

# Truth Decay

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**Bible Text:** John 14:6; Proverbs 3:1-10

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## **Bethel Baptist Chapel**

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Joe MacArthur—some of you are familiar with him—is a pastor a preacher and a writer and has just published a new book. I’ve got it here. I am not going to preach through a book. Don’t worry. It is the title I want to bring to your attention. And the book is called *The Truth War*. And then as a subtitle it is called: *Fighting for Certainty in an Age of Deception*.

I’ve not read the whole book, but I certainly recommend reading the material that he has...I have certainly scanned it and read some of it—recommend it for reading.

*The Truth War: Fighting for Certainty in an Age of Deception*. In many ways that book could have been written at any time in the last 2000 years. The names of the heresies, the problems, the lies may have changed. But underneath we have always had an onslaught against the truth of God. There has always been a war against truth since the fall in the Garden of Eden and there always will be because the devil is known in the Scripture as the Father of lies and he will continue to deceive his people and to deceive the world at large wherever he can until the day comes when the Lord Jesus Christ shall come again.

Indeed, if you look through the New Testament you will find that virtually all the major epistles address the problem of truth in some way or another. They may pick up an erroneous doctrine that’s coming. They may pick up and talk about false teachers that are coming. But in some way, you will see as you read through those epistles, this was an issue in the New Testament Church, the truth of God.

And today we live in a world that doesn’t really know what truth is; at least many large parts of it don’t. And large parts of the Church don’t. And that should astound us in some ways. There are parts of the Church today that have turned truth into a dialog or a conversation. I don’t choose that word as my own word. It is a word that they would use. They treat the truth as a conversation in that they say, “Truth has no absolutes.”

And you will have heard, some of you, if you read the Christian press and sometimes in the ordinary press of that which is called the “Emerging Church.” I am not going to talk about that at great length this morning. But it is relevant for us to be warned. It is one of the jobs of a minister and a pastor to warn of things that are likely to be seen and known among us. And the Emerging Church is a classic example of a people who claim to be Christian, but do not accept Scripture as an absolute truth. They say nothing is fixed, nothing is sure.

And when we read in Scripture about those things that were once delivered to the saints, that we have a Word of God with all that we need, they say, “Well, we are not sure it really has been delivered yet. It is still on its way as it were. We are still debating some of these things.”

And that, if it was not so serious, could be quite amusing. But it is serious because people’s eternal destination hangs on the truth of God.

Now you might say, “Well, what’s that got to do with John’s gospel? Because when I came into the chapel this morning, knowing that we are going through John’s gospel in the morning, I had my thumb in John chapter 14 and you have not read John chapter 14. You have read Proverbs chapter three.”

Well, yes, last week we were looking at John 14 verse six. That text that I announced is a text that people want to make illegal, that Jesus Christ said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”<sup>1</sup> They don’t want us to say that. We can say that Jesus Christ is a way, he is a truth, he is a life. Praise God the Scripture gives us very clear language and we compare Scripture with Scripture. We know that Jesus Christ is not a way. He is the way and the only way and we looked at that last Lord’s Day.

And so this morning I want us to move on with that text. He went on to say that he was the “the truth”<sup>2</sup> and that is our subject for this morning; the truth. The Lord Jesus Christ said, “I am the way, the truth.”<sup>3</sup>

We read in Proverbs chapter three and verse three some words I want to leave with you to really hang our thoughts this morning. It says there in verse three, “Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart.”<sup>4</sup>

I don’t know about you, but as I read through that passage in Proverbs three there is so much there. You know, we must come back, perhaps, to some of those things another time. We neglect the book of Proverbs because we think it is so disjointed. It isn’t disjointed when we look at it carefully. But I want to just highlight that verse. “Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart.”<sup>5</sup>

Now what is God the Holy Spirit saying there to us? Well, he is saying that there is a truth that should be around our neck. When we wear things our neck for, it is an adornment. It is something that is going to be seen.

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<sup>1</sup> John 14:6

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Proverbs 3:3

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

Some of you have necklaces on. Maybe it is something that is going to be seen. It is something that potentially, presumably you think enhances, perhaps, your beauty or perhaps displays something that you have that is precious there.

It is truth is something to be seen as attractive. But not only is it to be worn and seen, it says there it is to be written upon our hearts. Now, things written upon your heart it is internal, isn't it? And our heart drives our thoughts and our motives and the things that we do. And so truth—it says in that text—is to be seen in our lives and it is to motivate us in the way that we think and the way that we behave.

And the only way that this can happen is to know Jesus Christ who is the truth. And the ultimate goal of life here on earth is to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the ultimate goal here for anyone. We are born in trespass and sin. And our task is that we might know him whom to know is life eternal.<sup>6</sup> And that is why Christ came.

The Lord Jesus Christ said to Pilate as he was about to be crucified in John 18, “To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world.”<sup>7</sup> He kind of underlines it twice for saying that. “That I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.”<sup>8</sup>

It is a great statement, isn't it? The Lord was saying, “I came to be born, to die. I came for this cause into the world, to die and that I might be a witness to the truth. And if you hear my voice then you are of the truth.”

And this morning there are among us Christians that you have heard the voice of God. The Spirit of God has spoken to you through the Holy Scriptures and you have been brought to repentance and faith. You have heard his voice. You are of the truth and we are to abide in the truth.

And Pilate then said to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the people round about, “What is truth? What is truth?”<sup>9</sup> What a statement, a statement we will have to look at in a moment.

Now, let's move on. The first point I want to leave with you is that we are to have a knowledge of truth, a knowledge of truth. Truth is not a secret. It is true that the Word of God needs the revelation by the Spirit of God, but we have access to the Word of God. Our spiritual eyes need to be opened to see the truth as it is in Jesus Christ. But we must come with Pilate and ask the question, “What is truth?”<sup>10</sup>

I can remember when I was quite small at Christmas time we would play a few games at Christmas and showing our age a bit we used to play something. It was 20 Questions. Do

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<sup>6</sup> See John 17:3

<sup>7</sup> John 18:37

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> John 18:38

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

you remember 20 Questions? It used to be on the radio. Someone does, 20 Questions. And my dad, bless him, he is going to be here tomorrow I mustn't quote him. He would always treat something or choose something that was abstract, abstract. And I can remember him sometimes. You know, we would ask these 20 questions. We would look at him and be, "Ok, dad, what is it?" And he would say, "It was truth." I can remember him saying that, an abstract concept.

Well, I guess it was perhaps quite hard to get that one. We asked then, "What is truth? Is it an abstract concept?"

It is a fascinating question because people to take it as an abstract concept. But if you go to a dictionary a dictionary is very interesting if you go to a modern dictionary. Now I don't have an old one. If someone has got a dictionary 100 years old I'd be interested to have a look at that. You look at the word "truth" and this is what it says in a new dictionary I've got. It says, "Truth is a fact or a belief that is accepted as true."

That's sounds ok. Let's read that again, shall we? "It is a fact or belief that is accepted as true."

Now, you get that? It is only a fact, it is only true if it is accepted as true. So, sorry, who is going to accept that as true? So if we take rather a silly example, perhaps, if I say, "Well, those flowers are poppies."

And you say, "Nonsense. They are not poppies. They are whatever they are. They are lilies and whatever."

And I say, "They are poppies."

And then if you all begin to say, "Well, I guess maybe they are poppies. Pastor says they are poppies. Pastor wouldn't lie to us. I have always thought they were lilies, but, well, I guess they are poppies."

You accept them as poppies. All of the sudden according to the dictionary definition if we accept that as true that is what they are. They are poppies.

Now can you see the subtle difference? The truth of God is not what people think or accept as true. It is what God says is true. There is a great difference there. And that is why people can say, "Well, we don't believe in the death of resurrection of Christ. It is not true. It is accepted by some people, but it is not accepted by the world as being true."

Ah, but it is true for you and that is where we are today.

You know, they are quite happy for us to believe in Christ's death and resurrection. They won't say it is true, but they will say, "It is true for you. That is your truth. And, by the way, I have got my truth. And my truth might be a completely different religion. Don't knock me. It's just that's my truth. You don't have to believe it, but that's truth to me."

And that's the way they use the language truth today. And on that basis, then, you could never come to know the truth because is your truth truth? Or perhaps it is your truth that is true, because your truth is different than that truth and there is another truth over there. So what is the truth?

And they say, "It is all truth."

What did Jesus say? What did the Holy Spirit say? In Paul writing to Timothy he says there are a people who are "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."<sup>11</sup> That is the world we live in. They are never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

We need a proper definition. Truth is only true if its source is in God because God alone is truth. And this is why I have a slight tussle with what another proper definition of abstract is. To me abstract...truth is not abstract. I can see truth when I gaze into the face of Jesus Christ. He is the truth.

If ever you want to see truth in substance, then gaze by faith, as it were, into the face of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In MacArthur's book he says there that God and truth are inseparable, inseparable. And so when someone says, "That is my truth," we must say, "How does it relate to God? How does it relate to what God says?" If it doesn't relate to what God says it is not truth.

Every attempt to define truth without reference to God will fail because God is the source of everything that is truth and he is the source of everything that exists.

Let me give you a definition of truth. It may not be a perfect one, but it is as good as I have got. If we really want to strip it down I would just say Jesus Christ is truth. But let's just make it a bit bigger than that.

Truth is that which is consistent with the mind, the will, the character, the glory and the being of God. That is what truth is. And if it doesn't...if you can't relate it to that, then it is not truth. And our knowledge of the truth is found here in the Word of truth. This is where God has poured himself out as a written Word. And it is in there we see by the Spirit of God the revelation of Jesus Christ who is the truth.

Remember, Jesus Christ said himself in John 17, he says there, "Thy Word is truth. They Word is truth."<sup>12</sup>

Now that's important not only that we know that it is true, but that we can combat a biblical heresy or a heresy that relates to the Scripture at the moment that, again, is at

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<sup>11</sup> 2 Timothy 3:7

<sup>12</sup> John 17:17

large in the Church today. And that is people say, “I believe, indeed, that this book contains the truth.”

Well, that sounds ok very quickly. “I think it contains the truth.” And if...where do we look? Which bit is the truth?

No. This Bible does not *contain* the truth. This Bible *is* the truth. And the difficulty is people will say today and they will say it—and it does come into many, many churches, “I believe the concepts of God. I believe that he can be angry. I believe he can love. But I don’t necessarily believe every word of the Bible. I may not believe in creation. I am not sure about this bit about blood and atonement, et cetera. It contains the truth. I can see stories there are true....”

No. God’s Word says, “This is the truth.”

I tell you if we say it contains the truth is that binding on my neck? Is that writing upon the table of my heart? Which bits do I write on my heart? Which bits are not fit to hang around my neck?

No. When the Lord told the disciples that he was the truth, it wasn’t just a great doctrinal statement. It was a comfort to them. He was about to leave them and they wanted something to grab hold of. They had been with this man and they had seen him do the miracles. They had seen him raise the dead. They were about to see him go to the cross of Calvary. What were they going to do without him?

And Jesus Christ is saying to them, “No, don’t worry. Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God. Believe also in me. I am the way. I am the truth.”<sup>13</sup> The truth was the rock, the foundation that they would still stand on. They would still know him within their hearts. They would still know the coming of God the Holy Spirit to bring the things of Christ to them. There was no way that they were going to be without God. Everything he said was true. He was confirming it.

When he said, “I am the truth,”<sup>14</sup> he was saying again, “Look, I have told you I am God. He that hath seen the Father hath seen me.”<sup>15</sup>

He told them all that he had been doing was true. He was making the way of salvation. He was the way to heaven. And he was the truth for all time, not just for those disciples.

Now there is a danger sometimes. We can take the Word of God and we say...we look at a verse or a passage and we can say, “Now, I wonder what that means to me?”

Well, that’s a fair question, I suppose, but be careful you are not saying, “It means that to me and it means that to someone else.”

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<sup>13</sup> See John 14:1-6

<sup>14</sup> John 14:6

<sup>15</sup> See John 14:9

We always need to know what God's Word means to God.

Oh, don't get me wrong. We can take a word by application. You can read something in the Old Testament that was written to Israel, "And are the everlasting arms."<sup>16</sup> We weren't there, then, it was to Israel. But we may take that as a great comfort and by application. But we must never fall into the trap of saying, "That means this to me and that means that to someone else."

No. One has suggested the best way is to ask: "What did that passage mean before I existed?" Because whatever God intended it to mean, it still means that. It is an unchanging truth. It has been fixed in the mind of God. And by the Spirit of God it is our task to ascertain and to discern the meaning of God in that particular passage. That is the true and we are to have a knowledge of that truth.

And so then the knowledge of that truth is found, of course, in Christ. It is found in the Scriptures and it is revealed and discerned by God the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, we are to wear the truth. Proverbs three, as I have said, in verse three says, "Bind it to your neck."<sup>17</sup> Now, we said, some people wear necklaces. You know, we have got some gold, as it were. Maybe people say they have got great taste.

You know, I come from Essex and the joke there is about Essex men. Essex man wears a big medallion. And I guess I must have kind of taken it off quickly and marched off, as it were.

And people wear things around their neck for all sorts of reasons. Not usually may Christian reasons. Or some may wear a cross or whatever. It may be because we don't wear them for Christian reasons, remember, in the New Testament—I think it is in Peter—where the Holy Spirit there says, "Ok, you wear this stuff for outward adorning, but that is not the adorning I am looking at." And he says there, "But rather have the inward adorning of the heart and be of a quiet and meek spirit."<sup>18</sup>

And that is what we have here, then. If the Lord is saying, "Well, rather than wearing loads of jewelry et cetera, you know, we are to wear stuff that...that the Lord wants." He gives us an actual example here of something to wear.

We are to wear truth. Notice our lives are to exhibit truth. That is to be an adornment. People are to see that. It has far more value than anything else that we can wear. Even in our passage we read there about wisdom and that is included in here. It talks about:

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<sup>16</sup> Deuteronomy 33:27

<sup>17</sup> See Proverbs 3:3

<sup>18</sup> See 1 Peter 3:4

For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.”<sup>19</sup>

That which we get when we live a life of truth.

And in the New Testament we are told, again, we are to wear it. Not on the neck this time, but it says, this is our armor. This is our defense. We are to put on the truth. And it is referred to in Ephesians six as the “girdle of truth, the belt of truth.”<sup>20</sup>

And it is no accident that Paul, there, mentions that as the first piece of armor. The first thing that a Christian needs in the Christian battle is truth. And the soldier would have worn it as a belt around their middle and there were some pieces that went down to give protection to their thighs. But also the breastplate was attached to that girdle and so was the sword attached to that girdle.

In other words, until you have got the truth right, until you have got the girdle right, then the other pieces wouldn't fit together. And so it is today. Truth holds everything else in place. If you don't have truth there is no middle ground to go to. We have error. There is no halfway house. When it comes to eternity we need to be sure that what we have is true. And if...if the soldier had not got this belt firmly fixed on in place, then the breastplate would be wrong. He would go for his sword and find it had slipped round. It wasn't there et cetera. And so, my friends, if we don't have that basic understanding of Scripture we will find the protection that God has given for us will not be worn properly. We will go to the Scriptures and find we don't know it as we ought to. It has not been the right place as it were. Everything off faith and practice will be askew.

And then the soldier used his girdle to gather up the loose folds of his garment sometimes if he was going to run. And if he didn't he would just trip over. My friends, we need to insure that we have the truth right, that we don't trip over.

A soldier, I suppose, would not think, “Well, there is my girdle of truth. There is my armor. That looks good. I've got loads of protection.” He wouldn't get that protection from being near it. He had to wear it.

And, my friends, that is it. We have to put on truth. If we neglect the truth, then we find that we are in trouble. How do we neglect the truth? We can do that simply by making no effort, no effort to know the truth of his Word. And as we make no effort to grow in our Christian faith, we by nature pick up things that are wrong. We see this sometimes in Christians that Christians once believed something and they knew the Bible and they knew why they believed it. And then they began to forget why they believed it. And then they began to not believe it and then all of the sudden something goes wrong and they haven't got the defense that they needed. They haven't got the knowledge and the

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<sup>19</sup> Proverbs 3:14-15

<sup>20</sup> See Ephesians 6:14



relationship they once had and so they drift off. My friends, we need to wear the truth. And we do that by denying ungodliness and promoting the truth of God.

I want to move on quickly because time is going. We also, thirdly, have to walk in it. And really by walking it is another way of wearing it, isn't it? We read in the Old Testament there in 1 Kings 2:4, "If thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel."<sup>21</sup>

There is a great promise to God. If they continue through their generations to walk in truth with all their heart, God would see that they had a godly man on the throne. And we know from the history of Israel they did not always do that.

In the New Testament we are told to speak the truth, speak the truth.<sup>22</sup> It is not for a Christian to lie, is it? We know that the world is full of lies with politicians, the economy et cetera and all sorts of things. And, you know, it is just the way of the world, isn't it? And we have to remember that when by faith we look at Christ dying on the cross, when we see the nails and the spear in his side and we see the blood flowing down, remember that lies was one reason why he had to do that, because the breaking of God's law is the telling of a lie.

We are to speak the truth. But not only that, we are to think the truth. You know, we can get lulled into a sense, a false sense of security. And we think, "Well, I speak the truth." But inside we have a few thoughts about people that are unpleasant. We have a few thoughts sometimes that are not true. We think, "Well, people can't see those. It kind of doesn't count."

Excuse me? It says, "Bind truth upon your heart."<sup>23</sup> It is to be there on the inward parts.

And Paul writes the Church at Philippi and he says this. "You are to think upon things, whatsoever are true. What is honest and just and pure and lovely, think on those things. Think on things that are true."<sup>24</sup>

What things? He gives you the answer in the next verse. "Things that you have learned and received and heard," Paul says, "in me from the Holy Scriptures."<sup>25</sup> That is what we are meant to do. As we think on these things and as we speak the truth we are walking in truth. And by thinking of the truth and meditating on the truth we are binding them to our hearts. And we do that as we consider him who is the truth, as we spend time with him and with the Bible open. We are binding it to our hearts. As we give time to learning and understanding the truth of God's Word we are binding it to our hearts.

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<sup>21</sup> 1 Kings 2:4

<sup>22</sup> See Ephesians 4:15

<sup>23</sup> See Proverbs 3:3

<sup>24</sup> See Philippians 4:8

<sup>25</sup> See Philippians 4:9

Fourthly, we must worship in truth. If there is one place the truth should be found is it not in the place of God, in the Church of God? Is it not in the sons and daughters of the one who says, "I am the truth"?<sup>26</sup> We are his children and therefore we are, Peter says, "partakers of the divine nature."<sup>27</sup> Truth should be a stamp upon us. We are to be like our heavenly Father.

We read in Scripture that the Church is, "The pillar and ground of the truth."<sup>28</sup> And so if we fail at this point there is clear evidence that we are no longer the Church. If a church doesn't promote Jesus Christ as being the truth, if a Church doesn't look upon this book as being the truth, then the Scripture says they are no longer the Church. They are not a part of the body of Christ.

The Lord said to the woman at the well that worship is that which is in Spirit and in truth.<sup>29</sup>

We are not surprised that the world doesn't accept the things of God. After all, they are revealed to us by God the Holy Spirit and, in that sense, cannot be discerned when people are in the grip of death and sin. But it is sad when we go into places of worship that are meant to be the ground and pillar of truth and find the truth is not there. But rather deceit, when people are told they can become a Christian by turning up, by going through a particular process or course of learning, participating in Church sacraments. Or sometimes they just say, "We are not sure anymore. Just keep coming and we will get there eventually." That is deceit. That is not the truth. And that is not the Church. And there is a reason for it. And God himself tells us. In the Bible it says, "Because there is no light in them."<sup>30</sup> There is no light in them.

If the candle has gone out and we are talking to the children about, then you look there and you think, "Well, why is it dark? Oh, the light has gone out." It is fairly obvious isn't it?

And when you go into a group of people who claim to be Christians and they don't love the Bible as the truth, they don't find the truth in Jesus Christ and we look and we just say, "Oh, well, that's...the light has gone out. That is why. It is obvious."

May it never be found among us that we preach or live anything but the truth as it is in Christ. May we never turn from the truth. It is unpopular. There are aspects of Scripture we know that are unpopular today, unfashionable. But remember the truth does not change. Those fashions will come and go. The truth of God is unchanging. Heaven and

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<sup>26</sup> John 14:6

<sup>27</sup> 2 Peter 1:4

<sup>28</sup> 1 Timothy 3:15

<sup>29</sup> See John 4:24

<sup>30</sup> Isaiah 8:20

earth may pass away,” and they will, God says so, “But my Word shall endure forever.”<sup>31</sup> The Word of God remains.

What we sing, what we read, what we pray, what we preach must ever be centered around the one who is the truth. Without the triune God there is no truth and there can be no true worship. We need to be a people who not only seek truth in worship, but love it. Good thought of actually loving the truth. I mean that is a concept we find in Scripture.

We read in Proverbs 23:23, “Buy the truth, and sell it not. Buy the truth, and sell it not.”<sup>32</sup> You don’t go into a shop, don’t you, and I think Morrison’s were advertising last night on the television there. They have got, I think it was a thousand offers and there were so many hundred of offers of get one...buy one get one free. That’s it, isn’t it? But one get one free.

My friends, when it come s to the truth, you buy one, you get three or four free because it says there that if we do take truth and if we bind it to our hearts... And if you turn...I’ll not ask you to turn now, but in Proverbs 23:23 where it says, “If you buy the truth,” it says there, “for with it,” this is what you get free. “With it comes wisdom, instruction and understanding.”<sup>33</sup> That seems a bargain to me. Buy truth and with it comes wisdom, instruction and understanding.

My friends, it was wisdom that was being written about alter in Proverbs chapter three that says is greater than silver and gold.<sup>34</sup> So, my, there is a real bargain. You won’t find that on Morrison’s shelf. But you find it free as you bow your knee before the living God.

And, my friends, you know, part of our worship is the praise of God, isn’t it? The God of truth we come to worship. The preaching of Jesus Christ who says, “I am the truth,”<sup>35</sup> is part of our worship. And we long for that in the demonstration of the Spirit of truth. And all that pertains to God’s truth.

And, my friends, we come and we worship the God of truth in that way, but also a part of our responsibility, the Scripture says, is to guard the truth. Paul writes to Timothy in chapter six, “Oh, Timothy,” he says, “keep that which is committed to thy trust.”<sup>36</sup>

And elsewhere he writes—I think to the Church at Thessalonica—he says, that you have been entrusted with the gospel.<sup>37</sup>

All of these are holy things, aren’t they? The truth is not...it is not ours to give away. It is the truth of God. No one can give the truth away. When people say, “That’s not true,”

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<sup>31</sup> See Matthew 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33

<sup>32</sup> Proverbs 23:23

<sup>33</sup> See Proverbs 23:23

<sup>34</sup> See Proverbs 3:14

<sup>35</sup> John 14:6

<sup>36</sup> 1 Timothy 6:20

<sup>37</sup> See 1 Thessalonians 2:4

and they have given it away, they have tried to give away something that is God's. Because everything that is true centers upon him.

But, my friends, may we never give it up by way of neglect. That is one of the most subtle ways that we can give up the truth.

Let me give you just one more heading and that is we ought to believe the truth, believe the truth. You see, there is a believing of something that we acknowledge is to be true and then there is a believing on something to the extent that we rely upon it.

We often quote, don't we, devils believe.<sup>38</sup> They believe in Jesus Christ. They know he is the Son of God. They were there. They know.

My friends, we believe on him to the extent that we have been enabled to lean on him for all eternity. We have been able to gaze by faith at the cross and say, "There is blood was shed for me. There the Lord laid not just our sins upon him, but my sins were laid upon him. We often quote, "My sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more, bless the Lord, oh my soul."

We need to be sure that, you know, when someone throws you a piece of rope and you ought...and you need to hang on to it, you need to... you hang on to it because you believe it will carry your weight. But we hang on to Christ. He hangs on to us. And we have believed that on the cross of Calvary there he carried our weight. There he carried our sins.

You know, it is a sad indictment on the world and on individuals if we don't believe the truth. People say, "Well, if I don't believe your truth then I am in kind of neutral land."

The Word of God says:

He that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, [this is the truth] that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.<sup>39</sup>

He that believeth on the Son of God hath life.

Oh, my friends, come believing that we might have life. To believe the truth is to believe in and on the Lord Jesus Christ who is the truth. It is to wear the truth and bind it upon your heart. Scripture says, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."<sup>40</sup>

So then, what have we got? The truth! Know it in the Word of God. Wear it by the way that you live. Walk in it. Worship in it. And believe it.

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<sup>38</sup> See James 2:19

<sup>39</sup> 1 John 5:10-11

<sup>40</sup> Romans 10:10

In application, really just to do those things, isn't it, that I have listed as headings is really all the application we need. We simply must do them. But it is chiefly this. To know him who is the truth. Know him. Wear him. "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ,"<sup>41</sup> the Scripture says. Walk in him. Worship him. Believe in him. Those are the things that we do. Pursue him. Not in some mystic way that we...we might know we are on a journey as it were. Yes, we are on a pilgrimage. But to know him, pursue him through the Scriptures, him who is the true way, who is set down in the Word of God.

Faith cometh by the hearing of the Word of God.<sup>42</sup>

Remember this book. It is the truth in its entirety, the same truth unto all generations. And, my friends, in a world bound by sin and darkness, in a world that is ready for judgment the people of God and only the people of God know a freedom through the truth. The Lord Jesus Christ said:

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.<sup>43</sup>

Free from sin because our sin has been dealt with by him who is the truth, freedom to see what is happening in the world around us as we gaze into the sacred pages of Scripture, free to walk this way knowing no condemnation. But we shall be there on our pathway to glory. Isn't it a comfort for you in that this morning? Comfort and strength and whatever age you are, whatever sickness that you have got, whatever circumstances that you have got, that your trust is in the God of truth who changes not.

We may be tested. We may be tried by the enemy of our souls. But the truth of God stands firm. And our trust is in him.

So, my friends, may we continue in his Word that we may wear the truth, we may bind it to our hearts who is the truth. Amen.

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<sup>41</sup> Romans 13:14

<sup>42</sup> See Romans 10:17

<sup>43</sup> John 8:31-32