

## The Truth Shall Make You Free

Commentary for April 15, 2023 — And You Shall Be Free Indeed

This short article was originally published by Dr. Martin in March 1981.

One of the last statements made by Christ before the Roman authorities nailed Him to the tree of crucifixion concerned the matter of truth:

**“Pilate therefore said unto him,**

**‘Are you a king then?’**

**Jesus answered,**

**‘You say that I am a king. 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.’**

**Pilate said unto him,**

**‘What is truth?’**

**And when he [Pilate] had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and said unto them,**

**‘I find in him no fault at all.’”**

**• John 18:37–38**

Pilate wanted to know what the truth was. On that occasion Christ did not answer him — or at least His answer is not recorded!

Have not all of us asked the same question as Pilate? All of us want to know, or we should want to know, what the truth is. One thing for certain, Jesus made it clear that everyone who loves the truth will hear Christ’s voice and recognize Him as king (verse 37). But absolute truth goes much farther than a simple recognition of Christ’s kingship.

Paul showed us where ultimate truth rests. He said: **“Let God be true, but every man a liar”** (Romans 3:4). God is always showing truth while every man is classified a liar (in a basic sense). Satan is also a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44).

### ***But God Is True — He Is Truth***

Even Paul was willing to admit that he, by his own human nature, was subject to falsehood as is every man. **“The Truth of God has more abounded through my lie ... for all have sinned [including Paul] and come short of the glory of God”** (Romans 3:7, 23). It is not that Paul was an intentional liar. Of course not!

Yet the fact that he was a human being, and in much less of station than God, made him susceptible to telling falsehoods — even though unknowingly. Many humans feel they have had, or still have, complete truth on many subjects only to find out that what they believed was not true. What is the standard by which we can evaluate what is true? It is God. All truth is

embodied in the Father and His Son.

The answer to Pilate's question: **"What is truth?"** is properly answered by saying: **"God is truth."** Anything else than God is tainted with falsehood, either in a major or minor way. **"Behold, He put no trust in His servants, and His angels He charged with folly"** (Job 4:18). And mankind, who are much lower than the angels, are even worse off.

If a person is one step or a thousand steps away from God, he is away from truth proportionately. And mankind is much farther away from God than the righteous angels. Truth is not resident in us by nature. That is what Paul meant when he said that all men are liars — and he even included himself in the statement because he was also a human being.

God then represents truth. The more we know about God and His ways, and practice His principles, then we know more truth. The Bible is the revelation that reveals the God of the universe. As God is shown through its pages, we have *truth* being demonstrated. The application of the spiritual teachings that reflect the character of God allow us to be walking in the principles of truth.

The essential truth of God is found in the words of Christ, and Christians acknowledge that there are no more supreme examples of truth than His teachings.

### ***The Joys of Truth***

The knowledge of truth should bring satisfaction to us all. From my own point of view, I have long expressed a thanksgiving to God for the understanding that Christ Jesus came into this world to save all of us — to save you, *me*, and the entirety of the world. The joy of this revelation has given me a sense of real respect and love for our heavenly Father. It is such a wonderful thing to know that God is indeed a merciful and all-loving Creator and that He is not out to destroy any of us in an ultimate sense. He is, after all, the Saviour of the world.

[ If you have not studied the biblical teaching which concerns the reconciliation of all to Christ, please see Dr. Martin's article, ["God's Reconciliation With Man."](#) Then read Dr. Martin's small book (online only) [The ABCs of the Gospel](#), with a new professional reading as an audiobook. ]

There are hundreds of other doctrines, prophecies, historical events recorded in the Bible that give us a feeling of happiness in the awareness of them. However, the realization of truth is not always a pleasant experience. The evidence of truth often shows that we have been wrong in some of our most cherished beliefs. This has certainly been the case with me. And what a trauma it was for me to discover it. **"For in much wisdom is much grief, and he that increases knowledge increases sorrow"** (Ecclesiastes 1:18).

The understanding of truth (any kind of truth — but especially biblical truth) can be very painful to us. Indeed, it is often so unpleasant that many of us shy away from it. To remain in ignorance is often a way to escape the realities of accountability. Really, it takes a strong person to bear the responsibility of knowing the complete truth of anything. Many of us flee from such an awareness by saying: *"Don't tell us the truth or we will be answerable for it, or*

*it will make us have to change our lifestyles, etc.”*

Practicing the *truth* can even alienate you from friends and loved ones. It can also demand an alteration of your whole way of thinking. This means that a great deal of effort would have to be put into action to accommodate the truth that one learns. This is why so many of us wish to run from the truth — especially when it requires us to admit we were wrong and must change.

Of course, it is never good to avoid the truth. But such avoidance is being practiced on a wide scale. Probably most of us (and I am including myself) are guilty of evading the truth from time to time. It is not that we wish to, but being human we have the tendency to flee from all unpleasant things. None of us likes to be shown he is wrong.

Ministers of religion are even hired by congregations to tell them about the pleasant things of life and to minimize the difficulties:

**“But after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears, and they shall turn away their ears from the truth.”**

**• 2 Timothy 4:3–4**

This is why many of the early Romans **“held back the truth in unrighteousness”** (Romans 1:18). The knowledge of the truth became unpleasant for them. We at [ASK] have felt it better to tell all the truth in our publications and lectures as we are able to know it.

And though so many of the biblical teachings we have disclosed over the past years are incredibly beautiful and satisfying, some have been very painful for many to take. When one thought he already knew the main essentials of biblical truth and then finds that he was wrong in even the basics, it is not a thing to make one rejoice.

The wise man, however, knows that he does not know all the truth of anything. By the recognition of this the mature individual can foresee that he must continually adjust his life to accommodate for the inevitable changes that await him. One who is a Christian should be aware that this continual re-appraisal is a part of his divine calling. None of us should be benignly content to sit back and avoid the issue of truth.

We are told to **“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ”** (2 Peter 3:18). It is the refusal to do this that gets so many of us into difficulties and insecurities.

**“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:**

**because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you.”**

**• Hosea 4:6**

None of us should ever be afraid of the truth. It can truly make us free. But to have freedom from ignorance also means that we must take the trauma of change in stride. There is always some pain with the disclosure of truth — even truth that we later rejoice in. Once this matter has been recognized, and gladly accepted, the mature Christian can show a love and appreciation for the truth. After all, it will pay rich dividends, both now and in the future.

## Addendum by David Sielaff [April 15, 2023]

God through King David of Israel tells us what our ignorant situation is before God opens our minds to the truth:

**“Behold, I was shaped in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you desire TRUTH in the inward parts: and in the hidden part you shall make me to know wisdom.”**

• *Psalm 51:5–6*

However, we can be assured we will know all the truths of God when we are glorified by God. However, all believers now, and all humanity in the future, will know the same truth you have now. Remember, all unbelievers are slaves of sin and are not free. You know this passage ...

**“Know you not, that to whom you yield yourselves servants [from *doulos*, a common Greek root word for “slave”] to obey, his servants [slaves] you are to whom you obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?**

**But God be thanked, that you were the SERVANTS [slaves] OF SIN, but you have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, you became the servants [slaves] of righteousness.**

**I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as you have yielded your members servants [slaves] to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants [slaves] to righteousness unto holiness. For when you were the servants [slaves] of sin, you were free from righteousness.”**

• *Romans 6:16–20*

Note the progression of what Jesus told his [future] disciples ...

**“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him,**

**‘If YOU continue in my word, then**

**[1] YOU are my disciples indeed; And**

**[2] YOU shall know the truth, and**

**[3] THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE.”**

• *John 8:31–32*

Christ stated directly to those who believed on Him (and likely most became His disciples), that they shall know the truth and that truth will free them. Later, the apostle Paul told his younger associate Timothy that this was God’s will for humanity. Note [2] below:

**“Who WILL have all men [1] to be saved, and [2] to come unto the knowledge of the truth. [Paul then tells us what that truth is:] **For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave Himself a ransom for all [humans], to be testified in due time.”****

• *1 Timothy 2:4–6*

“Knowledge” in Greek is *epignosin*, or “full knowledge.” Yes, “the full knowledge of the truth” will be known by “all men” (*anthropoid* in Greek, meaning “all people”). We should live this truth, both for your benefit and the benefit of all people you encounter in life. Truth results in freedom. Freedom and good works result in righteousness and reward.

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