

***The Great Sayings in the Gospels***  
***Message 147***  
***Final Theology Lesson 06***  
***John:16:7-15***

- 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.
- 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
- 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;
- 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;
- 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.
- 12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.
- 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.
- 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.
- 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

**Introduction:**

Last week we began a discussion of these verses and as I looked them over again there was something that grabbed my attention and has occupied my thoughts all week. The thought in v.13, "He will guide you into all truth," is a truly incredible statement that brought some questions and some realizations to my mind. For example: "Did the Holy Spirit guide them into ***all truth?***" "Do we have a record of that truth?" "Did these men write down what the Holy Spirit revealed to them?" "If He did and if they did write it down, is it not the very New Testament which we hold in our hands?" "How incredibly valuable and useful, then, is this document when we hold?" "Is it not one of the most incredible things in the world?"

In just a few hours from this statement the subject of truth would come up again. It would be in the conversation that Jesus had with Pilate.

John 18:37-38

- 37 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?

Truth, of course, is that which is true, the absolute reality concerning any particular idea, thing, or person. But, of course, Jesus was not talking about the principles of physics or the nature of the universe, or any other such thing. He was speaking of spiritual truth, those principles that govern the interaction of human beings with Deity and with one another (but only as a function of their interactions with Deity).

These are the truths to which He bore witness and they were the truths that the Holy Spirit revealed to Jesus' disciples after Jesus ascended back to the Father. These are the truths that were revealed more fully and completely by the Holy Spirit that God's men wrote down in His Word and we now hold in our hands.

You see, all truth is not equally valuable to us. Everything that is true is equally true with everything else that is true, but not all truth is essential to our spiritual survival. The speed of light, for example, is approximately 186,000 mps in a vacuum, but how many people live completely normal, productive, even spiritual and useful lives without knowing that? "Except ye repent...ye shall perish," (Luke 13:3,5) is also true. But how many people have lived spiritually useful lives without that information? A grand total of *zero*! That is what I mean when I say that not all truth is equally valuable.

### **I. The First Thing That We Should Consider is That Truth is Very Valuable and Not Easily Acquired.**

Think about this. 100 years from today, will it matter if you had a working knowledge of the speed of light? Will it matter if you had a working knowledge of repentance? How much will it matter? What price, in current US dollars, would you place on the value of the difference that a working knowledge of repentance will make 100 years from today?

I think we can all agree, can we not, that there is no way to put a price tag on the value of that piece of information properly held and used? It is the difference between heaven and hell, between life and death, between eternal misery and eternal joy. Who can appraise that, who can set a price tag on it? We should truly treasure all of the truth that God has given us, treasure it to the degree that we are faithful to it.

But we must understand that truth is not easily come by, that it is very difficult to acquire and that we must have massive help to gain it. Why do I say that? Jesus could have simply written out the instructions contained in the NT. It would only have taken a few days at best. But He knew that these men could not have grasped them properly simply by reading them. They needed to be impressed into their souls in a way that only God Himself in the Person of His Holy Spirit could do.

We as humans sometimes have learning disabilities and we need specialized instructors to help us. Sometimes we are required to master subjects that only experts in that particular field can properly teach to us.

But, concerning spiritual matters, we are all so learning disabled and deficient that the Spirit of God must impress truth upon our minds. Truly the most valuable truths are very difficult to acquire and hold in the proper way.

Jesus alluded to this difficulty when He said, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate..." Luke 13:24. It is as if we are so profoundly learning disabled that only the most powerful and proficient teacher in the universe can actually cause us to learn that which we must know.

Think about this, would the God of Heaven, the Divine Trinity, or any member of it, come to earth to do that which He might easily delegate out to a lesser creature and have the effort be successful? This is the only possible rationale that we can give as to why Jesus Himself came to effect our Redemption. There was no one else. It is true, to some degree, what the old song says, "They searched through heaven and found a Savior, to save a poor lost soul like me." It must also be the reason that the Holy Spirit was delegated to reveal truth to us.

You, know, human beings are not nearly so difficult to persuade concerning error, lies, fables, and pure fabrications. Remember that God once desired to deceive King Ahab in a matter as a part of his judgment for his wickedness. Remember the scenario?

1 Kings 22:18-23

- 18 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil?
- 19 And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left.
- 20 And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner.
- 21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him.
- 22 And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.
- 23 Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.

It is a part of our depravity that we are easily persuaded concerning lies and only with Divine effort enabled to believe truth. ***Therefore, we must conclude that truth is exceedingly valuable.***

Of course, there is a question that follows right on the heels of that awareness. ***If truth is so valuable, why do we treat it as if it is worthless?*** We leave our Bibles laying around, scarcely ever bothering to read them and seriously consider what they say. And...study the Bible?... we cannot be persuaded at all to do that. Books that contain great and spiritual truth? They are treated the same way as the Bible. Meetings where truth is proclaimed and where people are rejoicing in the truth?...we can only barely be persuaded to attend those.

It is truly no wonder that we read of God's exasperation with humanity's treatment of the truth and the judgment that He is finally going to send.

2 Thess 2:7-12

- 7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.
- 8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:
- 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

- 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.
- 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:
- 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

**II. Second, consider how profoundly grateful we should be that our Creator has condescended not only to reveal truth to us but to come Himself to enable us to believe it.**

I had some really good teachers in school and I am profoundly grateful for them. Mr. Minor helped me immensely to understand algebra. Mrs. Chorley taught me about English grammar, how to diagram sentences and helped me fall in love with language. I also had a wonderful teacher for Trigonometry and one who helped me a lot with Speech and Debate. Those people changed my life immensely for the better and I still think of them and am so glad that good people were willing to work at the teaching profession and be so helpful to me.

But, how much more incredibly grateful should I be for the One Who saw my profound learning disability concerning spiritual things, the fact that I was hopelessly trapped in error and sin, and had compassion to come Himself and open my blinded eyes and free my imprisoned mind so that I could believe, understand, receive, and learn God's critical truths concerning my pathetic and lost state and how I might be made right with God?

This is a Being Who is full and complete in Himself, needing nothing and no one, completely Self-Sufficient and totally free of any necessity or lack.

**III. Thirdly, not only is this truth extremely valuable and difficult to come by, it is vitally important.**

There are things in this world that are valuable and difficult to obtain that are not important to me. Diamonds, for example, are valuable, relatively difficult to obtain, and yet, for me, they are not very important. (No doubt some of you ladies think differently... :- ) ) There are many other things that fit into that same category, valuable, difficult to obtain, but of no real important to me.

We have been reading lately about the thousands of centrifuges that Iran has purchased and is running to separate tiny quantities of the radioactive isotope of Uranium, U235. But I, personally, have no need for U235, so in spite of how valuable it is and how difficult it is to obtain it, there is nothing of interest for me in it, except that I do not want Iran to have it. That is what simple atomic bombs are made of.

But this *is* important: truth about myself, about God, and about how to have a relationship with Him are of extreme importance to me. Those realities impact me in ways that very little else can. They teach me how to be made right with God and how to live in a way that pleases Him.

And...every bit of that information is contained in the 'Truth' that the Holy Spirit revealed to the disciples of Jesus after His ascension back to heaven.

Take that information from me and return my mind to the bondage of sin and I have no hope. I become a hopeless pagan with no ability to learn, know, or hold on to the pieces of truth that are the most necessary to my eternal peace and survival.

Oh, there are many things that I might learn and know. I might become a surgeon, an engineer, an architect, or a computer programmer, but those pieces of information that are fundamental to my rescue from sin....these will remain a mystery to me.

Have you ever wondered why the scriptures call the wicked 'fools?' It seems like such an insulting and undignified term and yet it is used over and over again.

Prov 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

Ps 107:17 Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted.

Prov 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Prov 14:9 Fools make a mock at sin:

Matt 23:16-17

16 Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!

17 Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?

Ps 74:18 Remember this, that the enemy hath reproached, O LORD, and that the foolish people have blasphemed thy name

Rom 1:21-22

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

It is not because they are all idiots or disabled in the ordinary sense. But they are profoundly disabled. There is a category of truth that is shut up to them. It is as if they are in a mental prison with only certain categories of truth available to them.

**IV. Yet, without this truth that the Holy Spirit teaches, every human being, including the very smartest among us, will eternally perish in the most horrible place**

## **imaginable to the human mind.**

That place is called ‘the Lake of Fire’ because the torment there will be of the most excruciating kind. It is called ‘Outer Darkness’ because the Blessed Presence of God, Whose very Being is Light, will not be tangibly present. We, as a race, have adopted the word Hell to describe the most miserable experiences that we endure in our lives.

It is incredible that we desperately want to know the truth about so many things but care, as a race, so very little about the most important things. We want to know what is in our food, in our water, in our air because we know that unscrupulous people will put things in them that will do us harm unless we are very diligent. We have massive government agencies to make sure that they do not kill us with our own food.

We want to know the truth about our money and our government (good luck with that!) And our representatives have passed laws attempting to force the agencies that govern us to tell us the truth. We spend massive amounts of money and time reading stories and articles about what people do, say and think as we attempt to glean truth from our world.

Yet the truths of God are considered among the least important of all of all, relegated by many to the same category as fables, idols, and stories invented by men.

Is it not incredible that the Living God has given us so much and we esteem it so lightly? Do we not truly deserve, have we not diligently earned, the title ‘Fools.’

## **V. So, what should we do?**

Let us consider what we do concerning other information that we need to know. We find a good source of knowledge concerning it, usually a book. Then, we study it until we have a working knowledge of the topic. If we find it difficult, then we look for experts who might be able to explain what we are not understanding. If it is still too hard, we hire a tutor to walk us through the problem areas. In all, we do *whatever it takes* to master the topic about which we have a need or a profound curiosity.

I think that answers the question concerning the Truth of God, but, of course, there is an added layer of difficulty there. Our minds are closed. We are disabled. The information is given out at the good pleasure of God. So, while we are doing *all of the above*, we must also pray, seek His face, and ask Him to reveal to us what we need to know. He is a Faithful Teacher but He does not dispense His precious truth to the rebellious, the wicked, and the self-willed.

James 1:5-8

- 5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
- 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.
- 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.
- 8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

But there is another governing principle as well.

James 4:6-10

- 6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.
- 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.
- 9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.
- 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

The whole process begins with the sincere desire to know God's Truth. We must seek Him even for the proper desire. We must ask Him for wisdom and that without any hypocrisy or false motives. Then, continuing in prayer, we must use all of the means that He has placed at our disposal for acquiring the information that we need. We must be willing to let the truth change us, and it will.

Remember the words of Jesus.

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.