

Sunday Celebration (12-12-04) Restoration of the Church (Pt. 9)
"RESTORING the PILLAR and SUPPORT of the TRUTH"

INTRO: Liberty & Truth

John 8:32 "and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

Prov 23:23 Buy truth, and do not sell it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding.
— Where Can I Buy Some Truth?

Acts 2:42 **SNAPSHOT:** devoted to doctrine

1 Tim 3:15 but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to
conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living
God, the pillar and support of the truth.

THE TRUTH

- What is the TRUTH?.....

1. Truth is a PERSON in Scripture and it is ABOUT A PERSON

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True,

Remember: Truth=> FREEDOM Therefore, "Freedom is a Person and Freedom is About a Person"

Gal 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free

Matt 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. KJV

2 Cor 3:17-18 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Freedom is in the PERSON WHO IS TRUTH, not in some Abstract Ideas Labeled "Truth".

Col 2:6-23 ... Christ is the Centerpiece of Life itself, and we are here warned that we don't get taken captive by the PHILOSOPHY of man (v. 8), as well as the RELIGION of MAN (v. 16-23) that is devoid of Christ as the center, but yet is still teaching MORALITY and Various "GOOD DEEDS" and Religious Practices.

“The perceived necessity of making Christ integral to all our preaching rises as we consider that no portion of Scripture is rightly interpreted without consideration of how it relates to him. Luke records that on the road to Emmaus the risen Jesus revealed what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. Christ’s own interpretation of all Scripture was that it was always revealing his redemptive work in behalf of his people. Thus, for us to proclaim any Scripture without explaining its connection to Christ’s redemption is to fail to say what Jesus said the text meant.” Bryan Chapell, “Preaching to a Shifting Culture”, p. 72

“Paul would write to the Corinthians, ‘I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified’ (1Cor 2:2). ... Note that Paul did not say that his purpose was to know nothing but Jesus Christ, what a good example he was, and how good you, too, will be if you only follow him. Paul explicitly makes the atonement, Christ’s suffering and dying on our behalf, integral to his message.” Bryan Chapell, “Preaching to a Shifting Culture”, p. 72

2. Truth is Connected to the Concept of Salvation

— This would be where the Bible Departs from Man’s Philosophies, which treat truth as a concept that doesn’t have as it’s primary aim to address the relationship between God and Man.
If GOD IS THE CENTER of the Universe, then Truth Must Restore Us To Him!!

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

2 Tim 2:24-25 The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,

1 Tim 2:3-4 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

“... the reason that Christ must be in our preaching is not simply because his name communicates some magic privilege to those who providentially hear it, but because the substance of the message is necessary for salvation from personal sin. ... We must recognize that no message has any eternal efficacy if it does not also provide rescue from the effects of sin that separate persons from God.” Bryan Chapell, “Preaching to a Shifting Culture”, p. 68-69

3. Truth is Connected to the WAY WE LIVE Our Lives

1Tim 3:14-15 “... I am writing these things... so that you may know HOW ONE OUGHT TO BEHAVE in the household of God”

- It is an all too true observation that many Christians ACKNOWLEDGE the Bible, but live our lives based on PERSONAL, FAMILY, & CULTURAL TRADITIONS

We Must Determine What “Information Source” Will Have the FINAL SAY SO Over Our Decisions, Goals, and Personal Ideas. Over and Against the SCRIPTURES as Our Basis for Living, we have available today:

- The World's Philosophy
- Personal Traditions
- Psychology – The attempt at understanding human behavior and offering a solution, but without placing God at the Center.

2Tim 3 Over and against these ALTERNATIVES To the Truth, we have a WARNING (to AVOID one thing) and an EXHORTATION (to CONTINUE in) something else [Consider, this is Paul's LAST LETTER— His Final Words for the Church to Continue on in its Mission]

v. 1-5 Are People Whose Lives Are Characterized These Ways Fit to Construct a Life Philosophy?

— **v. 6-8** They are: "Being led astray by various passions" "never coming to a knowledge of the TRUTH" "opposed to the truth" "corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith"

— Are Your "Personal Philosophers" QUALIFIED REGARDING THE FAITH?

v. 14-17 What We Are to CONTINUE In Having FIRMLY Believed ["continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of" NASU]

- 2 Key Questions (in Restoring Our Commitment to Truth):
(1) Have I Learned?
(2) Am I Convinced?

v. 16-17 The SOURCE of Truth (Inspiration) and the PROFIT of Truth

2Tim 4:1-4 Paul's Charge to Timothy (Preach the WORD!!)

"Preach the Word!" The Admonition to Preachers — NOT church tradition, feel good stories, or pop-psychology

THE PILLAR AND SUPPORT OF THE TRUTH

- My initial thoughts about truth would be that IT IS THE PILLAR AND SUPPORT of our salvation and the manner of our lives. But what this verse tells us is that WE ARE THE PILLAR AND SUPPORT of the Truth.

2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth .

– This is the Call & Responsibility of EVERY BELIEVER

“ Thus it is with the church. It is entrusted with the business of maintaining the truth, of defending it from the assaults of error, and of transmitting it to future times. The truth is, in fact, upheld in the world by the church. The people of the world feel no interest in defending it, and it is to the church of Christ that it is owing that it is preserved and transmitted from age to age. The meaning then is, that the stability of the truth on earth is dependent on the church.” Albert Barnes, (from Barnes' Notes, by Biblesoft)

“ When the church ceases to be the pillar and ground of truth, we may and ought to forsake her; for our regard to truth should be greater than our regard to the church; we are no longer obliged to continue in the church than she continues to be the pillar and ground of truth.” (from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible)