OUR OBLIGATIONS TOWARD TRUTH

John 8:32; Prov. 23:23; John 17:17; Tit. 1:1

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. A God of Truth -- Deut. 32:4
2. Christ is the Truth -- John 14:6
3. The Holy Spirit is Truth -- 1 John 5:6
4. The importance of Truth is seen when one contemplates that it is the power of God unto Salvation: Rom. 1:16; 1 Pet. 1:22; James 1:21; John 8:32
5. Error cannot be substituted for Truth in God’s divine Plan of Salvation.
6. Error preached, error believed and error observed cannot free one from sin -- II Thess. 2:10-12; Matt. 15:9; Col. 2:8; 2 John 9-11
7. TRUTH defined:
   (1) "The SUM of thy word is truth" -- Psa. 119:160 ASV
   (2) "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" -- John 17:17
   (3) John 1:17
8. TRUTH is always narrow:
   (1) Scientific truth is narrow -- Example: water freezes at 32 degrees Fahrenheit.
   (2) Historical truth is narrow -- Example: The Civil War ended April 9, 1865 at Appomattox, VA
   (3) Mathematical truth is narrow -- Example: $2 + 2 = 4$
   (4) Bible truth is narrow -- it is not relative -- Eph. 4:4 - 6
9. Let us look at our duties toward TRUTH.

I. WE ARE TO PROCURE OR OBTAIN THE TRUTH

1. The first responsibility that every accountable being has toward the Truth is to OBTAIN IT (get possession of it).
   (1) Prov. 23:23 -- Buy the truth, and sell it not"
   (2) This passage indicates that Truth costs.
   (3) Some are not willing to pay the price Truth costs.
1. The chief rulers -- John 12: 42 - 43

2. Truth will cost us family and friends many times -- Matt. 10: 34 - 37

(4) Some who have known and believed the Truth have "sold out" because error offered so much what they desired.

2. One must be sure that he has a proper appreciation for Truth.

(1) We are to desire it -- I Pet. 2:2
(2) Hunger and thirst for it -- Matt. 5:8
(3) We are to pant for it -- Psa. 42:1
(4) In joy we are to give up every erroneous position for Truth -- Matt. 13:44; 13: 45 - 46

3. There are some who think they want the Truth, while in fact they would prefer that someone "tickle their ears" with a lie -- II Tim. 4: 2 - 4.

II. WE ARE TO PRACTICE THE TRUTH -- Tit. 1:1

1. The search for Truth is not merely an academic pursuit.

2. The only real value that comes from the search for Truth is when that Truth is put into practice in our lives:

(1) John 7:17
(2) I Pet. 1:22
(3) Matt. 7: 21, 24
(4) James 1: 22 -25
(5) Luke 6:46

III. WE ARE TO PROCLAIM THE TRUTH -- II Tim. 4:2; John 17:17

1. We are to hold forth the word of life -- Phil. 2:15 - 16

2. We are to be lights in the world -- Matt. 5: 14 - 16

3. We are to sound out the word of the Lord -- I Thess. 1:8

4. We are to preach the gospel to every creature -- Mk. 16: 15 - 16; Matt. 28: 19 - 20

5. II Tim. 2:2

6. Acts 8:4

7. Acts 6:7

8. II Tim. 4:2
IV. WE ARE TO PROTECT THE TRUTH

1. The Truth must be protected and defended -- Phil. 1:17; Gal. 2:5
2. We are to guard what has been given into our trust -- I Tim. 6:20
3. We are to earnestly contend for the faith -- Jude 3
4. We are to try the spirits -- I John 4:1
5. The church at Ephesus -- Rev. 2:2
7. Jesus warns -- Matt. 7:15

V. WE ARE TO PLEAD THE TRUTH

1. After we have boldly and aggressively preached the Truth, we should with kindness and tenderness plead with men to obey the Truth.
2. Paul said, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men" -- II Cor. 5:11
3. Peter exhorted men to obey on Pentecost -- Acts 2: 40
4. Barnabas exhorted the brethren at Antioch to cleave unto the Lord -- Acts 11:23
5. Paul exhorted disciples to continue in the Faith -- Acts 14:22
6. One who can exhort is to give exhortation -- Rom. 12:8
7. Timothy was to exhort -- I Tim. 4:13
8. Jesus in Matthew 23:37
9. Heb. 3:13 -- "But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin"
10. We need to learn how to persuade men to obey the Truth.

CONCLUSION

1. Let us all be sure that we earnestly desire the Truth, and understand the Truth.
2. Having acquired the Truth, let us put it into practice in our lives.
3. Let us teach the Truth to others.
4. When teachers of error assault the Truth, let us defend the Truth.
5. Let us plead earnestly with the lost that they receive the Truth and obey it.
6. Only the Truth can make us free -- John 8:32

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