What Is Truth? The Love of the Truth

We come to the final part of our short word study on ***What is Truth?*** Previously we have looked at:

- Truth being a Person: the Lord Jesus Christ,
- Truth being the Word of God: the Bible,
- Truth being the Spirit of Christ: the Holy Spirit, and
- the Scriptural command to worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

Now we shall consider how utterly essential it is, not just:

- to *believe* in Jesus the Truth - the devils believe and tremble (James 2:19), or
- to *read* the Word of Truth - Satan knows God's Word better than any of us (Genesis 3:1-5; Matthew 4:1-11), or
- to *know* the quickening of the Spirit of Truth - Satan fell from grace and so can we (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 18:24; Luke 10:18; Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:38-39), or even
- to *worship* in Truth - before his fall from heaven, Satan worshipped God along with all the other angels (Job 38:7; cf. Isaiah 14:11; Ezekiel 28:12-15),

…but that we receive, and hold fast to, *the **Love** of the Truth.*

The primary scriptural passage for this comes from Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians, in which he was explaining to his readers the order of events leading up to the return of the Lord Jesus. He exhorted them to *"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day [the Day of the Lord] shall not come, except there come a falling away [the apostasy] first, and that man of sin [the Antichrist] be revealed, the son of perdition"*, and he warned them that this Antichrist would deceive most of the world into worshipping him as God.

Paul spelled out the unpalatable fact that if men "*received not the love the truth"*, then God Himself would *"send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie"*. This lie would bring eternal damnation to those who believed it; thus, it was of the utmost importance that believers did not succumb to deception. So, Paul urged the Thessalonian Christians to love and *"stand fast"* in the Truth they had received from the apostles (2 Thessalonians 2:1-17).

Receiving the Love of the Truth (2 Thessalonians 2:10)

"…they received not the love [26] **of the truth** [225]**, that they might be saved** [4982] **… they should believe** [4100] **a lie" (2 Thessalonians 2:10-11).**

[26] = Gr. Agápē: *benevolent love … God's willful direction toward man*

[225] = Gr. Alethia: *truth as opposite to types, emblems, or shadows*

[4100] = Gr. Pisteúō: *give credit to*

[4982] = Gr. Sṓzō: *spiritual and eternal salvation … future deliverance of believers at the Second Coming … those who endure to the end the time of the Great Tribulation*

How Do We Know We Have Received the Love of the Truth? [1]

(1) We **"buy** [7069] **the truth, and sell it not" (Proverbs 23:23; cf. Matthew 13:45-46)**. We trade not the truth for false doctrines or worldly traditions or philosophies and vain sophistries (Colossians 2:8), but we **"earnestly contend** [1864] **for the faith** [4102] **which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3)**

[1864] = Gr. Epagōnízomai: *to agonize, strive, fight for*

[4102] = Gr. Pístis: *being persuaded, faith, belief … confidence in certain divine truths, especially those of the gospel … faith in Christ*

[7069] = Heb. Qânâh: *procure … own, attain, buy … get … possess, purchase*

(2) Though we yet sin (Romans 7:14-25; 1 John 1:8), we do not relinquish the Truth by approving of sin (Romans 1:32), and we are being **"sanctified** [37] **… through thy truth" (John 17:17)**

[37] = Gr. Hagiázō: *to hallow, sanctify. Stands in contrast to defiled … separating … gaining fellowship with God … sacred … holiness*

(3) We meditate on the Truth: **"I have esteemed** [6845] **the words** [561] **of** [God's] **mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12); "O how I love** [157] **thy law! It is my meditation** [7881] **all the day" (Psalm 119:97; cf. Psalm 1:1-2 and Psalm 19:7-11)**

[157] = Heb. Âhav: *to love, desire, delight … an ardent and vehement inclination of the mind [for] God's law … truth*

[561] = Heb. Êmer: *speech, utterance, word, decree, command, plan, purpose*

[6845] = Heb. Tsâphan: *to hoard or reserve, to protect*

[7881] = Heb. Sîchāh: *reflection, devotion, meditation, prayer*

(4) We obey the Truth: **"If ye love** [25] **me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15); "But unto them that … do not obey** [544] **the truth" (Romans 2:8a); "obeying** [5218] **the truth through the Spirit" (1 Peter 1:22b); "[Jesus] became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey** [5219] **him" (Hebrews 5:9)**

[25] = Gr. Agapáō: *indicates a direction of the will and finding one's joy in something … used of God's love toward man and vice versa*

[544] = Gr. Apeithéō: *to disobey as through unbelief … refers more to inward attitude*

[5218] = Gr. Hupakoḗ: *subjection to the saving will of God revealed in Christ … obedience to the truth*

[5219] = Gr. Hupakoúō: *to listen … hearken … give heed, follow, yield … the manifestation of faith as revealed in the humble acceptance of the Gospel message … keeping of the Word in believing obedience*

(5) By obeying the Truth we thus abide in the Truth; in God's love: **"If ye keep** [5083] **my commandments, ye shall abide** [3306] **in my love" (John 15:1-10)**

[3306] = Gr. Ménō: *remain, dwell, persevere*

[5083] = Gr. Tēréō: *to maintain as opposed to leaving, to observe*

(6) We **"rejoiceth** [5463] **in the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:6)**

[5463] = Gr. Chaírō: *joy, delight, gladness, to cheer, to exult, rejoice greatly*

(7) We **"fear** [3372] **the LORD, and serve** [5647] **him in sincerity** [8549] **and truth" (Joshua 24:14a; cf. 1 Samuel 12:24)**

[3372] = Heb. Yārē: *A very positive feeling of awe and reverence for God, which may be expressed in piety or formal worship … the motivation which effects godly living*

[5647] = Heb. Âvad: *cause to worship … Service to God is an exhilarating experience*

[8549] = Heb. Tāmîm: *entire, whole, complete, perfect, sound, faultless, upright in one's conduct, blameless especially toward God, innocent, simple, honest, entirely in accord with truth and fact*

(8) We **"speak the truth** [226] **in love" (Ephesians 4:15; cf. Amos 5:10)**

[226] = Gr. Alētheúō: *real, actual, not counterfeit. Answering to the truth, to make it one's study … to make it one's business to express the reality of love and not to feign it*

(9) We are willing to suffer and even to die for the Truth: **"[Y]e shall have tribulation ten days; be thou faithful** [4103] **unto** [physical] **death, and I will give thee a crown of life** [2222] **… he that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second** [eternal] **death … thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied** [720] **my faith** [the Truth] **… Remember therefore how thou hast received and … hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown" (Revelation 2:10,11b,13a; 3:3a,11b)**

[720] = Gr. Arnéomai: *reject, give up, retract, renounce, disown*

[2222] = Gr. Zōḗ: *life in the spirit and soul. Distinguished from physical life*

[4103] = Gr. Pistós: *true … steadfast … believing*

"In Revelation 2 Christ commended the church in Ephesus for their hatred of false teachers; but warned that they had lost their first love. That love was not the flush of emotion felt by a couple when they first fall for one another, but the sacrificial *agapé* love [for] the Father which fulfils [the] first commandment and is a response to His love for us (1 John 4:19) … So, if a love of The LORD is to be our first love and it is from Him that we can keep on receiving the love of the Truth … why is it that some place themselves in great danger by refusing His gift? … What will keep us close to our Saviour God in this life and the next is a willingness to accept from Him day after day the love of the Truth which is in Him" [2].

I pray that this word study in five parts has been a blessing to you. We may fill our days with much toil and activity, we may be comfortable and satisfied with our lives, we may know great sorrow, pain, or loss, we may be anxious about many things, but when we finally stand before the Lord all that will truly matter is that we have loved the Truth. May we all receive the love of the Truth and may we hold it fast until the Lord Jesus returns to take us home with Him. Amen.

References:

[1] For some of the points in this section I have used as my basis the article by Joe R. Price, *Topical Sermon: The Love of the Truth*, (16 October 2018), https://www.bibleanswer.com/loveoftruth.htm
[2] Randall Hardy, *Receive the Love of the Truth*, (July 2014), https://amen.org.uk/studies/rh/ReceiveTheLoveOfTheTruth.html

May God bless you with the Love of the Truth and keep you eternally safe in Him
Elizabeth McDonald
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