

**KNOWING THE TRUTH, BEING ABSOLUTE FOR THE TRUTH,
AND PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH IN THE PRESENT EVIL AGE, Week 1**

**Knowing the Truth,
Being Absolute for the Truth
and for Upholding the Absoluteness of the Truth,
and Testifying to the Truth in the Present Age of the World**

Scripture Reading: John 18:37b; Eph. 2:2; Rom. 12:2; 1 John 5:19b-20

- John 18:37 - Pilate said therefore to Him, So then You are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I would testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.
- Ephesians 2:2 - In which you once walked according to the age of this world, according to the ruler of the authority of the air, of the spirit which is now operating in the sons of disobedience;
- Romans 12:2 - And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
- 1 John 5:19 - We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the evil one.
- 1 John 5:20 - And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Today the whole earth needs the truth of the Lord that is in His Word. Regrettably, however, the Bible, the divine Word, has not been fully opened to the world. Thus, it has not been possible for people to fully know the truth of the Lord. At the most, Christians are able to boast that the holy Word of God has been published into many languages and propagated over the whole earth. Yet they are not able to say that after reading the Bible, regardless of which language, they have been able to truly understand the deep mysteries within it. They have been able to understand the superficial meanings of the things revealed in the Bible according to their own culture, philosophy, tradition, customs, ethics, living, and morality but have had no way of comprehending the mysteries of the truths in it. The mysteries of the truths in the Bible are very deep and profound. We need the enlightening of the Spirit of God to understand them, and we also need to spend time to dig them out.

The truths in the holy Word of the Lord were completed approximately two thousand years ago, but over a period of a little more than one thousand years, they seemed to slowly vanish. Only in the last few centuries have the truths again been released little by little through the zealous and careful study of many lovers of the Lord. This is what we refer to as the Lord's recovery. The Lord's recovery is the recovery of all the truths in the Bible that were lost. Thus, the recovery of the truth is one of the great pillars in the Lord's recovery. The Lord's recovery depends upon the recovery of the knowledge of the truth. (*Truth, Life, the Church, and the Gospel—The Four Great Pillars in the Lord's Recovery, chapter 4*)

Day 1

- John 18:37** Pilate said therefore to Him, So then You are a king? Jesus answered, You say that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I would testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.
- 2 Timothy 2:15** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, an unashamed workman, cutting straight the

I. The Lord's recovery is the recovery of the divine truths as revealed in the Word of God—2 Tim. 3:16:

- A. Truth is the Triune God with His word—John 1:1, 14-17; 14:6, 16-17; 15:26; 16:13; 17:17; 18:37b.
- B. Many truths in the Word have been lost, misunderstood, and wrongly applied; thus, there is the need of the Lord's recovery—2 Tim. 2:15.
- C. The recovery has the highest truth—the truth that is the consummation of the truths recovered during the past centuries—vv. 2, 15.

Day 2

- John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- John 16:13** But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.
- John 17:17** Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

II. In John's writings the Greek word for truth (aletheia) denotes all the realities of the divine economy as the content of the divine revelation, conveyed and disclosed by the holy Word—John 17:17; 18:37b:

- A. **Truth is God**, who is light and love, incarnated to be the reality of the divine things for our possession—1:1, 4, 14-17.
- B. **Truth is Christ**, who is God incarnated and in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily, as the reality of God and man, of all the types, figures, and shadows of the Old Testament, and of all the divine and spiritual things—Col. 2:9, 16-17; John 4:23-24.
- C. **Truth is the Spirit**, who is Christ transfigured, as the reality of Christ and of the divine revelation—14:16-17; 15:26; 16:13-15.
- D. **Truth is the Word of God** as the divine revelation, which reveals and conveys the reality of God and Christ and of all the divine and spiritual things—17:17.

Day 3

- Ephesians 1:13** In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,
- 2 Corinthians 11:10** The truthfulness of Christ is in me, that this boasting shall not be stopped as it regards me in the regions of Achaia.
- 1 Peter 1:22** Since you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned brotherly love, love one another from a pure heart fervently,

- E. **Truth is the contents of the faith** (belief), which are the substantial elements of what we believe, as the reality of the full gospel—Eph. 1:13.
- F. **Truth is the reality** concerning God, the universe, man, man's relationship with God and with his fellow man, and man's obligation to God, as revealed through creation and the Scriptures—Rom. 1:18-20; 2:2, 8, 20.
- G. **Truth is the genuineness, truthfulness, sincerity, honesty, trustworthiness, and faithfulness** of God as a divine virtue and of man as a human virtue, and as an issue of the divine reality—3:7; 15:8; 2 Cor. 11:10; 1 John 3:18.
- H. **Truth denotes things that are true or real**, the true or real state of affairs (facts), reality, veracity, as the opposite of falsehood, deception, dissimulation, hypocrisy, and error—Mark 12:32; John 16:7; Rom. 1:25.

Now we can see that **truth**, aletheia, in the New Testament refers to **God**. Truth is God as the divine light and love incarnated to be the reality of all the divine things for our possession so that we may enjoy God as grace. This means that **the very God is the truth**, the reality, of the divine things for our possession. Therefore, **we need to possess God as the reality and then enjoy Him as grace**. Hence, the divine reality is actually God Himself. He is the reality of all the divine things.

What is truth? What is reality? **Reality is Christ as God incarnate**. Reality is Christ as the One in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily to be the reality of God, man, the types, figures, and shadows, and all divine and spiritual things. In the Old Testament we have many types, figures, and shadows. Christ is the reality of them. In the Bible we also read of many divine and spiritual things, such as life, light, wisdom, and righteousness. **Christ Himself is the reality of all these things**. Therefore, when we read the word "truth" or "reality" in the New Testament, we need to realize that it refers first to God and also to Christ.

We have indicated that in the New Testament **truth denotes the Spirit**, who is Christ transfigured and also the reality of Christ and of the divine revelation. For this reason, in 5:6, John says, "The Spirit is He who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth."

It is surely worthwhile for us to study thoroughly the meaning of truth in the New Testament. In this message we have pointed out in a very brief way that **truth, reality, is God, Christ, and the Spirit...** (*Life-Study of 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude, Chapter 9*)

III. The divine truth is absolute, and we must be absolute for the truth and for upholding the absoluteness of the divine truth—3 John 3-4, 8:

- A. To be absolute to the truth means to **set aside feelings**, to **ignore personal relationships**, and to **not stand for the self**—Matt. 16:24-25; 1 Pet. 1:22:
1. The truth is the **unique standard**, and we must stand on the side of the truth to **oppose ourselves**; upholding the absoluteness of the truth is possible only when we are **delivered from ourselves**—John 8:32; 2 John 2; 3 John 3-4.
 2. If the truth is **not** something absolute for us, **we do not know God**, and **we do not know God's word**—2 Thes. 2:10; 1 John 5:20.
 3. If we are **not** absolute for the truth, **we will sacrifice God's truth for ourselves or our own desires**—Prov. 23:23.
 4. We should **honor God's truth**, take the **way of the truth**, and **not compromise the truth in any way**—2 Pet. 2:2.

Day 4

3 John 3	For I rejoiced greatly at the brothers' coming and testifying to your steadfastness in the truth, even as you walk in truth.
Colossians 3:1	If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.
Colossians 1:27	To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

- B. We should be absolute for both the **objective truths** and **subjective truths**— John 8:32; 14:6:
1. The truths in the Bible have both an objective aspect and a subjective aspect; the objective aspect is for the subjective aspect—Rom. 8:34, 10; Col. 3:1; 1:27.
 2. The **objective doctrines are for the subjective truths**, and the **subjective truths are for the producing of the church**—2 John 1-2, 4; 3 John 3-4, 7-9a.
 3. The Lord desires to **recover the subjective truths in the Holy Scriptures**, especially the subjective aspect of the truth concerning the Triune God and the church—John 1:14; 14:16-20; 1 Tim. 6:15-16; 2 Tim. 4:22; 3:15-16.
 4. Many crucial subjective truths have been buried, but in the Lord's recovery these truths have been **resurrected** to become **recovered, resurrected truths**— John 17:17; 18:37b.

Day 5

1 John 1:6	If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth;
1 John 5:19	We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the evil one.
Romans 12:2	And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

IV. When we testify to the truth in “the age of this world,” we are one with the victorious Christ in fighting against Satan, the devil, the father of lies, “the ruler of this world,” “the god of this age” who “has blinded the thoughts of the unbelievers”—Eph. 2:2; John 8:44; 12:31; 2 Cor. 4:4:

- A. The devil's nature is a lie and brings in **death and darkness**; with darkness is **falsehood**, the opposite of truth—John 8:44:
1. The devil “does not stand in the truth, because **there is no truth in him**”— v. 44.
 2. The **satanic darkness** is versus the **divine light**, and the **satanic lie** is versus the **divine truth**—1 John 1:6.
 3. As the **divine truth** is the expression of the **divine light**, so the **satanic lie** is the expression of the **satanic darkness**—John 8:12, 44.
- B. “The god of this age” is Satan, the deceiver, the ruler of this present age; he dominates today's world and hunts for man's worship by **blinding the thoughts**, the **minds**, of the unbelievers—2 Cor. 4:4:
1. *Blinded* in 2 Corinthians 4:4 means to **veil a person's understanding**.
 2. *Thoughts* in this verse denotes the understanding of the mind.

- C. “The whole world **lies in the evil one**”—1 John 5:19b:
1. The entire satanic world system and the people of the world, the fallen human race, are **lying passively** under the usurping and manipulating hand of Satan, the evil one.
 2. In Greek the evil one refers to one who is **pernicious, harmfully evil**, one who **influences others to be evil**; this evil one is Satan, the devil, in whom the whole world lies—v. 19b.
 3. This evil system, the kingdom of darkness, was judged when its ruler, Satan, was **cast out by the Lord’s crucifixion in the flesh**—John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11.
- D. This world in Ephesians 2:2 refers to the **satanic system**, which is composed of many ages:
1. An age is a part of the world, the satanic system.
 2. The age in Ephesians 2:2 refers to the present and modern appearance of the system of Satan, which is used by him to usurp and **occupy people** and **keep them away from God and His purpose**.
 3. The present evil age in Galatians 1:4 refers to the **religious world**, the religious course of the world.
- E. If we want to testify to the truth in the present age, we must obey Paul’s command in Romans 12:2: “**Do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind**”:
1. To be fashioned, conformed, is to assume an outward expression that **does not come from within us nor is representative of our inner being as a regenerated child of God**—John 1:12-13.
 2. We should **not be assimilated by the world** to the extent that we who have been separated from the world unto God have the **same image as this age**.
 3. We need to be **renewed in the spirit of our mind, allowing** the mingled spirit to spread into our mind, thus becoming the **spirit of the mind** and causing our mind, emotion, and will to be **renewed by a new element being wrought into our inner being**—Eph. 4:23; 1 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 12:2.

We should not be conformed to the age, but **transformed by the renewing of our mind**. To be conformed to the age means to **adopt the modern fashions outwardly**; to be transformed is to have an organic element wrought into our being to produce a metabolic change inwardly. We need to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. The mind in Romans 12 is different from the mind both in Romans 7 and Romans 8. In Romans 7 the mind was alone, acting independently. In Romans 8 the mind was dependent, being set on the spirit. However, I doubt that the mind in Romans 8 has been transformed or renewed. Simply to set our mind on the spirit is inadequate. The mind should not only be dependent, but also renewed. Romans 12:2 tells us that we need a renewed mind. **The mind is renewed not only by outward teachings, but by the element of Christ being added to it**. When the Lord Jesus spreads Himself from our spirit into our mind, our mind will be renewed. By the renewing of our mind our soul is metabolically changed. In this way we experience transformation in our soul, a necessity for the church life. If we intend to practice the church life, we need to experience such a transformation in our soul by the renewing of our mind. (*Life-Study of Romans, chapter 25*)

Day 6

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we might know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

- F. “Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth”; **being girded with the truth is for the strengthening of our entire being**—Eph. 6:14a.
- G. We can testify to the divine truth because **we know the truth by being in the true One**—1 John 5:20:
1. The Lord Jesus, the Son of God, has come and has **given us an understanding** that we might **know the genuine and real God**—John 1:14, 18; 1 John 5:20.
 2. First John 5:20 twice speaks of “**Him who is true**,” the **true One**, the **True**:
 - a. The term the true One refers to **God becoming subjective to us**, to the God who is **objective becoming the true One in our life and experience**.
 - b. The true One is the **divine reality**; to know the true One means to know the divine reality by **experiencing, enjoying, and possessing this reality**.
 - c. Verse 20 indicates that the divine reality, which is God Himself, has **become our reality in our experience**; the God who was once objective to us has **become our subjective reality**—v. 6.
- H. Because **we know** the true One and the Spirit of truth (v. 20; 4:6) and because Christ, the truth, is **living in us** and the Triune God is **operating in us** to make us God-men—the reproduction of Christ, the first God-man—we can **testify to the truth** as the Lord Himself did when He said, “For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I would testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice” (John 18:37b).