

The Old Paths

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“The Truth”

Jarrold Jacobs

Truth to many is an elusive thing. This is because they are not accustomed to speaking, nor hearing the truth. I have heard people say that “truth is relative.” They mean by this that truth to one person may not be truth to someone else. Others talk of “your truth,” “my truth,” etc. as if it is a subjective thing.

We need to understand that truth is not subjective, but objective. It does not change with time. Truth, of course, originates with God. “It was impossible for God to lie” (Heb. 6:18). If we can understand that it is impossible for God to lie, then we know that God’s word is truth (Jn. 17:17). Jesus said He is the very embodiment of truth: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (Jn. 14:6). Paul said, “let God be true, but every man a liar” (Rom. 3:4).

Keeping these things in mind, it is clear that the Bible, God’s word, will contain the truth, and not lies. Why is this? It is because the Bible is inspired of God (II Tim. 3:16-17). Paul said that God’s word thoroughly equips man for every good work. Peter said that God has given us, “all things that pertain unto life and godliness” (II Pet. 1:3). If He has given us “all things,” certainly, this would include all the words (truth) necessary to live a pleasing and acceptable life in the sight of God!

Why say these things? It is

because many do not understand that truth is a very precious thing. We see our civil leaders, our friends, our employers, salesmen, neighbors, etc., lying on a regular basis. Why do you think it is necessary for people to sign so many papers upon the purchase of a car, or home, etc.? It is because many companies have been cheated by people refusing to pay their debts! Remember the days when deals were made with a handshake? Well, this is what dishonesty has done for us! Lying has become a way of life for many. In fact, the American people as a whole, say not only do they lie on a daily basis, but expect the same from others!! How tragic.

Having said all of this, I want to impress upon the minds of our dear readers that God’s word is truth (Jn. 17:17; Ps. 119:151; II Sam. 7:28; II Tim. 4:2-4). You can rely on it, for it will not change! “God is not the author of confusion, but of peace” (I Cor. 14:33). The only way we can have peace is when people speak the truth with one another (Eph. 4:25)! God is the author of peace because He speaks the truth to man through the Bible, and **DOES NOT CHANGE!**

The fact that people do not appreciate the truth is seen in those who rebel against it. How many times have we heard people say, “I know the Bible says that but...” when shown the truth? How many times have we heard people say, “That’s your opinion” when they are presented with plain passages of Scripture? These answers do not

come from the heart that is ready and willing to hear God’s word, but from a rebellious soul who is not willing to yield and submit to the will of God. To see this in the Bible, compare and contrast such people as Abraham, Noah, Moses, Joshua, Peter, Jesus, Paul, and James with Pharaoh, Herod, Balak, the children of Israel at times, Elymas and others. We see people who heard the truth from God, but reacted in different ways. Some rebelled, others yielded. Some fought, and others submitted. Why did this happen? It happened because some were “hard-hearted” and not willing to listen to the truth, while others listened and obeyed!

Friend, what will you do? When you have heard God’s word, or read it in such papers as this one; what will you do with the truth? God has revealed all He is going to reveal (Jude 3). He demands all people to “speak as the oracles of God” (I Pet. 4:11). He demands that His word be preached faithfully, “in season and out of season,” regardless of the consequences that men may inflict (II Tim. 4:2). Will you listen or rebel? Will you be one willing to “plant and water” the seed, or will you turn away, expecting an increase when nothing has been planted (I Cor. 3:6)? Let us not allow the pleasures of this life to cloud our judgment. Let us not allow the hard-heads, the “looks,” and the rebellion of men to dismay us, or sway us from standing for the truth of God’s word (Jer. 1:17; Ezek. 2:6, 3:9)!

Friends, let us always remember the words of those brave young men in Babylon: “but if not...” (Dan. 3:18)!!

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“Keep one thing forever in view — the truth; and if you do this, though it may seem to lead you away from the opinions of men, it will assuredly conduct you to the throne of God.”

— Horace Mann

“If a thousand old beliefs were ruined in our march to truth we must still march on.”

— Stopford A. Brooks

“Condemning The World”

Jarrold Jacobs

How many times have we heard people say words to the effect, “If you tell me that there is only one way to Heaven, then you are condemning me (or “my family,” “others,” etc.)”? Is this a valid charge?

Friends, when one takes a stand for the truth, he will be condemning those who are not following the truth. Please read Hebrews 11:7. “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.” When Noah built the ark, following God’s plan to the letter (Gen. 6:22), the Bible says he condemned the world. How did Noah do this? He condemned the world in three ways:

1) He condemned the world by living by faith (Heb. 11:7). God told Noah what to do and he did it without question (Rom. 10:17; Gen. 6:22). His family then followed his lead (I Pet. 3:20). In contrast, the rest of the world refused to listen to God (through the preaching of Noah, II Pet. 2:5) and drowned in the Flood. In this way, Noah condemned the world by living “by faith” (Heb. 11:7).

2) He condemned the world by heeding the warnings of God (Gen. 6:13). Again, when the people heard Noah’s preaching,

they refused to follow God’s will and get into the ark. Yet, when Noah was warned of “things not seen as yet,” he heeded the warning! In like manner, we are warned by God of an eternity in Hell for our disbelief and disobedience. Are we heeding the warning of the Lord who has said He will come “in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (II Thess. 1:6-9)?

3) He condemned the world by preparing for the coming flood. Noah’s preparation of the ark showed that he not only believed in God, but believed God. Those who have faith in God will do what He says to do like Noah (Rom. 10:16). Noah prepared and condemned the world! Will we learn the lesson? In addition to this, Matthew 25:1-13, records where those prepared were rewarded and those who refused to prepare were condemned; not unlike those in Genesis 7!

Did Noah talk down or act rude to people? Of course, not! Nevertheless, he condemned the world at that time because he followed God and had the backbone to stand for his convictions and preach God’s word to others. He did God’s will regardless of the consequences to himself or his family. There are too few people like this today. Let us stand behind God’s will and have the backbone

that was characteristic of Noah! Have we complained that someone was “condemning” us? Perhaps it was because they were doing God’s will, and we were not! If so, let us repent now and submit to the will of God (Lk. 13:3; II Cor. 6:2).

Why Some Are Not Asked

R.L. Whiteside

“**H**appy is the person whose conduct does not raise a question in the minds of others as to where he stands. Some people never have to answer the question, “Will you have a drink with me?” There is a reason. Some young people are never subjected to certain temptations to which others are frequently subjected, and there is a reason. When your conduct raises a question as to where you stand or as to what you might do, the devil will make you answer that question. Every person who raises a question mark in the mind of people has to defend himself or surrender.”

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“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.” (Jer. 6:16)