

## COMMITMENT TO THE TRUTH

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Question: "What is truth?" Jhn 18:33-38
  - 1. Truth varied with Pilate. It was whatever Rome said
  - 2. Some suppose truth beyond man's reach
- B. Yet, there is such a thing Jhn 17:17; Psa 119:160
- C. Shouldn't religious people unanimously believe Bible is truth?
- D. Barna Research Group (barna.org) found: 86% "born again Christians" believe "Bible totally accurate in all teaching" yet, Only 67% read from it in the last week 46% believe Satan is not a living being but a symbol of evil 28% believe Jesus committed sins while on earth 32% believe in moral absolutes. Substantial numbers of "Christians" believe that abortion, homosexual sex, cohabitation, viewing porn, & drunkenness are morally acceptable and moral decisions are based on "whatever feels right or comfortable"
- E. Bible pulls no punches - tells us truth exists and serves a purpose 2Tim 3:16-17 Notice claims: Its Origin: From God - Its Purpose: Profitable - Its Result: Man equipped
- F. It also tells us there is right way to handle it 2Tim 2:15
- G. New Testament Christians, of all people, ought to be the most committed to truth. How can we be?

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUTH

- A. Makes us free Jhn 8:31-32
  - 1. Sin enslaves us & keeps us in darkness
  - 2. Truth enlightens & frees us
- B. Sanctifies us Jhn 17:17
  - 1. It sets us apart, dedicates us to God's service
  - 2. Without it, wouldn't know what to do Jhn 15:1-5
- C. Purifies us 1Pet 1:22 (purifying done "in obedience")
- D. Saves us Rom 1:16, Jas 1:21
  - 1. Gospel is: "word of truth" Col 1:5 (when obeyed cleanses the soul from sin)
  - 2. By "walking in the light" we can stay clean
- E. Judges us Jhn 12:48
  - 1. Word is THE truth by which all are measured
  - 2. No appeals, Bible the only and final court of arbitration that will determine our eternity
- F. No wonder told "Buy truth, and sell it not" Prov 23:23
  - 1. Whatever "price" it's greatest bargain of our lives since it will save us from certain destruction!

- 2. How can we become more devoted, committed to truth?

#### II. DEVOTE YOURSELF TO LEARNING TRUTH.

- A. No doubt with importance of soul-saving truth, we must spend time and effort on it 2Pet 3:18
- B. Sometimes, interest slackens. How can we become better students? 1Pet 2:2; Matt 5:6
- C. There is no substitute for diligent, private study
  - 1. Surrounded by Bibles at homes, but if something happened to Sunday morning preaching service, many would have no nourishment for their souls
  - 2. No lack of spiritual food--haven't grown enough to know how to get it for themselves Heb 5:12-14

#### III. GIVE YOURSELF TO TEACHING TRUTH

- A. Contrary to belief, evangelism NOT just preacher's work – but every Christian's Acts 8:3-5; 2Tim 2:24
  - 1. They evangelized under persecution!
  - 2. Why can't we do it without persecution?
- B. Because few find way of life does not waive our responsibility Matt 7:13-14; 2Tim 2:2
- C. EVERYONE can share the truth in some way.
  - 1. Invite someone to worship
  - 2. Hand out church business cards
  - 3. Set up studies for the preacher or yourself

#### IV. COMMIT YOURSELF TO LIVING TRUTH

- A. Practice what you preach Rom 12:1-2
- B. Who needs to see it?
  - 1. Your children Eph 6:4
    - a. Study disclosed: if both Mom and Dad attend regularly, 72% of their children remain faithful. If only Dad, 55% remain faithful. If only Mom, 15%. If neither attended regularly, only 6% remain faithful.
    - b. Statistics speak for themselves--the example of parents and adults more important than all the efforts of the church and Sunday School.
  - 2. Your neighbors Matt 5:16
  - 3. Your brethren 1Tim 4:12-16
  - 4. Your God (He sees) Heb 4:12-13; 2Cor 5:10

### CONCLUSION:

- A. Truth crucial to our well-being, here and eternity.
- B. God has preserved His word for us and we have it in a wonderfully complete, convenient package.
- C. What's our excuse for not knowing, teaching and practicing Truth?