

Truth and Love

Commentary for July 1, 2011 — Two Companions

Christ told us exactly why He was born. It was for Him to **“bear witness to the truth”** of His Father:

“To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth hears my voice.”

• **John 18:37**

The evangel, the Gospel, is true and it is the truth (Ephesians 1:13; Colossians 1:5). The truth of the evangel is preserved in each believer (Galatians 2:5).

The truth of God is what this month’s article is all about. Read first the [“July 2011 News-letter”](#) and then read the article that asks and answers the question “What is Truth?” In his epistle to the Philippians the apostle Paul lists many things that we should rightly think about in life. One of them is truth:

“... whatsoever things are true, ... think on these things. Those things, which you have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.”

• **Philippians 4:8–9**

Paul is saying, if you think about (or meditate), and then do the the things that are true (as well as do the other things listed in Philippians chapter 4), Almighty God, the Creator, then promises that **“the God of peace shall be with you.”** He desires those of the *ekklesia* at Philippi to follow Paul’s example of what they have **“learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me.”** God’s peace is a promise that you can depend on. Ask for peace (Philippians 4:6–7). We know from Paul (1 Corinthians 13:1–4) that charity¹ or love:

“Rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth ...

And now abides faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity [love].”

• **1 Corinthians 13:6, 13**

How you live indicates to God what you really believe. He who practices love in his life **“Rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth”** (1 Corinthians 13:6), by which is meant the truth of the evangel. Although ordinarily men seek darkness and wickedness (John 3:19–20), anyone who actually does the truth is approaching the light of God (John 3:21). The apostle Paul wrote to the *ekklesia* at Thessalonica:

¹ In each instance the word “charity” in 1 Corinthians chapter 13 in the King James Version is better translated “love.” The love that is meant is *agape* which is the unselfish love, affection, good will, benevolence. It is a higher form of love contrasting with *phileo*, which is brotherly love, and *eros*, which is erotic love.

“Now we ought to be thanking God always concerning you, brethren, beloved by the Lord, seeing that God prefers you from the beginning for salvation, [1] in holiness [sanctification] of the spirit and [2] faith in the truth, into which He also calls us through our evangel, for the procuring of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

• *2 Thessalonians 2:13–14, Concordant Literal Version*

What is Paul saying in this passage? He is saying that those who believed in Christ’s resurrection are **“beloved by the Lord.”** The Lord’s love was **“from the beginning”** with the goal being their salvation (and ours). And those believers have been given preference over the rest of mankind regarding two things:

- (1) they have priority to possess the holiness of God’s Spirit, and
- (2) they have priority to have **“faith in the truth.”**

This holiness and faith comes through the evangel, the Gospel, that Paul and others preached. All of this is done for the glory of Christ.² Toward the end of his life the apostle Paul wrote to his young associate Titus:

“Paul, a slave of God, yet an apostle of Jesus Christ, in accord with the faith of God’s chosen, and a realization of the truth, which accords with devoutness, in expectation of life eonian, which God, Who does not lie [He tells only truth], promises before times eonian ...”

• *Titus 1:1–2, Concordant Literal Version*³

As Paul says, we believers, as God’s chosen, possess a faith **“and a realization of the truth,”** both of which are in agreement with devoutness or piety. How we live as believers shows to God our faith and our understanding of the truth. The **“realization of the truth”** **“accords with devoutness.”** As Paul says, this faith, truth, and devoutness give us an expectation or hope of life eonian:

“Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which you have to all the saints,

For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel [evangel]; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and brings forth fruit, as it does also in you, since the day you heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth.”

• *Colossians 1:4–6*

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² This is completely in line with the apostle John’s understanding that we should worship God **“in spirit and in truth”** (John 4:23–24).

³ I prefer the translation of the Concordant Literal Version because for this passage it is clearer. The Concordant Version also translates correctly the adjective of the Greek term *eon*. The King James Version translates that one Greek word by two different English words: “eternal” and “world.”