

“THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUTH”

Lesson 12 ☐ For week ending December 20, 2014

Truth is not something to be taken lightly. It is not something for which we can have a *take-it-or-leave-it attitude*. The truth, as it is revealed in the Word of God, should be the guiding light of our life. God's truth is absolute! It does not change from one person to another nor from one circumstance to another. When we find the truth and walk in it, it will result in our preservation and ultimate salvation.

KEY TEXT: “Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding” (Proverbs 23:23).

1. One of the characteristics of Yahweh God is that He cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18). Since God is perfect, every word which comes forth from Him is also perfect (Deuteronomy 32:4; II Samuel 22:31)

- **Hebrews 6:18**

18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged.

- **Deuteronomy 32:4**

4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

- **II Samuel 22:31**

31 “As for God, his way is perfect: The Lord’s word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him.

2. Jesus came into this world as the express image of the Father. He was the Word of God made flesh (John 1:14). Discuss this in light of what Jesus told His disciples in John 14:6 Jesus revealed the importance of receiving Him as the Truth. What did Jesus say was the result of knowing and living the truth (John 8:31,32)

- **John 1:14**

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- **John 14:6**

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- **John 8:31,32**

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

3. Another reason truth is important to the believer is because obedience to it brings sanctification. Expand upon the way obedience to the Word of God sets the believer apart from the world to belong to God (John 17:14-17; Ephesians 5:25,26).

- **John 17:14-17**

14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.

15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

16 *They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.*

17 *Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.*

• **Ephesians 5:25,26**

25 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her*

26 *to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,*

4. Psalm 119 highlights for us some very important points about the importance of truth. According to verses 9-11, why should we hide God's Word in our heart? Consider the great understanding there is to be found in God's Word (verses 97-99). What is the Word compared to in verses 105 and 130? Discuss the way the psalmist prays in verses 124-128. What will we hate if we value the truth?

• **Psalm 119:9-11**

9 *How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.*

10 *I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.*

11 *I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

• **Psalm 119:97-99**

97 *Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.*

98 *Your commands are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies.*

99 *I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes.*

• **Psalm 119:105**

105 *Your word is a lamp for my feet, light on my path.*

• **Psalm 119:130**

130 *The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.*

• **Psalm 119:124-128**

124 *Deal with your servant according to your love and teach me your decrees.*

125 *I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes.*

126 *It is time for you to act, Lord; law is being broken.*

127 *Because I love your commands more than gold, more than pure gold,*

128 *and because I consider all your precepts right, I hate every wrong path.*

5. Satan, as the father of lies, works through deception to lead men away from the truth (Genesis 3:1-5). What does II Thessalonians 2:8-10 say is the reason many people will perish in the Last Days? Discuss the difference between knowing the truth and loving the truth.

• **Genesis 3:1-5**

1 *Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"*

2 *The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,*

3 *but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"*

4 *"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman.*

5 *"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

• **II Thessalonians 2:8-10**

8 *And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.*

*9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie,
10 and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.*

6. Truth is important to us as believers, for abiding in it places us under the divine protection of God. Read and discuss Psalms 91:1-4.

• **Psalms 91:1-4**

1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, God, in whom I trust."

3 Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare from the deadly pestilence.

4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.