

LBC Discipleship Course

Know Christ & Make Him Known Lesson 5: "What is Truth?: Understanding the Bible" (TC)

II Timothy 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Romans 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

II Timothy 3:16-17 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (17) That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

John 17:17 "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth."

The Source or foundation you use to determine what is true and false is called a worldview. Definition of a worldview: "The framework or system of beliefs you use to interpret the world and how you interact with it." Question: What kind of lens or sources can you use to interpret the world and define truth? Are you depending on what you think or feel is right? Or, are you relying on the only real source of truth which God Himself has provided, the Bible? Today we will discover what truth is and how we can understand it!

What is Truth?

In John 18:38 Pilate asked, "What is truth?" The first thing to understand is what you need to base truth upon. Question: Where do you go to get the answers to the following questions? What is the purpose of man? Where did man come from? Why am I here on the earth? What will happen to me when I die? How do I get to Heaven?

The Only Two Sources of Truth

I. God's Truth vs. Man's Truth

You will build your life on one of the following areas of truth: Man's truth or God's Truth, the Bible. In Matthew 7:24-27 we see that two men built their homes/lives upon two different types of soil: the sand and the rock.

a. **Man's truth** - The storm came and what happened as a result to the home/life that was built on the sand? It was destroyed by the storm.

i. Building truth on the sands of man. (Matthew 7:24-27).

1. Mankind's truth is seen in the following statements:

a. I think it is true, so it must be. I feel like it should be true, so it must be. My experience tells me it is true, so it must be. I believe it is true, so it must be.

2. Examples of mankind's truths

a. *Rationalism*: Holds that reason is the source of truth.

i. Situational Ethics – Basing truth upon present circumstances we are in.

ii. Moral Relativism – Truth that fluctuates based on the desires of the individual.

iii. Scientific Theories – God's Truth is "helpful" unless it conflicts with ideas of "smart men" who "know better".

b. *Mysticism*: Teaches an "inward divine influence" is the source of truth. (Deuteronomy 13:1-5, I Kings 13)

c. *Experience*: "You can't deny it is true, because it happened to me." (2 Peter 1:16-21)

- d. *Religious & Family Tradition*: “This is the way we have always done it.” Mark 7:6-9
- b. **God’s Truth** - What about the one who built his home/life on the rock? It withstood the storm.
 - i. Building truth on the rock of God’s Word!
 1. God’s truths are seen in the following verses:
 - a. John 17:17 – “Thy Word is truth”
 - b. Psalm 119:160 – “God’s Word endures forever”
 - c. Titus 1:2 – “God cannot lie”
 - d. Matthew 24:35 – “God’s Word will judge us”

Understanding the Bible – God’s Truth

Why did God give us the Bible? God’s desire has always been to have a relationship with man. This is known as the doctrine of “Revelation”.

Definition of Revelation: “The communication of truth from God to man; which man could not discover for himself, and which God wanted recorded in Scripture. A divine self-disclosure of God to man in some form of communication.” Revelation lets us understand God wants us to know Him.

I. An Overview of the Bible (derived from the notes of C.I. Scofield)

- a. The Bible is one book.
 - i. From Genesis the Bible bears witness to one God. Wherever he speaks or acts he is consistent with himself, and with the total revelation concerning him.
 - ii. The Bible forms one continuous story, the story of humanity in relation to God.
 - iii. The Bible records the most unlikely predictions concerning the future.
 - iv. The Bible is a progressive unfolding truth. God used different people over the centuries to fully develop its details.
 - v. From beginning to end, the Bible testifies of one redemption.
 - vi. From beginning to end, the Bible has one theme: the person and work of Jesus Christ.
 - vii. And finally these more than 40 human authors over a period of over 1500 years, have produced a perfect harmony of doctrine. This is to every candid mind, the unanswerable proof of the Divine inspiration of the Bible (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:16-21).
- b. The Bible is a book of books. 66 books make up the one Book. Each book is as a chapter in the whole; but is also complete in itself, having its own theme and analysis.
 - i. The books of the Bible fall into groups. Speaking broadly there are five great divisions in the Scriptures, and these may be conveniently fixed in the memory by five key-words, Christ being the one theme (Luke 24:25-27):
 1. Preparation For Jesus Christ - Old Testament
 2. Manifestation of Jesus Christ - The Gospels
 3. Propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ & His Church: Acts
 4. Explanation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ & His Church: The Epistles
 5. Consummation of all things in & through Jesus Christ: Revelation
- c. The Bible tells the Human Story.
 - i. The Creation of the earth and of man, the story of the race springs from the first human pair and continues through the first eleven chapters of Genesis.
 - ii. Genesis 12 begins the history of Abraham; the father of the nation of Israel.

1. It is this nation, Israel, with which the Bible narrative is thereafter chiefly concerned from the eleventh chapter of Genesis to the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. The Gentiles (non-Jewish) are mentioned, but only in connection with Israel. Israel's appointed mission was:
 - a. To be a witness to the unity of God in the midst of universal idolatry (Deut. 6:4; Isaiah 43:10).
 - b. To illustrate to the nations the greater blessedness of serving the one true God (Deut. 33:26-29; I Chron. 17:20-21).
 - c. To receive and preserve the divine revelation (Rom. 3:1-2).
 - d. To produce the Messiah, earth's Savior and Lord (Rom. 9:4).
- iii. The Gospels record the appearance in human history and within the Hebrew nation of the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, and tell the wonderful story of his manifestation to Israel, his rejection by that people (Jn. 1:12), His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension into Heaven.
- iv. The Acts of the Apostles record the descent of the Holy Spirit, and the beginning of a new thing in human history, the Church. The division of the race now becomes three fold: the Jew, the Gentile, and the Church of God. Just as Israel is in the foreground from the call of Abraham to the resurrection of Christ, so now the church fills the scene from the second chapter of the book of Acts to the fourth chapter of the Revelation.
- v. The remaining chapters of The Book of Revelation complete the story of humanity and the final triumph of Christ.
- d. The Central Theme of the Bible is Jesus Christ.
 - i. It is the manifestation of Jesus Christ, his Person as "God manifest in the flesh" (I Tim. 3:16); His sacrificial death, burial, and his resurrection, which constitute the Gospel.
 - ii. Unto Christ, all preceding Scripture leads; from Him, all following Scripture proceeds.
 - iii. Anticipation of Christ's return. The Church awaits the fulfillment of his special promise: "I will come again and receive you unto myself" (John 14:1-3).

II. How can I understand the Bible?

- a. 7 rules that will aid in understanding the Bible:
 - i. Hear it! (Romans 10:17) Through preaching, Sunday School, etc.
 - ii. Read It! (Colossians 3:16) Personal time when God can speak to you.
 - iii. Pray About It! Asking God to help you understand His Word. (James 1:5; 4:2)
 - iv. Study It! (II Timothy 2:15) Digging deeper, comparing scripture to scripture.
 - v. Meditate Upon It! (Joshua 1:8) Chew on it throughout your day, looking for ways to use God's Word in your life!
 - vi. Memorize It! (Psalms 119:9-11) So you will be armed against Satan when he attacks!
 - vii. Listen To The Spirit! (John 14:26, 15:26; 16:13) Seek God's Spirit to illuminate the truth of God's Word. For our natural man cannot discern it. (I Cor. 2:9-16)