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## “According To The Scriptures”

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

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## 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

***“Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures ...”***

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## “According To The Scriptures”

- Paul preached the resurrection of Christ.
- His resurrection was prophesied in the scriptures.
- The scriptures are inspired.
  - They are “God Breathed.”

*“... and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”***

**(2 Timothy 3:15-17)**

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4

## “According To The Scriptures”

- Therefore, the word of God is Truth.
 

*“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”*

**(John 17:17)**
- Truth then is according to God’s word. There is no other means to determine truth.
 

*“Therefore Pilate said to Him, ‘So You are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. **Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.**’ Pilate said to Him, ‘What is truth?’”* **(John 18:37-38a)**

4

5

## Truth is ... Not According To One’s Conscience

- Many appeal to conscience (“Let your conscience be your guide”).
- Conscience is a product of teaching.
- If taught error, one will practice error.
- Saul of Tarsus (Paul) had been mistaught that anyone naming Jesus as the Christ was guilty of blasphemy.
 

*“Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him. But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.”*

**(Acts 8:1-3)**

5

6

## Truth is ... Not According To One’s Conscience

Paul described his way of life before becoming a Christian.

- “For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it ...”*
- (Galatians 1:13)**
- “... even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief ...”*
- (1 Timothy 1:13)**

6

7

## Truth is ... Not According To One's Conscience

- Paul lived **“with a perfectly good conscience”** while persecuting the church.  
*“Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, ‘Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day.’” (Acts 23:1)*
- Convinced he was doing the right thing, Paul had no sense of shame in persecuting Christians, yet after he obeyed the gospel, he was ashamed of his past.  
*“For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.” (1 Corinthians 15:9)*

7

8

## Truth is ... Not According To One's Conscience

- Once Paul was taught the truth, his sense of conscience changed, as did his sense of shame.  
*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.” (Romans 1:16-17)*

8

9

## Truth is ... Not According To What We Think

- Many say, *“I think this”* or *“I think that.”*
- Naaman refused the instructions of the prophet.  
*“Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, ‘Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and you will be clean.’ But Naaman was furious and went away and said, ‘Behold, I thought, “He will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.” Are not Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?’” (2 Kings 5:10-12a)*
- What Naaman thought did not matter.
- What we think does not make it the truth.

9

10

## Truth is ... Not According To What We Think

- Paul **“thought”** he should persecute.  
*“So then, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them. And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.” (Acts 26:9-11)*

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11

## Truth is ... Not According To What We Think

- God's thoughts are superior to man's thoughts.  
*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.’” (Isaiah 55:8-9)*

11

12

## Truth is ... Not According To What Seems Right

- If it seems right ...
- Some say, “It must be the will of the Lord because it seems so right to me.”
- Solomon wrote ...  
*“There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.” (Proverbs 14:12/16:25)*

12

13

**Truth is ...****Not According To What is Right in Our Own Eyes**

- Many think their judgment is the right way.  
*“Every man’s way is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the hearts.” (Proverbs 21:2)*
- Man’s “thinking” is foolishness to God.  
*“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes ...” (Proverbs 12:15a)*
- Only God’s instructions can properly guide man.  
*“All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the Lord weighs the motives.” (Proverbs 16:2)*

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**Truth is ...****Not According To What is Right in Our Own Eyes**

- Moses warned God’s people not to trust their own eyes.  
*“You shall not do at all what we are doing here today, every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes ...” (Deuteronomy 12:8)*
- The book of Judges records the foolishness of man.  
*“In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.” (Judges 17:6)*  
*“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” (Judges 21:25)*

14

15

**Truth is ...****Not According To Feelings or Emotions**

- All have feelings about different matters.
- All feelings are not the same.
- Therefore, feelings are not the standard.
- Feelings can be faulty, deceptive, and biased.  
*“So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.” (Ephesians 4:17-19)*

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16

**Truth is ...****Not According To Feelings or Emotions**

- As we saw with the apostle Paul, feelings can be misguided by a faulty conscience.  
**(Acts 23:1; 1 Corinthians 15:9; Galatians 1:13)**
- We cannot trust our own hearts.  
*“The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; Who can understand it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds.” (Jeremiah 17:9-10)*

16

17

**Truth is ...****Not According To What Is In Us**

- Many think Truth is in them.
- God’s “... **word is truth.**” (John 17:17)
- Truth is learned, not in-born.  
*“It is written in the prophets, ‘AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.” (John 6:45)*  
*“For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.” (Galatians 1:11-12)*

17

18

**Truth is ...****Not According To What Is In Us**

- The words of Jeremiah are the truth.  
*“I know, O Lord, that a man’s way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.” (Jeremiah 10:23)*
- The truth is in Jesus.  
*“... if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as **truth is in Jesus**, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.” (Ephesians 4:21-24)*

18

19

## Truth is ... Not According To Man's Traditions

- Many do what was done by generations before.

- Paul followed the traditions of his fathers.  
*"For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it; and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions."* **(Galatians 1:13-14)**

19

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## Truth is ... Not According To Man's Traditions

- The Pharisees nullified God's commands by following their traditions, and Christ declared their worship to be in vain.

*"And by this you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition. You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you: 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'"*  
**(Matthew 15:6b-9)**

20

21

## Truth is ... Not According To One's Parents

- Many do what parents or relatives did.
- Some will compromise truth because of the circumstances of family members.

Adulterous marriages, homosexuality, drunkenness, & other sins are often accepted when it involves friends or family.  
*"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."* **(1 Corinthians 6:9-11)**

21

22

## Truth is ... Not According To One's Parents

- Jesus warned ...

*"Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."* **(Matthew 10:34-37)**

*"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."*

**(Luke 14:26)**

22

23

## Truth is ... Not According To What Men Say

- Opinions of men are regarded as authority by most people. But we must look to the Source above for authority.

*"Thus says the Lord, 'Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,' declares the Lord."*

**(Jeremiah 9:23-24)**

*"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.'"*

**(Matthew 28:18)**

23

24

## Truth is ... Not According To What Men Say

- Not according to what ...
  - "my preacher said ..."
  - "my pastor said ..."
  - "my priest said ..."
  - "the Holy father said ..."
  - "my spiritual advisor said ..."
  - "my Bible commentary said ..."
  - "other religious books said ..."
  - "my horoscope said ..."
  - "Billy Graham, Joel Osteen, or Max Lucado said ..."

24

25

## Truth is ... Not According To What Men Say

- The Corinthians were condemned for following men.

*“Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe’s people, that there are quarrels among you. Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, ‘I am of Paul,’ and ‘I of Apollos,’ and ‘I of Cephas,’ and ‘I of Christ.’ Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”*

**(1 Corinthians 1:10-13)**

25

26

## Truth is ... Not According To What Men Say

- The apostles of Christ preached that we should obey God, not men.

*“But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge, for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.’” (Acts 4:19-20)*

*“But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men.’” (Acts 5:29)*

26

27

## Truth is ... Not According To The Majority

- The majority is usually wrong.
- The majority perished in the universal flood.

*“All flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died. Thus He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky, and they were blotted out from the earth; and **only Noah was left, together with those that were with him** in the ark. The water prevailed upon the earth one hundred and fifty days.” (Genesis 7:21-24)*

27

28

## Truth is ... Not According To The Majority

- The majority will be lost.

*“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*

**(Matthew 7:13-14)**

28

29

## Truth is ... Not According To The Majority

- Don’t be fooled by “majority rule”!
- God’s people are the remnant ...

*“In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God’s gracious choice.” (Romans 11:5)*

*“Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, “**THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE LIKE THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED ...**”*

**(Romans 9:27)**

29

30

## Truth is ... Not According What is Popular

- Most people desire to be popular with men.

• Jesus called those who practice religion as an act of self-promotion “hypocrites.”

*“When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.” (Matthew 6:5)*

30

31

## Truth is ... Not According What is Popular

- Scribes and Pharisees loved the praise of men.

*“But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments. They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues, and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men. But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. Do not be called leaders; for One is your Leader, that is, Christ.” (Matthew 23:5-10)*

31

32

## Truth is ... Not According What is Popular

- Some preachers seek popularity at the expense of the truth.  
*“These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage.”*  
**(Jude 16)**
- They fail to speak the whole purpose of God.  
*“For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.” (Acts 20:27)*
- They stop short of preaching everything God has revealed.  
*“... seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.”*  
**(2 Peter 1:3)**

32

33

## Truth is ... Not According What is Popular

- Remember Paul’s instructions to Timothy.  
*“... preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.” (2 Timothy 4:2-5)*

33

34

## Truth is ... According To God’s Word!

- “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”*  
**(John 17:17)**
- The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.” (Psalm 119:160)*
- We must always ask ...  
*“For what does the Scripture say? ...” (Romans 4:3a)*  
*“Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God ...” (1 Peter 4:11a)*
  - We must appeal to a **“Thus says the Lord ...”**  
*“The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘Write all the words which I have spoken to you in a book.’” (Jeremiah 30:1-2)*

34

35

## Truth is... We will be judged by God’s Word.

- The words of Christ will be the judgment standard.  
*“If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; **the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.**”*  
**(John 12:47-48)**

35

36

## How To Obey The Gospel of Jesus Christ

**Hear the word of God**  
(2 Thessalonians 2:14-15; James 1:21)

**Believe the gospel message**  
(Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)

**Repent of sins**  
(Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)

**Confess Jesus Christ**  
(Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32-33)

**Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins**  
(Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4)

**Remain Obedient**  
(Matthew 7:21; Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 3:12)

36