



Walk Worthy

of the calling with which you were called.
Ephesians 4:1-5:21

PART TWO – WALK IN TRUTH – EPH. 4:17-32

LESSON 21 – CAN YOU HANDLE THE TRUTH – EPH. 4:20-21

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Ephesians 4:20-24

- ▶ Ephesians 4:20 **But you have not so learned Christ,** 21 **if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:** 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

You Have Not So Learned Christ

- ▶ We have been told in these verses that we have “not so learned Christ”, meaning that we have not continued learning how to live as sinners and walk like the gentiles if we have heard Him and been taught by Him. As His disciples we are being taught to walk in the truth. And Paul tells us that what we have heard and learned is that the truth is in Jesus!
- ▶ We know that Jesus tells us that He is the truth (John 14:6). He in His very nature as God is purely true. He is the embodiment of the Word of God (LOGOS) and every Word of God is true. But this is an interesting phrase, isn't it? The truth is in Jesus.

Walk in Truth

- ▶ We learn in Him how to walk, how to live, how to talk, how to think, and how to be holy.
- ▶ We learn in Him to see God rightly and to treasure His Word as sweeter than honey and even the honeycomb.
- ▶ We learn in Him how to be right with God.
- ▶ We learn in Him how our sins are forgiven and how we are co-heirs with Him of all that is His!
- ▶ We learn to walk in truth.

Counterfeits

- ▶ This is important because there are counterfeits and lies and deception all around us. There are those who are deceived and those who are deceiving.
- ▶ There are false doctrines, false Christs, false teachers, false churches, and false gospels.
- ▶ We are surrounded by people who are citizens in the kingdom of Satan – the father of lies. How appropriate then that while Satan is the father of lies, we find that our Heavenly Father has sent us His Son, who is the truth!

Looking for Truth

- ▶ This also says much about those who are all around us and are seeking for the truth. How many people have you heard say, “I’m just looking for the truth”?
- ▶ Are they really looking for the truth? Really?? For to seek truth is not to seek self fulfillment. It is not to seek the answers for every problem, trial, or mystery. It is not to seek to solve those things that puzzle us. It is not to find some secret to happiness.
- ▶ To seek the truth, to really seek the truth, is to seek for Jesus.

My Truth

- ▶ Many people who claim to be seeking the truth reject Jesus. They hate Him. They want nothing to do with Him.
- ▶ So are they then truly seeking truth? They are seeking for a truth that is truth to them. In other words, their worldview is such that the truth they seek is true to them – but that does not mean that the truth they are pursuing is actually and really true.
- ▶ Seeking for “my truth” is seeking justification for our presuppositions. Seeking “my truth” is seeking for self-validation.

Lost and Found

- ▶ How can we say this?
- ▶ Because any search for truth that does not lead us to Christ was never a search for truth in the first place. It was a search for assuring lies, a substitute truth.
- ▶ Satan is the greatest propagandist of all times. Veiling the truth and leading people into deception, telling them that the lie is true and that truth is a lie. He after all appears as an angel of light! Yet who is the true light of the world? JESUS.

The Truth is in Jesus

- ▶ As people proclaim to us then that they are searching for truth perhaps we should memorize this verse and tell them immediately “the truth is in Jesus!”
- ▶ The next question is of course the question, “Can you handle the truth?”

The Truth is in Jesus

- ▶ I know in the movies the line is “You can’t handle the truth.” But in real life the line is a question – if one is really and truly seeking for truth then they are seeking Christ. And who better to point the way? We know the truth.
- ▶ Or as John wrote, “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.”

Can You Handle the Truth?

- ▶ Can you handle that truth?
- ▶ Then preach it. Live it. Tell it. Seek it. For any genuine search for truth leads one place – to Jesus.
- ▶ The question remains then, where do we seek for truth?
- ▶ The world says out in nature, in creation. They worship the creation instead of the Creator.
- ▶ Romans 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

The Word of God

- ▶ The source of truth is God Himself, and He reveals Himself in His Word. It is so simple, and yet so hard!
- ▶ If we want to find the truth as it is in Jesus we must go to the one reliable, infallible, sufficient source of truth – the Holy Scriptures.
- ▶ Our Confession of Faith states about the Holy Scriptures:
- ▶ The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.

The Word of God

- ▶ Although the light of nature and the works of creation and providence manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God so much that man is left without any excuse, they are not sufficient to provide that knowledge of God and His will which is necessary for salvation.
- ▶ Therefore it pleased the Lord at sundry times and in divers manners to reveal Himself, and to declare His will to His church;

The Word of God

- ▶ - and afterward, for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the church, protecting it against the corruption of the flesh and the malice of Satan and the world,
- ▶ - it pleased the Lord to commit His revealed Truth wholly to writing. Therefore the Holy Scriptures are most necessary, those former ways by which God revealed His will unto His people having now ceased.

The Word of God

- ▶ The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, depends not on the testimony of any man or church, but wholly upon God its Author (Who is Truth itself). Therefore it is to be received because it is the Word of God.
- ▶ We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the people of God to gain a high and reverent estimation of the Holy Scriptures. We may be similarly affected by the nature of the Scriptures—the heavenliness of the contents, the efficacy of the doctrine, the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole, which is to give all glory to God, the full disclosure it makes of the only way of man's salvation, together with many other incomparable excellencies and entire perfections. By all the evidence the Scripture more than proves itself to be the Word of God.

The Word of God

- ▶ Yet, notwithstanding this, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth of Scripture and its divine authority, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit bearing witness by and with the Word in our hearts.
- ▶ The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down or necessarily contained in the Holy Scripture, to which nothing is to be added at any time, either by new revelation of the Spirit, or by the traditions of men.
- ▶ Nevertheless, we acknowledge the inward illumination of the Spirit of God to be necessary for the saving understanding of such things as are revealed in the Word.

The Word of God

- ▶ The infallible rule for the interpretation of Scripture is the Scripture itself, and therefore whenever there is a question about the true and full sense of any scripture (which is not manifold, but one), it must be searched by other passages which speak more clearly.
- ▶ The supreme judge, by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and by which must be examined all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, and doctrines of men and private spirits can be no other than the Holy Scripture, delivered by the Spirit. And in the sentence of Scripture we are to rest, for it is in Scripture, delivered by the Spirit, that our faith is finally resolved.

Bible Reading Plan

- ▶ Do you have a systematic plan for reading through the Bible this year? If not, we recommend the One Year Bible:
<https://oneyearbibleonline.com/>
- ▶ Other good Bible reading plans can be researched here:
<https://www.ligonier.org/posts/bible-reading-plans>