

**KNOWING THE TRUTH, BEING ABSOLUTE FOR THE TRUTH,
AND PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH IN THE PRESENT EVIL AGE, Week 3**

**Being Constituted with the Truth
and Being Absolute for the Way of the Truth and the Propagation of the Truth
for the Consummation of the Divine Economy**

Scripture Reading: John 8:12, 32; 1 John 1:5-8; 3 John 3-4, 8; 1 Tim. 2:4; 4:3

- John 8:12 - Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, **I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**
- John 8:32 - And you shall **know the truth**, and the **truth shall set you free.**
- 1 John 1:5 - And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that **God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.**
- 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 1:7 - But if we **walk in the light as He is in the light**, we have **fellowship with one another**, and the **blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.**
- 1 John 1:8 - If we say that we do not have sin, **we are deceiving ourselves**, and the **truth is not in us.**
- 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.**
- 3 John 4 - I have no greater joy than these things, that **I hear that my children are walking in the truth.**
- 3 John 8 - We therefore ought to support such ones that **we may become fellow workers in the truth.**
- 1 Timothy 2:4 - **Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.**
- 1 Timothy 4:3 - Who forbid marriage and command abstaining from foods, which God has created to be partaken of with thanksgiving **by those who believe and have full knowledge of the truth.**

TRUTH AS THE SHINING OF THE LIGHT

It is significant that in 1 and 2 Timothy life is not mentioned nearly as often as truth. Truth is spoken of again and again. The reason for this is that these Epistles were written during a time of degradation. When the church is degraded, there is **darkness**; and when there is darkness, **there is the need for the truth**. Truth is the expression of light, just as grace is the expression of love. **Whenever light shines, we receive truth.** Light shines in darkness. In 1 and 2 Timothy, two books dealing with degradation, truth is mentioned often because during a period of darkness there is the need for the shining of the light, the expression of the light.

Truth is the shining of light. Wherever there is light, **there is God**, for **God is light**. When the light shines upon us, it becomes the truth. In Romans 8 Paul encourages us to walk according to the spirit, but in John's second and third Epistles, also written in a time of degradation, John speaks of walking in the truth. Although in his other writings John emphasizes life, in these two Epistles he speaks much about the truth. For example, in 3 John 4 he says, "I have no greater joy than these things, that I hear that my children are walking in the truth." Whenever we are in a time of degradation and darkness, **we need the shining of the light so that we may know how to walk in the proper way.** (*Truth Messages, chapter 1*)

Day 1

- 2 John 2** For the sake of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:
- 1 Timothy 4:6** If you lay these things before the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, being nourished with the words of the faith and of the good teaching which you have closely followed.

I. God's intention in His economy is to dispense Christ with all His riches into His believers chosen by God for the constitution of the Body of Christ, the church, to express the processed and consummated Triune God—Eph. 3:8-10.

II. For the consummation of the divine economy, we need to be [constituted with the truth](#)—1 John 2:4; 2 John 1-2:

- A. To be constituted with the truth is to have the [intrinsic element of the divine revelation wrought into us to become our constituent](#), our intrinsic being, our organic constitution—1 John 1:8; 4:6; 5:6.
- B. The solid truth that is constituted into us becomes in us a [constant and long-term nourishment](#)—1 Tim. 4:6.
- C. If the truth is wrought into us and constituted into our being, we will be able to [protect](#) the interests of the riches of God's divinity and the attainments of His consummation—Rev. 21:12a, 17.

Day 2**1 Timothy 2:3-4**

This is good and acceptable in the sight of our Savior God, Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:13

But we ought to thank God always concerning you, brothers beloved of the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning unto salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth,

- D. Every saved person should have a [full knowledge](#), a [complete realization](#), of the truth—all the real things revealed in God's Word—1 Tim. 2:4; 4:3; 2 Tim. 2:25; 3:7.
- E. The full knowledge of the truth is a [thorough apprehension](#) of the truth, a [full acknowledgment](#) and [appreciation](#) of the reality of all the spiritual and divine things that we have received through faith—Titus 1:1; 2 Thes. 2:13.

Day 3**Ephesians 4:15**

But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,

Ephesians 4:21

If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,

- F. The Lord's word, His truth, is in the Bible, but the Bible needs the [proper interpretation](#); for this we have the [Life-studies](#)—2 Tim. 2:15.
- G. We have to [pay the price](#) to learn the truths—Prov. 23:23:
 1. We need to [enter into the intrinsic significance](#) of the Holy Scriptures to find out what the Lord says and what He wants—John 8:12.
 2. We have no right to invent anything; rather, we [discover what is in the Bible](#).
 3. After we have [learned](#) the truth, we still have to [experience](#) Christ so that He may become our [reality](#); in this way, when we speak to people, we will not give them knowledge or doctrine, but we will [minister Christ to them](#)—Eph. 3:16-17; 4:15, 21.
- H. We need to be delivered from skating on the surface of the divine truth and [cooperate](#) with the Lord by [laboring together with Him](#) to dive into the depths of the truth of His marvelous New Testament economy—3:9.
- I. Those who are [constituted with the truth are a great blessing to the church](#)—Rom. 9:1; 15:29.

Day 4**2 Peter 2:2**

And many will follow their licentiousness, because of whom the way of the truth will be reviled.

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,

Faith is the substantiation of the substance of the truth, which is the reality of the contents of God's New Testament economy. The contents of God's New Testament economy are composed of the "all things which relate to life and godliness" (2 Pet. 1:3), that is, the Triune God dispensing Himself into us as life within and godliness without. The like precious faith, allotted to us by God through the word of God's New Testament economy and the Spirit, responds to the reality of such contents and ushers us into the reality, making its substance the very element of our Christian life and experience. Such a faith is allotted to all the believers in Christ as their portion, which is equally precious to all who have received it. As such a portion from God, this faith is objective to us in the divine truth. But it brings all the contents of its substantiation into us, thus making them all with itself (faith) subjective to us in our experience. It can be compared to the scenery (truth) and the seeing (faith) that are objective to the camera (us). But when the light (the Spirit) brings the scenery to the film (our spirit) within the camera, both the seeing and the scenery become subjective to it.

In God's New Testament inheritance there are many riches, many blessings. However, our natural mentality is blind to all these riches and blessings. Therefore, God would say, "Exercise your faith. Let your faith substantiate the substance of all of My New Testament blessings." The reality or substance of God's New Testament blessings is the truth. Faith is actually the substantiation of the reality of the substance of the truth, and the truth itself is the content of God's New Testament economy. (*Life-Study of 2 Peter, chapter 2*)

III. For the consummation of the divine economy, we need to be absolute for the way of the divine truth—2 Pet. 2:2:

- A. The way of the truth is the path of the Christian life according to the truth, which is the reality of the contents of the New Testament—v. 2.
- B. The way of the truth is the straight way; to take the straight way is to live an upright life without crookedness and bias—v. 15.
- C. The way of the truth is the way of righteousness; to take the way of righteousness is to live a life that is right with both God and man, a life that, according to righteousness, can receive God's governmental judgment for His kingdom of righteousness—vv. 21, 9; Matt. 5:20; Rom. 14:17.
- D. The way of the truth is "the Way," denoting the Lord's full salvation in God's New Testament economy—Acts 9:2:
 1. It is the way God dispenses Himself into the believers through Christ's redemption and the Spirit's anointing—Eph. 1:7; 1 John 2:27.
 2. It is the way the believers partake of God and enjoy God—2 Pet. 1:4.
 3. It is the way the believers worship God in their spirit by enjoying Him and follow the persecuted Jesus by being one with Him—John 4:24; Heb. 13:12-13.
 4. It is the way the believers are brought into the church and built up into the Body of Christ to bear the testimony of Jesus—1 Cor. 1:2; 12:27; Rev. 1:2.

Day 5

Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength."

1 John 5:1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten of God, and everyone who loves Him who has begotten loves him also who has been begotten of Him.

- E. To take the way of the truth is to purify our souls by obedience to the truth; this is the sanctifying truth, which is God's word of reality—1 Pet. 1:22; John 17:17:
 1. The purifying of our souls by obedience to the truth causes our entire being to be concentrated on God so that we may love Him with all our heart, all our soul, and all our mind—Mark 12:30.
 2. Such a purifying of our souls issues in unfeigned brotherly love, that is, in our loving from the heart fervently those whom God loves—1 John 5:1.

Day 6

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you all the days until the consummation of the age.

- IV. For the consummation of the divine economy, we need to be **absolute for the propagation of the divine truth**—Matt. 24:14; 28:19:**
- A. The gospel includes **all the truths in the Bible**; the entire Bible is the gospel of God—Eph. 1:13; Col. 1:5:
 1. The unique commission of the church today is to **preach the gospel**, the content of which is the truth—Matt. 24:14; Eph. 1:13; Col. 1:5.
 2. Our preaching of the truth is the **preaching of the high gospel**—Mark 16:15; 1 Tim. 2:4.
 3. The highest point of God's gospel is that **God became a man that man may become God in life and in nature but not in the Godhead**—Rom. 1:3-4; 8:3, 29.
 - B. The Lord has given us His precious truth for us to spread the truth not only to believers but also to unbelievers; **every human being on earth needs to hear the truth**—John 18:37b.
 - C. The Lord has charged us to **go and disciple the nations** so that the present age may be consummated—Matt. 28:19-20.
 - D. We need to be **one with the Lord** in **learning** the truth, **applying** the truth, **speaking** the truth, and **propagating** the truth—Zech. 8:16.
 - E. If we would spread the Lord's recovery today, **we must know every side of the truth** and be able to **expound** the truth—2 Cor. 4:2; 3 John 3-4, 8.
 - F. The **spreading of the divine truths will bring in the Lord's restoration**; according to Isaiah 11:9, the restoration will come because "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of Jehovah, / As water covers the sea."

these four great points—God's creation, man's fall, God's becoming flesh, and God's dispensing—are the major truths in the Bible from God's creation to the New Jerusalem, from Genesis to Revelation. Although they are the major truths, they are not difficult to comprehend. They can be easily understood by the young ones as well as by the elderly ones. **We must preach these truths as the gospel to others.** When we go to preach, whether others can understand or not depends on how we speak. If we speak clearly, plainly, and logically, then everyone will be able to understand. If we speak clumsily and ambiguously, then no one will be able to understand. Therefore, if we have the burden within that the Lord's recovery would spread to every place, it is not enough just to preach the superficial gospel of Christianity. **We must announce to people the major truths in the Bible as the gospel. For this reason we must study them diligently.**

We believe that this is the only way we can **bring the Lord back** as well as meet the need of human society in its present vain condition. The result of society's civilization and progress has been an unremitting emptiness within man. **Only the high truths in the Lord's recovery can fill up this emptiness.** Therefore, we should bear this burden to **diligently study the truth to the extent that we can expound the truth and announce the truth.** This is to truly preach the gospel. This is the preaching of the high gospel. Paul says that God had commissioned him to preach the gospel and to teach the truth. In the same way, this commission has been given to us today. I hope that we would all receive this commission to actively preach the gospel and teach the truth. (*Truth, Life, the Church, and the Gospel—The Four Great Pillars in the Lord's Recovery, Chapter 3*)

