

The Importance of Truth **Romans 10:1-3 (NKJV)**

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

How important is it to know the truth?

Many today are like Pilate who didn't think truth could be known. "What is truth?"

We hear people talk about your truth and my truth as though we could each have our own and it really didn't matter who believes what.

We sort of live in a post-truth world where everyone's opinion has equal weight.

What foolishness. Do you suppose those scientist working on the Manhattan project said to one another that all opinions are of the same veracity. If they had they would have blew themselves to kingdom come so to say.

Or let's say you are called to testify in court and are sworn to tell the truth, could you say well judge that's my truth, other may have different truth.

The meaning of truth has to do with reality. What is real is real. We cannot all have our own reality.

The Bible has a lot to say about truth and it seems to speak with some authority.

John 1:14 (NKJV)

14 And the Word became 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.

John 8:31-32 (NKJV)

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 18:37 (NKJV)

37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

John 14:6 (NKJV)

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 16:13 (NKJV)

13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

John 17:17 (NKJV)

17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

John 8:45 (NKJV)

45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.

John 16:7 (NKJV)

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

2 Thessalonians 2:10 (NKJV)

10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)

13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

2 Timothy 3:7 (NKJV)

7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

That last verse seems to apply to our generation.

Well the knowledge of truth seems to be important in our text.

- I. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.
 - A. Now the Jews had plenty of knowledge.
 - 1. Jesus said that they searched the scriptures.
 - 2. But they missed the focus of the scriptures.
 - 3. They read studied, memorized the scriptures.
 - 4. They wrote extensively on the law.
 - 5. The Babylonian Talmud has one volume in English of over 700 pages defining The law of levirate marriage.
 - B. But the knowledge of the truth they did not have.
 - 1. That is what Paul is saying here.

- 2. Zeal without knowledge of the truth is just a fast track to destruction.
 - C. Hitler's truth is that the Aryan race is destined to rule the world.
 - D. Communist truth is that if we give the government complete control and give them all our money they will be sure to take care of everyone equally.
 - E. Most of the so called truth that is believed in America is actually the lies of Satan who has blinded the eyes of the lost.
- II. Ignorant but not inactive.
- A. They do not accept the truth of the gospel.
 - B. They do not accept the truth of Jesus Christ.
 - C. They are ignorant of the principles laid down in the Bible.
 - D. They then go about to develop their own system of works that they think will lead them to God but they do not.
 - E. Mankind has developed numerous paths that they claim lead to God.
- III. But only God can give His righteousness to us and only His righteousness will do.
- A. Does righteousness come through baptism or membership in a church?
 - B. Does righteousness come by what we eat or abstain from eating?
 - C. Does righteousness come through rituals and saying certain words as if they were incantations?
 - D. Does righteousness come through a cup and a wafer?
 - E. Does righteousness come through a pilgrimage or kissing a statue?
 - F. Does it come by praying to the saints?
 - G. If all the prayers and rituals and ordinances and sacrifices of the Old Testament could not bring righteousness what makes us think we can do it.
- IV. Righteousness is through faith alone in Christ alone.
- A. Whenever you add anything to that, you begin to distort reality.
 - B. And if you distort reality you distort the truth for that is what truth is.

Our Willie passed away today,
 His face we'll see no more;
 What Willie thought was H₂O
 Proved H₂SO₄.

It is important what you believe for ideas have results.

Isaiah 5:13 (NKJV)

13 Therefore my people have gone into captivity, Because they have no knowledge; Their honorable men are famished, And their multitude dried up with thirst.

Isaiah 1:2-4 (NKJV)

2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: " I have nourished and brought up children, And they have rebelled against Me; 3 The ox knows its owner And the donkey its master's crib; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider." 4 Alas, sinful nation, A people laden with iniquity, A brood of evildoers, Children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, They have provoked to anger The Holy One of Israel, They have turned away backward.

Matthew 15:8-9 (NKJV)

8 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' "