

KNOW THE TRUTH

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INTRODUCTION

- A. TEXT: *“The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth; and not I only, but also all they that know the truth; for the truth’s sake which abideth in us, and it shall be with us for ever;”* (I John 1-3).
1. “Truth” is mention 4 times in first 4 verses.
 2. Its importance.
- B. SETTING:
1. The church had been in existence for about 50 years.
 2. Enough time for false teachers and teaching to arise.
 3. John would have us to see the Importance of Truth!
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A PARADOX

- A. RELIGION HOLDS UP THE STANDARD FOR TRUTH!
1. It teaches us the importance of telling the truth; of being truthful.
 2. It teaches the sinfulness of lying.
 3. Liars are left out of heaven. *“But for the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part shall be in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death.”* (Rev. 21:8). (See also Rev. 21:27; 22:15).
- B. THEN.....RELIGION AND RELIGIOUS TEACHERS GET UP AND PROCLAIM THAT **TRUTH** DOES NOT MATTER!
1. Each is free to believe what they want to.
 2. Doesn’t matter what we believe as long as we are sincere.
- C. HOW CAN ONE TEACH THAT LYING WILL CONDEMN - AND AT THE SAME TIME TEACH THAT TRUTH DOESN’T MATTER???
- D. *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”* (John 4:24).
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WHAT IS TRUTH?

- A. Webster: "agreement with reality; eternal principle of right. The quality of being according to fact."
1. The truth of God as it relates to man and his eternal destiny is the most precious of all truths.
 2. Thus John tells us, II John 1, "Know the truth".
- B. PILATE ASKED IN DERISION: John 18:38. "*What is Truth*".
1. Many still feign that question today.
 2. In Fact many teach that we cannot know the truth.
- C. BIBLE STATEMENTS:
1. John 14:6. Jesus said: "*I am the Truth*"
 2. John 17:17: "*Sanctify them in the truth, thy word is Truth.*"
 3. I Pet. 1:22-23: "*Seeing you have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth.....through the word of God*"
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VALUE OF TRUTH

- A. SOLOMON: "*Buy the truth and sell it not;*" (Proverbs 23:23).
1. The admonition of the "wise man".
 2. How much he writes of "wisdom and truth".
- B. HOW MUCH SHOULD WE BE WILLING TO PAY FOR THE TRUTH??
1. We pay according to perceived value. (What we think it is worth).
 2. The greater we value a thing....The more we are willing to pay for it.
- C. THE VALUE OF TRUTH IS SEEN IN WHAT IT IS ABLE TO DO!
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WHAT TRUTH DOES

- A. TRUTH WILL SET ONE FREE!
1. "*...and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" (John 8:32).
 - a. The Jews thought of Physical freedom. (John 8:33).
 - b. Think of a slave.
 2. "*Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Everyone that committeth sin is the bond servant of sin.*" (John 8:34).
 3. It is the TRUTH that sets us free from sin.
 - a. Wages of sin is death. (Rom. 6:23).
 - b. "Sin when it is full-grown bringeth forth death." (James 1:15).

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4. Truth sets us free from death.
 - B. WE ARE SANCTIFIED BY THE TRUTH. (John 17:17).
 1. Set apart - From the world.
 2. Cleansed - From stain of sin.
 - C. WE ARE PURIFIED BY THE TRUTH. (I Pet. 1:22-23).
 1. *"Seeing you have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth."*
v22
 2. *"Through the word of God."* v. 23
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CAN WE KNOW

- A. CAN WE KNOW THE TRUTH?
 1. Strange that people will ask that when John says...
 2. *...but also all they that know the truth."* v. 1.
 - B. MUST WE KNOW THE TRUTH?
 1. Remember what truth does...Sets us free, Sanctifies, Purified.
 2. Can ERROR do this?
 3. If so Error is as valuable as truth. And we should "buy the error and sell it not".
 - C. HOW MUCH OF THE TRUTH MUST WE KNOW?
 - D. CAN WE KNOW THAT WE KNOW THE TRUTH?
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CONCLUSION

- A. *"I rejoice greatly that I have found certain of thy children walking in truth, even as we received commandment from the Father."* v. 4.
 - B. *"Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God; he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son."* v. 9.
 1. If we can't know it...How do we go beyond and not keep it.
 2. How can we abide in that which we cannot know?
 - C. ARE WE WALKING IN THE TRUTH?
 1. As God's word directs.
 2. Doing and Living as we should.
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