

Tuesday Bible Study
Truth Matters
John 17:17
Pastor Duane Lawrence

“Sanctify them in Your truth. Your word is truth.”

What does the word sanctify means – it means “to set apart.” This verb, sanctify, also occurs in verse 19 of John 17. “And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.” (NKJV)

Again, the process of sanctification is a continuous process, meaning, it takes place regularly and consistently. So, believers are set apart for God to fulfill the purpose of God, so that believers are doing what God wants and hates all that God hates. Truth matters –

Let me give you a simple definition from what the Bible teaches as it relates to what truth is – Truth is that which is consistent with the mind, will, character, glory, and being of God. Even more to the point – truth is the self-expression of God. That is the biblical meaning of truth. Truth is theological, in that the definition of truth flows from God.

Truth is also ontological – which is a fancy way of saying it is the way things really are. Reality is what it is because God declared it so and made it so. Therefore, God is the ultimate standard, author, arbiter, determiner, governor, and final judge of all truth.

In John 18:28-38, Jesus is brought before Pilate and in the discussion, Pilate asked probably the most profound and eternally significant question in the Bible regarding truth. Now keep in mind that Pilate is not a Christian. Pilate asked Jesus in verse 37, “..., Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” 38 Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?” And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, “I find no fault in Him at all.”

Pilate responded to Jesus’ mention of “truth” has been interpreted in three ways –

1. A cynical denial of the possibility of knowing the truth
2. A contemptuous jest at anything so impractical as abstract truth
3. A desire to know what no one had been able to tell him

Pilate’s quick, sharp response was proof that he was really not interested in finding the truth.

Truth matters -

I Peter 1:13-16 – “Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.””

There are at least five (5) things that we as believers are encourage to do in I Peter 1:13-16 –
2 – Truth matters

- (1) Grid up the loins of your mind, another way of saying this is, prepare your minds for action –
People in biblical times wore long robes and as a result of wearing the long robes, whenever they had to move quickly, they would have to tie up or gather up their robes around their waists. We as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ need to be ready to do whatever it takes to reject the hindrances of the world and concentrate our thoughts on serving the Lord and “tie down” all the loose ends of our thinking that would hinder us from serving the Lord victoriously. Truth matters –
- (2) Be sober – being under the direction, guidance, and control of the Holy Spirit –
Sound judgment, self-control, steadfastness, clear thinking guided by the Holy Spirit – not “caught up” with the world and its devices
- (3) Rest (fix) your hope fully upon grace –
Brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ –
Believers should live their lives confidently demonstrating that they believe God will do what He promised –
Bringing to full completion our salvation at the second coming of Christ –
- (4) Demonstrating obedience and not being conformed to the former ways of your life that controlled you before you became a Christian –
- (5) Be holy – being set apart or separate; live in such a manner to be dedicated totally to serve God and shun the sins of the world – we glorify Him best by being like Him –
Holy – Truth matters –

Sanctification is accomplished by means of the truth, which is contained and revealed in the Word of God, which should be practiced and applied by believers. Jesus communicated all that the Father commanded Him to do and we now have that truth given to us written in the Scriptures. Truth matters –

The Old Testament refers to the Almighty as the “God of truth” – “He is the Rock, His work is perfect, For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.” Deuteronomy 32:4 (NKJV)

God stands firm, He is faithful, He is fair, He is the sure foundation – Right and upright is He!

When Jesus said of Himself in John 14:6, “..., I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” – He was making a profound claim about His own deity. He was making it clear that all truth must ultimately be defined in terms of God and His eternal glory.

Hebrews 1:3 – “who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,”

3 – Truth matters

Jesus is the exact representation of the nature and essence of God; His glorious brightness comes from being essentially divine. Jesus came from heaven to earth to cleanse us from our sins by sacrificing Himself on the cross, being buried, and rising from the grave on the third day. When this was accomplished, He “sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,” completing His atoning work on our behalf. Truth matters –

II Corinthians 5:21 – “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (NAS)

Sinners, like you and me, can now be reconciled to God because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. This verse, II Corinthians 5:21, express the doctrines of imputation and substitution like no other single verse. Christians are now reconciled to God because the righteousness of Christ has now been credited to our account.

Justification – paid in full

Purification – paid in full

Sanctification – paid in full

Glorification – paid in full

Truth matters –

God offers reconciliation to people of all classes, all colors, all cultures, all conditions, all circumstances, without distinction.

In a world that is filled with false messages, false messiahs, false methods, false medicines, false ministries, and false whatever else you name, Christians have the true message, about a true Messiah, who can clean up the mess we are in. Truth matters –

Jesus also said that the written Word of God is truth. It does not merely contain nuggets of truth; it is pure, unchangeable, and inerrant. The Word of God is eternal truth.

Truth matters -

Of course, there cannot be any discord or difference of opinion between the written Word of God (The Bible) and the Incarnate Word of God (Jesus). In the first place, truth by definition cannot contradict itself. Second, Scripture is called “the word of Christ.”

Colossians 3:16 – “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

4 – Truth matters

The word of Christ should flow through in every area of our lives as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. As a result of being filled (under the guidance, control, and direction) of the Holy Spirit every thought, deed, and conversation should be influenced by the word of Christ. The Holy Spirit fills the life of the believer who is controlled by the word of Christ.

It is His message, His self-expression. In other words, the truth of Christ and the truth of the Bible are of the very same character. They are in perfect agreement in every respect. Both are equally true. God revealed Himself to humanity through Scripture and through His Son. Both perfectly embody the essence of what truth is.

Hebrews 1:1-2 – “God, who at various times and in various way spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;”

God used various ways to communicate His Word which included visions, visitations, signs, symbols, dreams, parables, and events. Whatever method God used it was to communicate to the people what He wanted them to know and how they should respond in obedience.

Since Jesus came, it has been the “last days.” In times past, God revealed to His prophets what He wanted them to communicate to the people but since the coming of Christ, beginning with the birth of Jesus, God communicates the message of salvation through His Son. Everything that exists will ultimately come under the control of the Son of God.

Colossians 1:15-18 – “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible. Whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”

Notice how many times the words “all things” are repeated in the above verses – 5 times. You do know what the word “all” means right? All means all, and that’s all, it means.

Everything that exists will ultimately come under the control of the Son of God. All things!
No exceptions! Truth matters –

Remember, the Bible also says God reveals basic truth about Himself in nature. The heavens declare His glory.

Psalm 19:1 – “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.”

His other invisible attributes (such as His wisdom, power, and beauty) are on constant display in what He has created.

5 – Truth matters

Romans 1:20 – “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,”

Nature itself speaks eloquently of its Creator. From the intricate design of the human cell to the majestic strength of the Rock Mountains, all of God’s works testify of His wisdom and power.

No one is without the knowledge of God because the knowledge of God is inborn in the human heart. God has sovereignly planted evidence of His existence in the very nature of man by reason and moral law.

Romans 1:19 – “because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them,”

Truth cannot be adequately explained, recognized, understood, or defined without God as the source. Since He alone is eternal and self-existent and He alone is Creator of all else, He is the fountain of all truth. Truth matters –

There are serious moral implications too, whenever someone tries to dissociate truth from the knowledge of God.

Romans 1:28 – “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;”

When man continues to consistently disregard God by not taking heed to His Word and disobeying Him, God will abandon him, meaning, God will allow man to go his own independent way and suffer whatever consequences there may be.

Matthew 15:13-14 – “But He answered and said, “Every plant which My Heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14 Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”

This severe judgment is a form of God’s wrath – Truth matters

Truth is not subjective, it is not a consensual cultural construct, and it is not an invalid, outdated, irrelevant concept. Truth is the self-expression of God. Truth is thus theological; it is the reality God has created and defined, and over which He rules. Truth is therefore a moral issue for every human being.

How each person responds to the truth God has revealed is an issue of eternal significance. To reject and rebel against the truth of God, rather than receive and believe the truth of God, results in darkness, folly, sin, judgment, and the never-ending wrath of God.

To accept and submit to the truth of God is to see clearly, to know with certainty, and to find life everlasting. Truth matters –