

COUNTERFEITS

You Shall Know the Truth

John 8:31-36

WHAT IS TRUTH?

- What is truth? It depends on who you ask
- Webster's dictionary defines truth as *being in accord with fact and reality*
- People will say that truth is whatever they believe it to be, it's their narrative, it's their story, it's their truth
- What that really means for most people truth is a moving target, constantly changing
- We can't depend on people or society for our definition of truth, truth must be defined in terms of God and His word because God is the *source* of all truth
- God's truth possesses distinguishing characteristics, God's truth is:
 - *Divine* because He is the author or Creator of truth
 - *Absolute* because His Word is true for all people at all times
 - *Objective* because the Word of God is true in every place at all times
 - *Immutable* because God's truth does not change and God does not change ***Psalm 119:89 (KJV) 89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.***
 - *Authoritative* because whatever Jesus says can be trusted as true, consistent and reliable

PRACTICE THE TRUTH BRINGS FREEDOM

John 8:31-32 (KJV) Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; [32] And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

- Jesus had been teaching in the Temple and many believed on Him or placed their faith and trust in Jesus
- Jesus said to these new believers:
 - If you *continue* in my word, then you are my *disciples* indeed
- Jesus said if you *continue* in My word, you are my *disciples* (learners) indeed
- The proof and the evidence that you really believe in Jesus is you continue, abide, dwell, live by the Word of God
- The Word of God takes *residence* in your life
- You can also tell when a person has made a false or superficial profession of faith when they don't *continue* in the word of God
- Jews said to these Jewish believers two things were required to be one of His disciples
 1. Belief
 2. Continuance in His Word
- Belief is accepting the message of salvation through Jesus Christ that has been preached or taught by faith
- It was the belief in the word of God that saved you
- Jesus wants us to *continue* in His word
 - We stay, we abide in Christ and draw life from His word
 - A true and obedient disciple will find the truth by knowing the One who is the Truth, Jesus Himself

COUNTERFEITS

You Shall Know the Truth

John 8:31-36

- When our belief in Jesus Christ leads to our salvation and discipleship (on-going learning) the results are two-fold
 1. We will *know* the truth
 - Get to know the One who is the truth and follow the truth of what He says in his Word
 - You'll discover in God's Word, Jesus always gives you *the truth* about our spiritual lives, our need for salvation, prayer, forgiveness, serving others, giving, prayer, sharing your faith, eternal life, etc.
 2. The truth will set us free
 - It's not enough to **know** the truth; we have to **do** the truth
- The Pharisees in Jesus' day *knew* the truth, but they either "didn't apply" to their lives or they "altered" it to fit their situations
- Spiritual freedom does not come from an academic pursuit of the truth, but by abiding *and* applying the truth to our lives
- The truth will set you free when you apply it to your life

OUR TRUTH SAYS WE'RE ALREADY FREE

[33] They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

- You would think if Jesus just told what it takes to be one of His disciples you would say, *thank you* Jesus for letting me know
- There was none of that
- The people said we are "Abraham's seed", we're Abraham's descendants
- These people were saying "our truth" is we are already free and we don't need "to continue" in Jesus' word to be spiritually free
- They were saying they had *inherited* Abraham's freedom and his spirit
- "Redefining" truth doesn't make it true
- The righteous heritage of their ancestors does not make them righteous
- What they were really saying is we have not really believed you Jesus
- Merely believing on Jesus was fine *until* Jesus *tested* the sincerity and genuineness of their commitment
- Jesus told them "you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free"
- These men thought they were free, but they were still in imprisoned:
- *The Prison of Denial*
 - Their "truth" said we're *not* bound to anyone, or in other words, there's nothing wrong with me
 - They were in denial of their true spiritual condition
- *The Prison of Lies*
 - One of the worst kinds of lies a person can tell is the one they tell to themselves
 - They were liars, Jesus was right when he said **John 8:44, "Ye are of your father the devil; he is a liar, and the father of it."**
- *The Prison of Arrogance*

COUNTERFEITS

You Shall Know the Truth

John 8:31-36

- They were arrogant, “what do you mean you shall be made free?”
- They could not “see” the truth
- *The Prison of Acceptability*
 - There are sins people view as “acceptable” and they function well as long as you don’t mess with their “sacred sin”
 - They have a “compartment” of ungodly behavior that no one is to know about and no one should touch
- We look free to the outside world, but we’re still spiritually bound

ALLOW THE SON TO SET YOU FREE

[34] Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. [35] And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. [36] If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

- Jesus says the proof our bondage is the sins we commit
- Jesus answers them and says *anyone* who commits sin is a slave or bound by that sin
- That sin is their “master” and they are willing to do it’s bidding anytime “the master” commands it
- When “the master” is finished with you, he can literally throw you away, cast you out
- What sin is holding you captive?
- It’s easy to have justifications, excuses, reasons for our actions
- The slave or the one in bondage *does not* live in the house and is *not* part of the family, and they have *no inheritance*
- But a son has *full access* to the house, everything in the house, and is in line to receive an inheritance because of his status as a son
- How can I break free this life of bondage and become a son/daughter?
- You can be a son by adoption where you receive all the rights the Father would give to His own Son **John 1:12 (KJV) But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:**
- You don’t have to continue living like slave, you can live like a son/daughter in Christ

Walk in the freedom of Jesus

[36] If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

- Jesus tells the men present if you will allow Him to free you, you will be totally, completely and really free
- *Only Jesus (the Truth) has the power to set a slave free from sin because He is already a rightful heir in the family John 14:6 (KJV) Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
- *Only Jesus can make you free*
- Believing and abiding in the Truth (Jesus Christ) cancels the penalty of sin
- When the Truth (Jesus Christ) frees you, commit to not going back to a life of bondage **Galatians 5:1 (KJV) Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.**