

## TRUTH

Christianity is a religion of truth, because "the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true" (Eph. 5:9). Christ came to us as one who was "full of truth" (Jn. 1:17). He was and is "the truth" (Jn. 14:6). The "truth is in Jesus" (Eph. 4:21). To those who believed in him he said: "You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (Jn. 8:32). The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth and his purpose is to lead us to the truth (Jn. 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1 Jn. 5:6). God's word is "truth," and it is truth which can make us holy (Jn. 17:17, 19; 2 Thess. 2:13) and give us new life (Jas. 1:18). God judges us according to "truth" (Rom. 2:2). Although the world may have little concern for "truth" and may even mock it (Jn. 18:38), "suppress" it (Rom. 1:18), exchange it "for a lie" (Rom. 1:25), "obey not the truth" (Rom. 2:8), "refuse to love the truth" (2 Thess. 2:10), "not believe the truth" (2 Thess. 2:12), be "bereft of truth" (1 Tim. 6:5), "swerve from the truth" (2 Tim. 2:18), "never arrive at a knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim. 3:7), "oppose the truth" (2 Tim. 3:8), "turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths" (2 Tim. 4:4), or "reject the truth" (Tit. 1:14), "truth" ought to be a high priority for Christians.

Paul preached "the sober truth" (Acts 26:25; cf. 2 Cor. 6:7; 7:14; 11:10; 12:6). He taught that we ought to live according to the "truth" (1 Cor. 5:8). Our ministry should not be "against the truth" but "for the truth" (2 Cor. 13:8; cf. 3 Jn. 8). We ought to "obey the truth" (Gal. 5:7), because our souls can be purified by "obedience to the truth" (1 Pet. 1:22). We should be "established in the truth" (2 Pet. 1:12) and "do the truth" (1 Jn. 1:6). We need to be "walking in the truth" (2 Jn. 4; 3 Jn. 3-4) and make sure that we do not "wander from the truth" (Jas. 5:19). By right living we can make sure that we are "from the truth" and that the "truth is in us" (1 Jn. 1:8; 2:4, 21; 3:18-19). The gospel is "truth" (Gal. 2:5, 14; Col. 1:5), and everyone of us ought to "speak the truth to our neighbors" (Eph. 4:25). "Truth" ought to be as much a part of our lives just as a belt is an essential element to our clothing (Eph. 6:14). The mission of the church is to uphold and proclaim the "truth" (1 Tim. 3:15). We need to "rightly explain the truth" to others (2 Tim. 2:15). Truth is more than sincerity. It is opposed to that which is false. It is the opposite of error. Search for the truth and hold to it, even if you must abandon a traditional belief or suffer opposition. Learn the difference between the "spirit of truth and the spirit of error" (1 Jn. 4:6).

Joel Stephen Williams