

## ARE YOU OF THE TRUTH?

Jesus defines truth:

### John 17:17

17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your ***word is truth***.

### John 14:5-6

5 Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" 6 **Jesus said** to him, "***I am*** the way, ***the truth***, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

### John 16:12-15

12 I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 **However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth**; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

### 1 Timothy 3:14-15

14 These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; 15 but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in ***the house of God***, which is ***the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth***.

Those infamous words:

### John 18:38

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

Why did he utter those words?

### John 18:37

37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. ***For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. EVERYONE WHO IS OF THE TRUTH HEARS MY VOICE.***"

Are you of the truth?

The church "of" Christ (belongs to, pertains to)

It's not legalism or traditionalism

Wasn't a foreign concept to NT Christians

Look at all you will do – & all you will be given – if you are OF THE TRUTH

### 2 John 1-4

The Elder, to the elect lady and her children, whom I ***love in truth***, and not only I, but also all those who have ***known the truth***, 2 because of the ***truth which abides in us and will be with us forever***. 3 ***Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you*** from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, ***in truth and love***. 4 I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children ***walking in truth***, as we received commandment from the Father.

Notice a chief identifying mark of those who are OF THE TRUTH

### 1 John 3:17-19

But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? 18 My little children, ***let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth***. 19 ***And BY THIS WE KNOW THAT WE ARE OF THE TRUTH, and shall assure our hearts [put our minds at ease] before Him.***

## I. THE ATTITUDE OF THOSE WHO ARE "OF THE TRUTH"

- They obey truth (initial obedience)

### 1 Peter 1:22-23

22 Since you have purified your souls in ***obeying the truth*** through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ...25 Now this is the word which by ***the gospel*** was preached to you. [Many of these were present on Pentecost in Acts 2]

- They hear (heed) truth on error

### 1 John 4:1-7

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world...5 They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. 6 We are of God. **He who knows God hears us**; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know **the spirit of truth** and the spirit of error.

- They will NOT heed the commandments of men

### Titus 1:14

14 **not giving heed to** Jewish fables and **commandments of men who turn from the truth.**

- They handle the truth accurately

### 2 Tim 2:15-16

15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

- They willingly expose their lives to truth

How few will do this today, especially among religious organizations

### John 3:19-21

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But **he who does the truth comes to the light**, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

- They are NOT hypocritical; they DO NOT pretend

### 1 John 2:3-6

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 **He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.** 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God

is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

## II. HOW THOSE WHO ARE "OF THE TRUTH" HANDLE OPPOSITION

- They plainly identify error & sin

### Acts 13:6-12

6 Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, 7 who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. 9 Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him 10 and said, "**O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?**" 11 And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time." And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. 12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

- They rely on fact, NOT oratory skill, flattery, insinuation & prejudice

### Acts 24:2-21

2 The Accusations of Tertullus before Felix

2 And when he was called upon, Tertullus began his accusation, saying: "Seeing that through you we enjoy great peace, and prosperity is being brought to this nation by your foresight, 3 we accept it always and in all places, most noble Felix, with all thankfulness. 4 Nevertheless, not to be tedious to you any further, I beg you to hear, by your courtesy, a few words from us. 5 For we have found this man a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. 6 He even tried to profane the temple, and we seized him, and wanted to judge him according to our law. 7 But the commander Lysias came by and with great violence took him out of our hands, 8 commanding his accusers to come to you. By examining him yourself you may

ascertain all these things of which we accuse him." 9 And the Jews also assented, maintaining that these things were so.

## 10 Paul's Defense Before Felix

Then Paul, after the governor had nodded to him to speak, answered: ***"Inasmuch as I know that you have been for many years a judge of this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself,*** 11 because you may ascertain that it is no more than twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem to worship. 12 And they neither found me in the temple disputing with anyone nor inciting the crowd, either in the synagogues or in the city. 13 ***Nor can they prove the things of which they now accuse me.*** 14 ***But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.*** 15 ***I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.*** 16 ***This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.*** 17 "Now after many years I came to bring alms and offerings to my nation, 18 in the midst of which some Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with a mob nor with tumult. 19 They ought to have been here before you to object if they had anything against me. 20 Or else let those who are here themselves say if they found any wrongdoing in me while I stood before the council, 21 unless it is for this one statement which I cried out, standing among them, 'Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you this day.'"

### III. WHY MORE PEOPLE ARE NOT "OF THE TRUTH"

- They look for truth among the elite

#### John 7:45-52

45 Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?" 46 The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" 47 Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived? 48 ***Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him?*** 49 But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed." 50 Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, 51 "Does our law judge a man before it

hears him and knows what he is doing?" 52 They answered and said to him, "Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee."

- They hide behind their traditions & will not study the Scriptures

#### Mark 12:18-27

18 Then some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him; and they asked Him, saying: 19 "Teacher, Moses wrote to us that if a man's brother dies, and leaves his wife behind, and leaves no children, his brother should take his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. 20 Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife; and dying, he left no offspring. 21 And the second took her, and he died; nor did he leave any offspring. And the third likewise. 22 So the seven had her and left no offspring. Last of all the woman died also. 23 Therefore, in the resurrection, when they rise, whose wife will she be? For all seven had her as wife." 24 ***Jesus answered and said to them, "Are you not therefore mistaken, because you do not know the Scriptures nor the power of God?"*** 25 ***For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.*** 26 But concerning the dead, that they rise, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the burning bush passage, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? 27 He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living. ***You are therefore greatly mistaken.***"

## CLOSING

Are you "of the truth"? Today, we have defined a Christian!

Does the truth pertain to you or belong to you?

Jesus said that His disciples know the truth, which will set them free from the devastating effects of all that is not truth (Jn 8:31-32)

#### 2 Thessalonians 2:10-11

10 ...they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they ***all may be condemned who did not believe the truth*** but had pleasure in unrighteousness.