

The Truth Shall Make You Free

Central Theme

Every believer must learn to hold to the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Outline

John 8:32 (AV)

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

- **Hold your place and close your bibles.**
 - I'm sure we've all heard this quoted before. I've heard it in churches, on television, in books and even political speeches.
 - Often spoken like a mantra, (the truth shall set you free!)
 - Have we ever taken the time to study what Jesus is saying? To question if this biblical phrase is being used properly?
1. Shall set you free - Freedom
 - a. This society is obsessed with "freedom".
 - i. Freedom is a good thing.
 - ii. Our national anthem calls this the "land of the free".
 - iii. But what is this freedom we are promised?
 - b. We often think of freedom as not being controlled.
 - i. We think of freedom to worship as we please, speak as we please.
 - ii. But we also think of freedom as something to be exercised without cost or consequences.
 - c. How does Scripture define freedom?

Romans 6:14 (AV)

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

- i. Sin does not have DOMINION over believers, but we are under grace.
 1. **Dominion:** To lord over, to have influence or power over.
 2. Rom 6:14 tells us we are free from the controlling influence of sin:
 - a. But does that mean that we are free from the consequences of how we live, since we are free from sin?

Romans 8:20-21 (AV)

For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

- b. Creation itself was made subject to the effects of sin because of the decision of our ancestors.

- i. Our actions may have consequences to others, just as Adam's sin had consequences for us.
- c. Creation waits to be set free, to be released from the consequences of Adam's decision.

Galatians 5:1 (AV)

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

- ii. Paul tells us that our liberty has made us free from sin meaning we have the ability to choose between sin and righteousness.
 - 1. It also means being free to suffer the consequences of our choices.
 - 2. That's why we are told not to entangle AGAIN with our sin.
 - a. Don't subject yourself to the dominion of sin.
- d. If we are free biblically, then we are free to choose.
 - i. Light or darkness, righteousness or evil, the choice is ours, because we have been set free.
 - ii. Removed from the dominion, the power of sin.
 - 1. We may not be free from the influence of sin, but we can choose not to sin.

1 Peter 2:15-16 (AV)

For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using *your* liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

- iii. This freedom does not give us the authority to use it to cover-up bad acts.
 - 1. Just because we have been forgiven of our sins doesn't mean we can commit them with impunity.

Romans 6:1-2 (AV)

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

- iv. There are those who use their liberty in a malicious way, harming others. Forcing them to do things not in the Word of God, but from man's heart.
 - 1. How many have been deceived by others misuse of their freedom?
- e. The world tells us freedom is doing whatever we want, whenever we want, without consideration of others, but we know that is slavery to our own ego and sin.

2 Peter 2:19 (AV)

While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

- f. Freedom means we have the responsibility to choose wisely, godly.
 - i. Some promise liberty, but what they deliver is actually slavery to sin.
 - ii. How many times have we heard people claim a freedom to do what God condemns in His Word?
 - iii. How many times have we heard people claim God would condone sin because he “loves” us?

Joshua 24:15

And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

- iv. Joshua was offering freedom to the Israelites. A chance to choose between the Lord or other gods.
 - 1. They could choose the gods of the land.
 - 2. Joshua was going to server God.
- v. God offers us the freedom to choose.
 - 1. It means we will suffer the consequences of that choice, either for good or evil.

- 2. You shall know the truth – Truth
 - a. How do we get this freedom?
 - i. By knowing the truth.
 - ii. What is truth?

John 18:37-38 (AV)

Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest 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 heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault *at all*.

- iii. Ask a dozen scholars what truth is and you’re likely to get two-dozen answers.
- iv. Pilate asked the question, but didn’t even wait for an answer.
- b. Truth is what is, whether you know it or not, like it or not, believe it or not.
 - i. It was true that the earth revolved around the sun before it was accepted science.
 - ii. It was true that many diseases are caused by germs, even through people couldn't see them and were skeptical.
 - iii. Jesus is a king, even through many don't believe it.

Romans 1:24-25 (AV)

Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the

truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

- c. The world likes to twist the definition of truth to fit their desires.
 - i. If that's what people want, that is what God will give them.
 - ii. If there is no ultimate truth, than man can do what he wants.

'For myself, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation, sexual and political.' --Huxley, A., *Ends and Means*, pp. 270 ff.

John 14:6 (AV)

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

- 3. The Truth, the Whole Truth and Nothing but the Truth
 - a. If you've watched a courtroom drama, you know when someone takes the stand they swear to tell...

Matthew 22:15-17 (AV)

Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in *his* talk. And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any *man*: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?

- b. The Pharisees wanted to trip Jesus up, so, using the Herodians they tried to pin Jesus in a contradiction.
 - i. They thought they had given him an impossible choice.
 - ii. By focusing on His teaching the truth, they thought they could catch Jesus in a lie to discredit Him.
- c. We should recognize that there is an absolute truth.
 - i. The truth is important. We don't want someone telling falsehoods.
 - ii. Nothing but the truth is important. We don't want some truth and some lies.
 - iii. Do we need the whole truth? Do we have the whole truth?
 - 1. Some have said a half-truth is the worst kind of lie.
 - iv. The Pharisees thought Jesus taught the truth, but they did not want the whole truth.
- d. What have I been telling you?
 - i. What we've been looking at is the truth, supported by Scripture.
 - ii. What we've been looking at is nothing but the truth, all has come from Scripture.
 - iii. Have we been studying the whole truth?
 - iv. We can all quote John 8:32.
 - 1. This verse starts with "And", doesn't it?
 - 2. It's a continuation, isn't it?
 - 3. Without opening your bibles, can you tell me what John 8:31 says?

- v. To be se free, we need the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

John 8:31-32 (AV)

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

- vi. There's a conditional clause there.
 - 1. What do we tell out children?
 - a. IF you finish your homework THEN you can watch TV.
 - b. IF you eat your vegetables, THEN you can have dessert.
 - 2. That means, in order to know the truth so you can be free, there's something you must do!
 - 3. Jesus is telling us IF we continue in His Word THEN we are his disciples and shall know the truth which will make us free.
- 4. Then ye are my disciples - Discipleship

disciple (translates the Gk. for 'learner'), an apprentice or pupil attached to a teacher or movement; one whose allegiance is to the instruction and commitments of the teacher or movement.¹

- a. To know the truth, Jesus says you must become his pupil or apprentice.
 - i. Do we study Jesus as a student?
 - ii. Do we follow what Jesus says like an apprentice?
 - iii. Do we trust what Jesus teaches us?

Matthew 8:5-13 (AV)

And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this *man*, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth *it*. When Jesus heard *it*, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

- b. It is easy to say we are a disciple of Jesus, but are we willing to live it.
 - i. There were many students of God's Word in Jerusalem, but it was the centurion who understood what it meant to be under authority.

¹Achtemeier, P. J., Harper & Row and Society of Biblical Literature. (1985). In *Harper's Bible dictionary*. San Francisco: Harper & Row.

1. The centurion was under authority, and knew that Jesus had authority to heal his servant.
2. The centurion had authority, and knew how Jesus could wield His.
 - a. He didn't need a sign or to have Jesus come to his house.
 - b. He understood that Jesus had authority and lived his life by that understanding.
- ii. Jesus marveled at the faith of the centurion.
 1. Jesus marveled, because the depth of faith and understanding the centurion displayed was so rare in Israel.
 2. Ask yourself, does anyone marvel at your faith?
- iii. What would our reaction be if someone like this centurion walked into this building?
 1. Would his faith be considered normal?
 2. Would we marvel at his faith?
 3. Would we argue over his faith because it didn't match our tradition?
- c. The freedom we crave is not free. Are we prepared to pay the costs of being a disciple?
 - i. How much time & money is spent on colleges and universities in an effort to learn what professors call "the truth"?
 - ii. How much time and effort are you willing to put out to know the truth so you can be set free?
 - iii. Are you willing to study Jesus' Word to get this freedom?

Luke 14:27-33 (AV)

And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish *it*? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish *it*, all that behold *it* begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

- d. If we are to become His disciples we must prepare to bear our own crosses.
 - i. Are we ready to bear the difficulties of a life following Jesus?
 - ii. Will we walk away when things get tough, like the seed in rocky soil which has no root?
 1. Personal example – Being laid off.
 2. The Hansons
 3. The Moritzs
5. Continue in my Word – Living a biblical life
- a. If we are to become Jesus' disciples, we must continue in His Word.

John 14:15 (AV)

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:22-24 (AV)

Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

- b. Do you love Jesus?
 - i. If we love Him, they we MUST keep His commandment.
 - ii. If we don't keep His commandments we don't love Him.
 - c. Do you spend time with the one you love?
 - i. You spend time with you wife or husband. You spend time with your friends. Do you spend time with your Lord?
 - ii. How can you continue in His Word if you don't spend time in it?
 - 1. Personal example of reading the Bible every day.
 - a. Started out a chore.
 - b. Then became an achievement.
 - c. Began to influence my life.
 - d. Now is a joy.
6. What happened next?

John 8:33-36 (AV)

They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

7. Like the Jews in Jesus day, many today think they are free because they live in America or are members of a "church".
- a. They say, "we are Americans, we are not slaves".
 - i. Though their family history enslaves many.
 - ii. Though they are enslaved by greed and envy.
 - iii. Though many are enslaved by lust and perversity.
 - b. Jesus said that if they commit sin, they are the servants or slaves to the sin.
 - i. Do they love the Lord with all their heart, more than their sin?
 - 1. How many in "the church" do?
 - ii. Do they love their neighbor more than their sin?
 - c. The world says the truth shall make them free.
 - i. The truth is, they are as enslaved to their lifestyle and worldview as anyone.
 - ii. Jesus says He is the truth, He will make you free.
 - 1. Free from your sin, not to commit sin.
8. Conclusion
- a. We all want to be free. But if we are to be free, we must know the truth, the whole truth with nothing but the truth as our standard.
 - i. We must start with continuing in God's Word.

1. By spending time with it.
2. By becoming familiar with it.
3. By studying it.
- ii. This leads to becoming Jesus' disciple.
 1. By applying what you've learned to your everyday life.
 2. By putting God's rules ahead of our own.
- iii. By becoming Jesus' disciple, we learn the truth.
 1. We learn what is and what works regardless of what others believe.
- iv. Then we will be free.
 1. Sin, while still present, will not have the influence on you it once did.
 2. You will be able to choose.

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (AV)

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, *and* that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he *is* thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

- b. How will you choose?
 - i. Will we choose the truth?
 1. Are we truly free?
 - ii. Will we choose life?
 1. Do we love the LORD
 2. Do we obey His voice?
 - iii. Or are we just sinners looking for a "get out of hell free" card?