

THE VOICE OF TRUTH

by Robert Hatfield

On trial before Pilate, Jesus said, “every one that is of the truth heareth my voice” (John 18:37). Since the beginning of time Satan has been leading men away from the truth through his craftiness and his lies, and he continues to do so today. However, Jesus said that he is the way, truth, and life (John 14:6). To secure salvation, all people must be willing to listen to the voice of truth.

Satan is NOT found in truth. The point may be elementary, but the concept is key to man’s salvation. While people are aware that there is no truth in the devil, they continue to yield to his temptations. One cannot expect to walk in the light if he or she is listening to the voice of unrighteousness and sin. Jesus said warned about Satan’s lies (John 8:44).

Slothful Servants are NOT found in truth. Those who fail to live the Christian lifestyle cannot claim to be followers of the truth. John wrote, “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth” (1 John 1:6). John continued to write that those who fail to acknowledge the presence of sin in their lives (and consequently do not properly cover that sin) deceive themselves and do not the truth (1 John 1:8). “He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1 John 2:4).

Self is NOT found in truth. People who wish to heed the voice of truth must place themselves last. Unlike the those whom Paul referenced who were “ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Tim. 3:7), those who properly prioritize will be sure to lay aside personal prejudice in order to follow righteousness. Hymenaeus and Philetus failed to put off their own desires, therefore Paul said that they had erred (2 Tim. 2:18). It is the sad circumstance that many today err from God’s truth.

The Savior IS found in truth. In John 18:37 Jesus said the truth-seekers will hear *his* voice. One can be confident in the Savior’s ability to lead unto righteousness. In John 10, Jesus is depicted as the good shepherd. The Lord says that his sheep hear his voice and follow him (John 10:27).

Sanctification IS found in truth. “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:17). The word “sanctify” means to purify or to be holy. Christians are called to holiness (1 Pet. 1:16); they must be pure (James 1:27). Only in the truth of God’s Word can one find the necessary elements that lead toward purification from sin.

Salvation IS found in truth. Man has a need for salvation; he cannot save himself (Jer. 10:23). God is the One to whom salvation belongs. The Psalmist said, “Salvation belongeth unto the Lord” (Psa. 3:8). In Psalm 119 the Bible says, “quicken me according to thy judgments” (Psa. 119:155-156). Because salvation belongs to God, man must submit to God’s Will.

The Bible exhorts men and women to stay away from that which turns from the truth (Titus 1:14; 2 Tim. 4:4; 1 Tim. 1:6). It is certain that the final judgment will be according to the truth (Rom. 2:2). Therefore, it is *imperative* that all people become a part of the church, which is “the pillar and ground of truth” (1 Tim. 3:15).

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