn. 3:4).

II. Divine Origin of Truth:

- A. God's words (II Tim. 3:16-17).
- B. Words of divine origin (I Cor. 2:9).

III. Work of Truth:

- A. Truth exposes sin (Jn. 6:60-65; 16:7-8; Heb. 4:12-13).
- B. Truth reveals righteousness (Jn. 16:7-8).
- C. Truth saves souls (Rom. 1:16; I Cor. 1:18-19; 15:1-2).

IV. How to Approach Truth:

- A. Confident that it can be understood:
 - 1. The Lord is dependant upon our ability to know truth (Jn. 14:3-7).
 - 2. The Lord is confident that we can know truth (Heb. 6:1-3; I Jn. 2:21).
 - 3. The "*true disciple*" knows truth (Jn. 8:31-32).
 - 4. The knowledge of truth comes by intense study (Jn. 7:14-18; II Tim. 2:15; I Cor. 3:1-3 etc.).
- B. Let us remove preconceived ideas of what truth is:
 - 1. Truth is not what "*I think*" (Jn. 16:1-2).
 - 2. Truth is not "*the doctrines or precepts of men*" (Matt. 15:9).
 - 3. Truth is not of "*flesh and blood*" (Matt. 16:17).
- C. Be willing to look honestly and sincerely at truth (II Cor. 1:12; 2:17).
- D. Be willing to implement truth into your life (II Jn. 9-11).
- E. Love truth with all your heart (Ps. 119:1ff).

Conclusion:

The gospel is a law of a divine origin that has the power to save man for eternity. These truths will not be appealing to all. Its truths are universal. What is truth for America is truth for China (I Cor. 5:3). What is truth during the days of the apostles is truth for us today (I Cor. 4:17). The mighty, wise, and noble of the world see no need for it (I Cor. 1:26). Those who do take in its treasures in obedience will have no disappointments for eternity!