

The Need for Firm Bible Truth

1Tim 4:1-2 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

This Scripture speaks about the latter times, or the End Times. One of the things that has surprised many of us is how accelerated the march towards the End Time has been. The global, political, and economic conditions are so ripe for the return of Christ. The same thing can be said for 1Tim 4:1-2. There have always been liars, but this passage seems to have been accelerated, also. You would think with the advent of the internet the liars would be more cautious. "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" seems to be the standard. We need the firm truth that only the Bible can provide and that we can rely on.

One of the 1960's academic fantasies still with us is the view that truth is a *social construct*. According to this notion, truth has been replaced by how you define something. To some, it is socially acceptable to redefine protest to justify violence. Or, it is socially acceptable to protect human dignity unless you are in the wrong social group. In those cases, it is socially acceptable to either cancel them or at least make them apologize. You can take bizarre, contradictory thinking and define it as a normal part of modern society. It might seem so reasonable until you see the rotten fruit it starts to produce. Of course, this becomes too late because the damage is already done.

Prov 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

There are too many examples of this to get into, but this is not the extent of the problem we face today. Far beyond academic fantasies is the problem of the manipulation of information into obvious propaganda in our times. With every technical advancement from the Gutenberg press in the 1400s, to the telegraph, radio, television, the internet, and now to artificial intelligence we have found not only increasing voices but also the increasing corruption of so many voices. It has come to the point where the world so easily puts a spin on truth that blatantly turns the truth into lies.

"A lie told often enough becomes truth."

— Lenin (Vladimir Ulyanov)

It is the nature of ambition to make men liars and cheats, to hide the truth in their breasts, and show, like jugglers, another thing in their mouths, to cut all friendships and enmities to the measure of their own interest, and to make a good countenance without the help of good will.

— Kenneth Tynan, British literary critic

Besides academics and propagandists, there are also the lies we tell ourselves, naive assumptions we have, and people who claim to have heard God's voice who bring a false message. We have always needed the truth of God's Word but it seems now more than ever.

1. The supremacy of truth -

One of the things that irks all of us is when we hear a lie, which happens often enough. We place a high premium on honesty at the foundation of society. Just giving people sufficient facts to mislead them into a lie does not constitute the truth.

"In the spider-web of facts, many a truth is strangled."

Although we consider the accuracy of facts to be true, there is more to truth. There is more to the supremacy of truth than bare facts. Solomon expressed it this way in Proverbs 23:

Prov 23:23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

This verse teaches that we should consider truth as a thing of the highest value, and spare no pains, cost, or sacrifice to obtain it. When you have it, don't take a bribe to sell out to compromise it. There is a second part that adds on more meaning. We should *also* get wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. Life is not made up of simple bare facts. We use wisdom, instruction, and understanding to turn the building blocks of bare facts into magnificent architecture.

Prov 2:1-5 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;
2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding;
3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding;
4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures;
5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. **[This is not knowing *about* God. It refers to knowing Him personally.]**

Understanding biology is great. Understanding the impossibility of evolution turns biology into a glorious statement about God.

John 18:37-38 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou

sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

38 Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault *at all*.

There were all kinds of truths and implied truths that tracking them all proved too much for Pilate politically, practically, and spiritually. Still, Jesus pointed out that when someone has ears to listen to His voice they would be treated to the greatest truth of all: Jesus Christ has a greater kingdom than can possibly be known and that by salvation one can enter into it. Those who will not recognize the voice of Christ will inherit a different kind of kingdom. We discover their end from the Revelation.

Rev 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

2. The Word of God is truth -

The Bible, the Word of God, provides the firm foundation of truth that we need. It is the most miraculous book ever written.

Sometimes we see or hear someone who is a genius. They might have *superior* expertise whether it be in economics, community service, music, chemistry...and the list could go on. I might have a slight interest in chemistry but it is a sure thing that I should not be hired at a nuclear facility. Similarly, someone who might actually be genius in community service is very often not qualified to understand economic systems and *vice versa*. In the interest of

the community, that specialist might wreak economic disaster for the nation. If you put the economist in charge, he might be interested only in dollars for the rich and might not care for the community of the down trodden. Being an expert in one area does not make you an expert in all areas.

The genius of the Bible is that it *is* expert in understanding the true needs of *all* humanity written by people who did not have expertise in all areas. The Bible was written by men from so many periods of time that there was no way for the Bible to be written in conference by a committee. It was written by so many from different walks of life that the chances of them agreeing doctrinally was nil. David, the man of war, was also known as the sweet Psalmist of Israel. From Isaiah to Malachi, all different prophets, yet all spoke of *real* faith, religion, repentance, and were united on God's End Times plans. The Twelve Apostles each had vastly different personalities. Paul was a theological genius, Peter was fiery, and Thomas had a need for proof of the resurrected Christ. John was known for his love and devotion to the divine Son of God who also wrote the Revelation and the End Times destruction. Yet, all of these *consistently* had the same message of salvation and sanctification without conferring with each other or coming from the same station in life. They did not write properly footnoted academic theses that examined the meaning of a comma in a phrase of a tragedy. Their genius was that they wrote about common men in their common experiences according to God's sovereign plan of the ages that can only be explained by the inspiration from God. The Bible was written as needed so that it could not be unduly colored by men second guessing God. In the second guessing they will multiply vain words.

Prov 10:19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips *is* wise.

Even when practiced by imperfect men, the Bible has lifted mankind out of the depths of ruin because the Bible is the Word of God. It is not comprised of man's doctrine as he second guesses what God must be like. It is God's revealed religion presented and applied in the very fabric of the human experience. The Bible is truth with all of the wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. It is not just bare facts. Jesus summed up the super truth of the Bible when He designed His church:

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Lest there be any mistake, the truth Jesus spoke of was not just general, trite cliches to make your day brighter. He is careful to define it, "thy word is truth." As Evangelist John R. Rice put it:

The authenticity and authority of a God inspired Bible is the very foundation of Christianity even if it should be admitted that Christ is deity, we have no certain way of knowing the truth about Christ, about the way of salvation, no assurance of heaven and eternity, no sweet promises, no way to know Christian duty, to grow Christian character, or preach the Christian gospel, without an inspired bible. We had as well settle it to start with that it is the Bible *and* Christ or no Bible, no Christ, no salvation, no Christianity.

Psa 119:89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

Psa 119:52 I remembered thy judgments of old, O LORD; and have comforted myself.

Ps 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul:

the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple.

Ps 119:160 Thy word *is* true *from* the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments *endureth* for ever.

Isa 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.

Jer 23:29 *Is* not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer *that* breaketh the rock in pieces?

Prov 30:5 Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

2 Tim 3:16-17 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

2Pet 1:20-21 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not

**in old time by the will of man:
but holy men of God spake *as
they were* moved by the Holy
Ghost.**

**Matt 4:4 But he answered and
said, It is written, Man shall
not live by bread alone, but by
every word that proceedeth out
of the mouth of God.**

We need the firm foundation of
God's truth, the Bible.

3. The blessing of God's truth -

We need to consider the blessings of
the truths of God's Word.

One American humorist pointed out
the problem with truth – people don't
want it:

As scarce as truth is, the supply
has always been in excess of the
demand."

– Josh Billings, American humorist

People are irked when they find out
they've been lied to. However, as long as
they don't know it, they practically beg to
be lied to. For example, people fall for
cult leaders because of the empty
promises they make or the *supposed*
commands of God. This is especially
because they don't know *what* the Bible
says.

Especially in what looks like the last
age of the church before the Second
Coming of Christ, the lies and deception
will be multiplied. The Church of
Laodicea is advised:

Rev 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of
me gold tried in the fire, that thou
mayest be rich; and white
raiment, that thou mayest be
clothed, and *that* the shame of
thy nakedness do not appear; and
anoint thine eyes with eyesalve,
that thou mayest see.

Paul saw this problem back in the

beginning church age in the churches of Galatia:

Gal 4:16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

Truth engenders hatred of truth. As soon as it appears, it is the enemy.

— Tertullian, 3rd century pastor

Jesus spoke of the truth problem of the Pharisees:

John 8:44-46 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

45 And because I tell *you* the truth, ye believe me not.

46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

They couldn't convict Jesus of any sin. So, why didn't they then believe He was telling the truth?

John 8:31-32 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.

We know that the truth will make us free, but the atheist Aldous Huxley pointed out what happens to those who do not have ears to hear:

You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you mad.

— Aldous Huxley

Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick

themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened.

— Sir Winston Churchill

Don't overlook or ignore the truth of God's word. If you want to know how to be saved, you must know enough of the Bible to hear the voice of Christ and heed His logic, not our own. Instead of the shaky sands of man's wisdom shifting around what it means to be saved, we need the firm rock of God's Word that declares you to be saved the moment you trust only in the finished work of Christ at the cross and His resurrection. When we believe that His blood is all that is needed to forgive us forever and then pray for that salvation, we have the assurance of the true Word of God that we are saved.

But it doesn't stop there. If you don't stay in the Word of God, you become a weak Christian susceptible to doubts. We are to not just keep *reading* the Bible, but to *know* the Bible. I can tell you that it will be difficult at first and you will make mistakes. Sometimes understanding doesn't come. Sometimes understanding comes in drips and drabs. Some *misunderstanding* comes but is later corrected. Sometimes you get flooded with understanding. But, it doesn't come at all if you don't apply yourself to trying *learn* God's Word. It will show how we can love our enemies, have the strength of the purity of the home, treat all men equally, have true dignity, and way much more.

After salvation, if you want to *truly* walk with God, you must know the Bible.

2Cor 4:2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

1John 5:20 And we know that the

Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. **This is the true God, and eternal life.**

1Tim 4:1-2, Prov 14:12

1. The supremacy of truth - Prov 23:23, 2:1-5, John 18:37-38, Rev 21:8,
2. The Word of God is truth - Prov 10:19, John 17:17, Psa 119:89, 19:7, Isa 40:8, Heb 4:12, 2Pet 1:20-21, Matt 4:4
3. The blessing of God's truth - Rev 3:18, Gal 4:16, John 8:44-46, 8:31-32, 2Cor 4:2, 1John 5:20