

TRACKING THE TRUTH

John 1:14-18

(John 1:14-18), “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and **TRUTH**. {15} John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. {16} And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. {17} For the law was given by Moses, but grace and **TRUTH** came by Jesus Christ. {18} No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”



THIS PAST WEEK we had our **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANNING MEETING**. We previewed things in store for VBS this coming August. THE **NAME** of VBS this year is **TRUTH TRACKERS**. THE **MOTTO** for VBS is **TRACK DOWN THE TRUTH**. THE **PURPOSE** of this message is to **TRACK DOWN THE TRUTH**.

S THE DAY OF JESUS' CRUCIFIXION PILATE AND JESUS HAD THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE OF WORDS:

- **PILATE ASKED**
(John 18:37), “. . . ‘Are you a king then?’ . . . ”
- **JESUS ANSWERED**
(V. 37), “. . . ‘You say 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** hears my voice.’”
- **PILATE ASKED**
(V. 38), “. . . ‘**WHAT IS TRUTH?**’ . . . ”

S THAT QUESTION has been asked **THROUGHOUT THE AGES**. THE **PHILOSOPHERS** have **SOUGHT TO ANSWER** that question for thousands of years. THE LATE **19TH-CENTURY AMERICAN PHILOSOPHER CHARLES S. PEIRCE** gave a **REASONABLE DEFINITION OF TRUTH** when he said **TRUTH IS** that which experts will agree upon when all their investigations are final. (Dorothy Grover, *Microsoft Encarta 2000*).

FOUR MAIN THEORIES EXIST AS TO WHAT TRUTH IS FROM A PHILOSOPHICAL POINT OF VIEW. IT DOES NOT SERVE OUR PURPOSE WELL to share those views at this time. IT DOES SERVE OUR PURPOSE WELL to SHARE WHAT SCRIPTURE SAYS ABOUT TRUTH.

THE PURPOSE of this message is **TO SHARE WHAT GOD HAS REVEALED** about *truth* in the Bible. Truly we will be **TRACKING THE TRUTH** as we study the **ONE** our text describes as **FULL OF TRUTH.**

- I. TRUTH ASSERTED
- II. TRUTH ATTACKED
- III. TRUTH ASSESSED
- IV. TRUTH APPROPRIATED

I. TRUTH ASSERTED

- S **"TO ASSERT"** MEANS TO DECLARE CONFIDENTLY without need for **proof** or regard for **evidence**.
- S That is the way **THE BIBLE PRESENTS TRUTH.** Scripture **does not defend truth**, it **simply presents truth.** Someone has stated that you do not need to defend **A LION**, you simply let the lion go and he will defend himself.
- S **THE SCRIPTURE MAKES FOUR CLEAR ASSERTIONS** regarding *truth*:

#1. GOD IS TRUTH

WHEN GOD PASSED BY **MOSES ON MT. SINAI** HE SAID:
(Exo 34:6), ". . . The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and **ABUNDANT IN GOODNESS AND TRUTH,**"

From the beginning God wanted to make clear His truthfulness.

THE PSALMIST WROTE:
(Psa 31:5), "Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, **O LORD GOD OF TRUTH.**"

THREE TIMES GOD CLEARLY REVEALS HIMSELF AS THE

GOD WHO CANNOT LIE. ONE EXAMPLE:

(Titus 1:2), "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began." (Num 23:19; 1 Sam 15:29).

S GOD IS A GOD OF TRUTH!

S WE CAN BE VERY THANKFUL that God is a God of *truth*. CAN YOU **IMAGINE** a creator God who was **deceptive**? **LIFE** would be little more than **A JOKE**. One week **GRAVITY** would hold you down so that you could walk to work. The next week the joke would be on you because gravity was replaced with the weightlessness of space. One month **2 + 2** would equal **four**, while the next month it would equal five. One day your **BLOOD COAGULATES** and you heal when you cut yourself. The next day the clotting factor no longer works and a minor cut means certain death. We can be **THANKFUL** God is a God of *truth*.

S Because God is a God of truth, HIS TRUTH IS WRITTEN INTO HIS CREATION.

AFTER NEBUCHADNEZZAR WAS HUMBLLED, HE SAID OF GOD: NEBUCHADNEZZAR **(Dan 4:37)**, "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, **ALL WHOSE WORKS ARE TRUTH**, /// and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase."

God truth is the explanation for a creation that has **ORDER** and **LAWS THAT ARE PREDICTABLE** and **UNCHANGING**.

S MANY EARLY SCIENTISTS were believers in the God revealed in the Bible. Their understanding of God was that He was a God of truth. They held that the **CREATION REFLECTED GOD'S CHARACTER OF TRUTHFULNESS**.

ISAAC NEWTON'S work is considered one of the greatest contributions to science ever made by any individual. His main work was called *Principia Mathematica*. Newton derived the **law of universal gravitation** and **invented** a branch of mathematics called **calculus**. He showed that we live in a universe governed by a single set of laws given by the Creator. **HE WROTE:**

“This most beautiful system of sun, planets, and comets could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being. . . . This Being governs all things, not as the soul of the world, but as Lord of all.” (*Observing God's World*, Gregory Rickard, Stephen McAlister, Ed Rickard, Ph.D. pg 275)

PASCAL IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE.

OTHER LATER SCIENTISTS HAVE HELD THE SAME VIEWS

EDWARD EVERETT, was the first American to win a doctorate at **Gottingen**. He wrote,

“In the pure mathematics we contemplate absolute truths which existed in the Divine Mind before the morning stars sang together, and which will continue to exist there when the last of their radiant host shall have fallen from heaven.” (*Truth and the Transcendent — The origin, nature and purpose of mathematics*, pg 42)

WERNHER VON BRAUN was a design engineer responsible for developing the **V-2 LONG-RANGE LIQUID-FUEL ROCKET**, used to bomb England during World War II. He was also responsible for development of the **SATURN V LAUNCH VEHICLE** used with the **APOLLO SPACECRAFT**, in the U.S. manned lunar landing program. He wrote:

“One cannot be exposed to the law and order of the universe without concluding that there must be a divine intent behind it all.” “The Creator is revealed through His creation.” (*Observing God's World*, Gregory Rickard, Stephen McAlister, Ed Rickard, Ph.D. pg 319)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR SAID

“... ALL WHOSE WORKS ARE TRUTH, ...” (Dan 4:37)

GOD'S CHARACTER of *truthfulness* is reflected in His creation.

#1. **GOD IS TRUTH**

#2. JESUS CHRIST IS TRUTH

S ONE VBS SONG repeats a particular sentence several times. The sentence is “**TRUTH HAS A NAME — JESUS.**” That is an accurate statement. We can often accurately **INSERT THE NAME JESUS** in the place where we find the word *truth* in the

Scripture. **JESUS IS TRUTH.**

S THE WORD **TRUTH** occurs 27X's in 22 separate verses in the Book of John alone. Listen to a few of the verses that use the word *truth* and see if "**TRUTH HAS A NAME — JESUS.**"

- (**John 1:17**), "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and **TRUTH** came by Jesus Christ."
- (**John 5:33**), "Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the **TRUTH.**"
- (**John 14:6**), "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, **THE TRUTH**, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
- (**John 1:14**), "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) **FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.**

FULL (*pleres*) means to be "**COVERED IN EVERY PART,**" "**PERMEATED.** It is the opposite of *empty*.

S **BECAUSE JESUS IS TRUTH** everything that He ever said was *true*. What He said about **heaven & hell** is true. What He said about **salvation** is true. What He said about **God's love** is true. What He said about coming **judgment** is true.

- #1. **GOD IS TRUTH - THE FATHER**
- #2. **JESUS CHRIST IS TRUTH - THE SON**

#3. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TRUTH

- S (**John 15:26**), "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even **THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH**, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:"
- S (**John 16:13**), "Howbeit when he, **THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH**, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come."
- S (**1 John 5:6**), "... It is the Spirit that beareth witness, because

THE SPIRIT IS TRUTH."

S GOD, THE TRINITY, IS TRUTH!

- #1. GOD IS TRUTH - THE FATHER
- #2. JESUS CHRIST IS TRUTH - THE SON
- #3. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TRUTH - THE SPIRIT

#4. GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH - (THE BIBLE)

S GOD DOES NOT USE WORDS THAT ARE FALSE OR UNTRUE.

- **(Psa 19:9)**, "... The judgments of the LORD are TRUE . . . "
- **(Psa 119:142)**, "... Thy law is the TRUTH."
- **(Psa 119:151)**, "... All thy commandments are TRUTH."
- **(Psa 119:160)**, "Thy word is TRUE from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."
- **(Dan 10:21)**, "... I will show thee that which is noted in the scripture of TRUTH: . . . "
- **JESUS SAID (Mat 5:18)**, "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, ONE JOT or ONE TITTLE shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."
- **(Eph 1:13)**, "... THE WORD OF TRUTH, . . . "
- **(James 1:18)**, "... THE WORD OF TRUTH, . . . "
- **(Rev 21:5)**, "... And he said unto me, Write: for THESE WORDS ARE TRUE and faithful."

S MARK IT DOWN CLEAR AND PLAIN, WHEN GOD COMMUNICATES, **GOD COMMUNICATES TRUTHFULLY**. If God communicates through **SPEAKING**, what He speaks is *truth*. If God communicates through **WRITING**, what He causes to be written is *truth*.

S THERE ARE TWO CHARACTERISTICS OF TRUTH (Ray Stedman, *Spiritual Warfare*, pg 77)

#1. TRUTH NEVER CHANGES

(Mal 3:6), "For I am the LORD, I CHANGE NOT; . . . "

(Heb 13:8), "Jesus Christ **THE SAME** yesterday, and to day, and for ever."

BECAUSE TRUTH NEVER CHANGES

#2. TRUTH NEVER NEEDS UPDATING

Truth never needs **modernizing**. If something was true **six thousand years ago**, it is still true today. If it is true today, it will still be true six thousand years from now. If by chance we discover in ten thousand years that something isn't true, then it never was true. We may have thought it was true, but that was an inaccurate assumption.

THE STORY IS TOLD OF A MAN WHO WENT TO VISIT AN OLD FRIEND, A MUSIC TEACHER.

- The man said to the music teacher,
"What's the good news?"
- Without saying a word, the old man went across the room and picked up a tuning fork and struck it with his hammer. As the tone filled the air, he commented,
"That is *A*. It is *A* today, it was *A* five thousand years ago, and it will be *A* ten thousand years from now. The soprano upstairs sings off-key, the tenor across the hall flats his high notes, and the piano downstairs is out of tune."
He stuck the tuning fork a second time and said again,
"That is an *A*, my friend, and that's the good news for today!" (Retold by Ray Stedman in *Spiritual Warfare*, pg 77)

S Go back and pick up **A 200-year-old BIBLE**, or **A 1,000-year-olds BIBLE**. Though it may have been translated into a different language, it has not been updated. It is as true today as it was in the days of Abraham and Moses. If the Lord tarries, it will be just as true 10,000 years from now. **WHY?** Because the author **IS TRUTH**.

- The uncovering of the **DEAD SEA SCROLLS** did a wonderful thing in verifying the accuracy of O.T. Scripture. Those documents took our oldest manuscripts back one thousand years. Only the hand of God can account for the

accuracy between the Dead Sea manuscripts and other O.T. manuscripts.

- **THE CONSISTENCY OF SCRIPTURE** testifies to its truthfulness. If you do a word study on the word *glory*, you will discover a consistency throughout all the books of the Bible. The same is true with the word *truth*. If you do a word study using books of **philosophy**, you will discover a wide **variation** of meanings. There is even a variation about what *truth* means in the philosophy books.

S TRUTH DOES NOT NEED UPDATING because God is a God of truth. **WHEN A SCIENTIST** discovers truth in the universe, even if he is AN ATHEIST, **the reason** there is truth to be discovered is **God is a God of truth**. **NATURAL LAW** is precise and predictable because God is a God of law and order and *truth*.

I. TRUTH ASSERTED

II. TRUTH ATTACKED (ASSAULTED)

HOSEA DESCRIBED HIS NATION

(Hosea 4:1), "... The LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because **THERE IS NO TRUTH**, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land."

- **WHAT HAPPENED TO TRUTH? WHERE DID IT GO? WHY** was there no truth found in the land?
- Consider **THREE THINGS** that can happen to truth.

#1. SOME FAIL TO COMPREHEND TRUTH

(1 Cor 2:14), "But **THE NATURAL MAN** receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are **FOOLISHNESS UNTO HIM**: neither can he know them, because they are **SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED**."

- S** **THE NATURAL MAN** is a reference to the person whose focus is on his *mind*, *will* and *emotion* to the exclusion of his *spirit*. The natural man represents the purely earthly attempt to discover truth.
- S** **SCRIPTURE IS CLEAR** that apart from God's help, people are incapable of coming to the knowledge of truth.

(John 14:17), "Even **THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH; WHOM THE WORLD CANNOT RECEIVE**, because it seeth him not, **NEITHER KNOWETH HIM**: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

(2 Cor 4:3-4), "But **IF OUR GOSPEL BE HID**, it is hid to them that are lost: {4} In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

#1. SOME FAIL TO COMPREHEND TRUTH

#2. SOME HATE THE TRUTH

(John 3:19), "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **MEN LOVED DARKNESS RATHER THAN LIGHT**, because their deeds were evil."

S WHEN PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TO RECEIVE THE TRUTH, THEY OFTEN **OPPOSE IT WITH GREAT FERVOR**.

THE ANTICHRIST IS AN EXAMPLE:

(Dan 8:12), "And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and **IT CAST DOWN THE TRUTH TO THE GROUND**; and it practiced, and prospered."

S IT IS NOT ALWAYS THE UNBELIEVER THAT OPPOSES THE TRUTH. **PAUL WROTE TO THE GALATIANS**

- **(Gal 4:16)**, "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?"
- Perhaps you have had the **SAD EXPERIENCE** of someone rejecting you because you told them the truth.

#1. SOME FAIL TO COMPREHEND TRUTH

#2. SOME HATE THE TRUTH

#3. SOME EXCHANGE TRUTH FOR A LIE

(Rom 1:25), "**WHO CHANGED THE TRUTH OF GOD INTO A LIE**, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever."

(2 Tim 4:4), “And they shall **TURN AWAY THEIR EARS FROM THE TRUTH**, and shall be turned unto fables.”

S **SOME PREFER A LIE OVER THE TRUTH.** THEY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY to accept the truth, but exchange it for the lie instead.

S **THE PHARISEES ARE AN EXAMPLE.** JESUS SAID TO THEM:

(John 8:44-45), “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and **ABODE NOT IN THE TRUTH**, because there is **NO TRUTH IN HIM**. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for **HE IS A LIAR, AND THE FATHER OF IT**. {45} And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.”

THAT IS AN INTERESTING STATEMENT,

“BECAUSE I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, YE BELIEVE ME NOT” (V. 45).

- **SOME** have believed a lie for so long, they **cannot recognize** the truth when they hear it. They are **incapable** of comprehending the *truth*.
- **OTHERS** simply **PREFER TO BELIEVE THE GREAT LIE** rather than to believe God. When it comes to a choice, **THEY CHOSE THE LIE** over the *truth*.

- I. TRUTH ASSERTED
- II. TRUTH ATTACKED

III. TRUTH ASSESSED

S **ASSESS** MEANS TO SET THE VALUE or importance of something. If someone assesses your **property**, they decide its value.

S We want to assess *truth* based on what the Scripture says about it.
WHAT IS THE VALUE OF TRUTH?

#1. TRUTH SETS FREE

(John 8:32), “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

S **GENUINE FREEDOM** comes from the Lord. The God who is truth, tells us that real freedom comes from Him. That freedom of God comes as **THE RESULT OF** *knowing the truth*.

S IF TRUTH SETS FREE, IT STAND TO REASON **THAT LIES ENSLAVE? IF SATAN** can get a person to believe a lie, he can get a person to be, or do, just about anything that he wants. He can enslave them. **HOW MANY** have believed the great lie about **DRUGS?** They lived that lie and now that lie enslaves them. **HOW MANY** have been told that **MONEY BUYS HAPPINESS?** After a lifetime of pursuing wealth, many persons are so miserable they can't sleep at night.

S "And ye shall know the truth, and **THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE**" (John 8:32).

#1. TRUTH SETS FREE

#2. TRUTH SANCTIFIES

(John 17:17), "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

(Prov 16:6), "By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil."

S **TRUTH IS A SPIRITUAL CLEANSER.** *SANCTIFY* means to be holy. *Truth* has a way of removing the dross.

S THE BEST THING **PARENTS CAN DO** to help their kids remain morally pure is to **TEACH THEM GOD'S WORD.**

S One of the saddest commentaries on our day is the forbidding of the **TEN COMMANDMENTS** (the Word of God - *truth*) from the public arena. It is any wonder our nation is being plagued with every kind of foul thing? God's Word is a spiritual cleansing agent and we have placed it in shackles.

#1. TRUTH SETS FREE

#2. TRUTH SANCTIFIES

#3. TRUTH PRESERVES

(Psa 91:4), "He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy **SHIELD AND BUCKLER.**"

(Psa 40:11), "Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O

LORD: let thy lovingkindness and **THY TRUTH** continually **PRESERVE ME.**"

(Prov 12:19), "The lip of truth shall be **ESTABLISHED FOR EVER**: but a lying tongue is but for a moment."

SPIRITUAL ARMOR is revealed in **EPHESIANS 6**. One piece of armor is **THE BELT OF TRUTH**.

(Eph 6:14), "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, . . ."

One aspect of our protection in spiritual warfare is *truth*. **SATAN KNOWS THE VALUE OF TRUTH** and that is one reason HE OPPOSES *IT* SO VIGOROUSLY. Naturally, if **TRUTH PRESERVES**, then **LIES DEFEAT and DESTROY**.

S MILITARY LEADERS KNOW that a most effective weapon in defeating the enemy is **PROPAGANDA**. There are courses taught on military propaganda. Propaganda is planned and premeditated lies designed to deceive the enemy. If you can get a soldier to believe a lie, he becomes more susceptible to defeat. **DURING A BATTLE** the enemy will do everything in his power to lie in order to accomplish defeat. The enemy will try to convince you that you are surrounded and about to experience defeat. He will try to convince you that you are outnumbered and out powered. He will convince you that you are going to starve to death or die of thirst.

S SATAN KNOWS that if he can get a person to believe a lie, the foundation for defeat has been laid. God has **PROMISED TO PRESERVE** the truthful. God also promises to **COME AGAINST** a land full of liars and deceivers.

- **(Prov 12:19)**, "The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is **BUT FOR A MOMENT**."
- **(Hosea 4:1)**, "Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for **THE LORD HATH A CONTROVERSY** with the inhabitants of the land, **BECAUSE THERE IS NO TRUTH**, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land."
- **(Jer 5:1)**, "Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that **SEEKETH THE TRUTH**; and **I WILL PARDON IT**."

S **MANY BLESSINGS** come from truth. **MANY CURSES** come from the lie. In *truth* we stand. With the great *lie*, we fall.

- I. TRUTH ASSERTED
- II. TRUTH ATTACKED
- III. TRUTH ASSESSED

- #1. TRUTH SETS FREE
- #2. TRUTH SANCTIFIES
- #3. TRUTH PRESERVES

IV. TRUTH APPROPRIATED

S **GOD NEVER INTENDED** truth to sit idle and go unused. He told us the truth so we might **believe** the truth, **receive** the truth, **live** the truth, **heed** the truth and **tell** the truth. TRUTH IS TO **SO INDWELL** our lives that every aspect and element of our being becomes flavored by it. Truth is not just something we believe, truth is SOMETHING WE **DO**.

S CONSIDER **SIX WAYS** TO APPROPRIATE TRUTH.

#1. LEARN THE TRUTH

S We answered the question "**WHAT IS TRUTH?**" at the beginning of this message. **TRUTH IS THE FATHER, SON HOLY SPIRIT** and **GOD'S WORD**. God's Word is *truth*.

S **IF WE ARE GOING TO APPROPRIATE THE TRUTH, WE MUST LEARN THE TRUTH**. We must **read** and **study** the Word of God regularly.

S **IGNORANCE OF TRUTH** is a sure way to fall for a lie. It is **INTERESTING** to discover how people train to detect **COUNTERFEIT MONEY**. They spend most of their time examining the genuine bills. Once they are familiar with the genuine, detecting the counterfeit is easy.

#2. BELIEVE THE TRUTH

S **IT IS ONE THING** to learn what God has declared as truth, **it is another** to BELIEVE IT AS TRUTH.

S **SATAN'S FIRST RECORDED ATTACK** against God in

Scripture is in Genesis 3. It is no coincidence that it was an attack on the Word of God. Satan said to Eve, ". . . Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Gen 3:1). Because Eve began to doubt the Word of God, she became more susceptible to defeat.

- S REMEMBER — **GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH.** We need to **learn it** and **believe it.** The Bible word for *believe* is **FAITH.** Without *faith* it is impossible to please God (Heb 11:1).

#3. RECEIVE THE TRUTH

- S Earlier we stated that in the place of the word *truth* you can often place the name Jesus. It is essential that we receive God's *truth*, the **LORD JESUS!** (Read John 1:12)
- S God's Word of truth tells us He is **THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN** (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). Many people do not believe what God has revealed about salvation. They have heard the *truth*, but they have exchanged the *truth* for a lie.

#4. SCREEN ALL INCOMING INFORMATION THROUGH THE FILTER OF GOD'S TRUTH

(1 John 4:1), "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

- S God's Word is **THE STANDARD.** **WEIGH** what you **see**, **hear** and **read** in light of God's Word. Weigh it all in light of Jesus Christ.
- S When **SATAN** attacked Jesus in the **WILDERNESS** with lies, Jesus countered Satan's attack with *truth*. Three times, Jesus used the Word of God to refute the lies of Satan.

#5. SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE

(Eph 4:15), "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"

- S **IT IS NOT A COINCIDENCE** that *truth* is often **COUPLED WITH *grace* and *mercy*** in the Scripture. Even our text states that **Jesus** was *full of grace and truth*. Why do you suppose *grace* and *mercy* are often associated with *truth*? **THE REASON** is truth by itself can easily be presented as cold and

indifferent. God's truth is not cold and indifferent. God's truth is accompanied by grace and mercy.

- S If God presents *truth* with grace and mercy, **WE SHOULD DO THE SAME.** We should learn to speak the *truth* in love. We should not blast people with the truth. When someone puts forth a lie, we should not attack them. We should address the issue with truth in a spirit of love.
- S They were interviewing **A CHRISTIAN LADY** on T.V. regarding THE ABORTION ISSUE. They asked her how she kept her cool in the heat of debate. She shared how in her early years when she addressed that issue, she would become angry and attack. She eventually learned that you let the opposition say what they want and then you address the issues without attacking the person. In essence she learned to speak the truth in love.

(Prov 16:6), "By MERCY and TRUTH INIQUITY IS PURGED: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil."

- S There is **POWER IN TRUTH.** There is even greater power when *truth* is spoken in love. From the cross Jesus said, "Father forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

#6. ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH (DON'T LIE)

(Col 3:9), "LIE NOT one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;"

(Prov 6:16-17), "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: {17} A proud look, **A LYING TONGUE**, and hands that shed innocent blood, . . . {19} **A FALSE WITNESS THAT SPEAKETH LIES**, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

GOD HATES LYING! IF YOU DOUBT THAT, listen to these **TWO VERSES:**

- **(Prov 12:22)**, "Lying lips are **ABOMINATION** to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight."
- **(Rev 21:8)**, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and **ALL LIARS**, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

#7. WORSHIP IN TRUTH

(John 4:24), "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

S FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR **KING DAVID** tried to worship God with a lie abiding deep in his heart. He had murdered, committed adultery and then tried to cover it up. He was not living a sincere and truthful life before God. As a result, David had become the whipping boy of the devil. Psalm 51 is the record of David's eventual confession.

(Psa 51:6), "Behold, thou **DESIREST TRUTH** in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom."

S **ATTEMPTING TO WORSHIP GOD** with a lie abiding in the heart **IS TO INVITE DEFEAT IN LIFE**. If we are going to be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, **WE MUST** put on sincerity and truthfulness.

S **ANOTHER THOUGHT, WE BETTER NOT MAKE UP OUR OWN RULES FOR WORSHIP**. We should not worship God in **untruthful** and **unrevealed ways**. **CAIN** was guilty of doing that (Gen 4:5). We must worship God in the manner prescribed in Scripture.

S **OUR WORSHIP IS TO BE TRUTHFUL** and **WITHOUT HYPOCRISY**.

AS IT WAS SAID OF JESUS, may it be said of us, that **WE ARE FULL OF TRUTH — GOD'S TRUTH**. Truth is an absolute essential piece of equipment in service to the Lord.

(Josh 24:14), "Now therefore **FEAR THE LORD**, and **SERVE HIM IN SINCERITY AND IN TRUTH: . . .**"

Do not go into battle without truth or you will be highly susceptible to satanically initiated attack. **RECEIVE GOD'S TRUTH!**

#1. **ADMIT** that you have a problem:

-We have all sinned and done wrong (Rom 3:23)

-We deserve death and hell (Rom 6:23)

#2. **REALIZE** that God has a solution:

-Jesus died for us on the cross (1 Peter 3:18)

-Jesus rose from the dead (Rom. 4:25)

#3. **RECEIVE** the Lord Jesus:

-We must repent of our sins (Acts 3:19)

-We must place our faith in Jesus (Eph 2:8)

(Rom 10:13), "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."