

## **We Can Know the Truth**

What amazing times that we live in. The twenty-first century, 2009 with all of the accomplishments and advances in the scientific there have been and the technological advances are unbelievable and at times incomprehensible. A cellular telephone, computer or other electronic device purchased today will be almost obsolete tomorrow. Yes, we live in unbelievable times, but if you have ever read or seen anything about some of the accomplishments of the Roman Empire you have to be impressed with what they were doing before and during the first century. You have to be impressed with their knowledge of engineering as they constructed highways and bridges that still stand today, and could do it in a very short period of time. Their knowledge of archways, aqueducts, and how to build large coliseums that are still in existence today is amazing. They clearly understood certain truths concerning the physical realm and the laws of nature.

It was in the midst of this culture, knowledge and empire that Pontius Pilate asked Jesus these words, "*What is truth?*" (*John 18:38*). We live some twenty centuries later and in the midst of all of the technology and scientific advancement people are still asking, "What is truth" and even, "can we know truth?" As we read the account of the discussion between Jesus and Pilate the Bible says, "*And when he had said this (what is truth) he went out ...*" (*John 18:38*). He did not wait for a response. Can we know the truth? Jesus said, "*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*" (*John 8:32*). Jesus affirms the fact that we can know the truth and that the truth will have a positive impact upon our lives. Why or how is it that we can know the truth?

### **We Can Know the Truth Because Truth Exists**

#### ***Truth Exists Because God Exists and Has Revealed Himself***

God exists and God is truth therefore truth exists. The Bible says that God is a "*God of truth*" (*Deuteronomy 32:4*) and as the Hebrew author wrote, "*it was impossible for God to lie*"

(*Hebrews 6:18*) which indicates that He is the embodiment of truth. When we think of the truth that might be found in the physical world through the investigation of natural laws and the creation itself, it exists because God is truth and the Creator of all: "*in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*" (*Genesis 1:1*).

Apart from the Bible itself there is ample evidence to prove that God exists as the Psalmist said, "*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows forth his handy work*" (*Psalms 19:1*). The natural world does not reveal the will of God to human beings, but it does reveal the fact that God exists and this because of known and proven truths. Simple observation of the natural world indicates that there has to be an adequate cause for the effect seen and that there had to be a designer behind the functioning of this world. Mere chance could not produce all that exists.

The problem regarding man's inability to see the truth and that God exists can be seen in the example of the lives of Romans, Greeks and many others until this very day. The evidence of God's existence and that truth exists, but man changes or corrupts that truth, is simply blind to the evidence or does what he wants in spite of known truth (*Romans 1:22-25*).

God the Father is truth and Jesus is truth because He too is God. "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*" (*John 1:1*). "*And the word became flesh and dwelt among us...*" (*John 1:14*) "*grace and truth came by Jesus Christ*" (*John 1:17*). Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth and the life...*" (*John 14:6*). 7. The Holy Spirit is truth also because He is God and is referred to as the Spirit of truth (*John 14:16-17, 15:26, 16:13*). The point being that God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are God and God is truth and therefore truth exists.

### ***Truth Exists Because God Has Revealed the Truth***

The truth of the natural laws is evident through the creation itself and the observations and various tests that can be made to prove the existence of the natural laws. Jesus was referring to the observation of natural laws when he spoke of the sky being red (*Matthew 16:2-3*).

Truth regarding the natural laws can be known. The same God that created the world with the natural laws has also revealed the truth in the spiritual realm. The Holy Spirit revealed the complete will of God to the Apostles and now we have the New Testament. "*Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given us all things that pertain to life and godliness...*" (*2 Peter 1:3*). The truth has been revealed. As Jesus prayed for his disciples before his death on the cross, "*Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth*" (*John 17:17*). God revealed truth through the physical world, but also the divine truth through His Word that is the Bible.

### **We Can Know the Truth Because Of Who We Are: *We are Beings Created in the Image of Truth***

The human being is insulted when someone suggests that we cannot come to the knowledge of truth. Usually that same person can recognize the power of the human mind to understand the natural laws and send human beings into space and to the moon and back, to now be able to put an unbelievable amount of information on a little microchip, invent cell phones and countless other physical things – but then does not think that the same person can understand truth.

Human beings can know the truth because truth exists, our capacity to know truth and because we are created in the image of truth. "*And God said, Let us make man in our image... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them*" (*Genesis 1:26-27*). We are created in the image of truth.

### ***We are Beings That Can Know the Difference between Truth and Error***

Jesus said, "*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*" (*John 8:32*). We have read that Jesus is God and God cannot lie, therefore when Jesus says that we can know the truth, this also suggests that we can know the difference between truth and error. Truth can be known and found and distinguished from

error as the wise man wrote, "buy the truth, and sell it not" (Proverbs 23:23). The point of the verse being that truth can be known and found and that when it is found one should pay the price, no matter what, to keep it.

The problem is that many people are unwilling to pay the price to keep the truth in their lives. The influences of the world are worth more than the truth to them, or the religious traditions that they have are worth more than the truth and are unwilling to keep the truth after finding it. There are examples of this in the Bible. There are those today like some in the days of Jesus who fall to the pressure of those in position of religious authority "For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:43). The desire to have this praise of men blinds one to the truth. Then there was the young man who came to Jesus who thought himself religious and was asking some questions, but the truth it that he wanted to remain where he was and was not really seeking the truth for when Jesus told him the truth, he went away (Luke 18:18-25). His possessions were preventing him from recognizing the truth. There were the religious leaders themselves who were so caught up in their positions of power they could not see the truth (Matthew 23:2,6-7). People become blinded to the existence of God and to the truth found in the Word of God for exactly the same reasons.

The truth can be found and known and the way to do it is by searching the Scriptures that are inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The Bereans were considered to be "more noble than those in Thessalonica in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11). They were able to know the difference between truth and error, found the truth and "many of them believed" (Acts 17:12).

**We Can Know the Truth and Walk In It  
We Walk in the Truth by Believing and  
Accepting the Truth**

John wrote late in the first century, "I rejoiced greatly that I found thy children walking in the truth, as we received a commandment from the

Father" (2 John 4), and "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 4). John found the Christians in the first century walking in the truth by believing and accepting the truth. They had the readiness of mind like those of Berea to search out the truth, believe it and accept it, that is being convinced that it is the truth.

**We Walk in the Truth by Obeying and  
Living the Truth**

"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth" (1 Peter 1:22). Concerning the Romans, Paul wrote, "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart, that form of doctrine which was delivered to you" (Romans 6:17). As can be seen, the inspired authors wrote that the Christians in the first century had obeyed the truth. They had obeyed it initially by obeying the gospel (Acts 2:36-38,41) and then as they continued in that truth, "the apostles doctrine" (Acts 2:42), they lived the truth every day.

When one walks in the truth, truth is more than just knowledge or mentally agreeing with what the Bible says, it is practicing the teachings and the doctrines found therein. As John wrote, it is to walk in the light of the Word of God (1 John 1:7).

**Conclusion**

We can know the truth. We can know the truth because truth exists and has been revealed by God. We can know the truth because of who we are – beings created in the image of truth and the giver of truth, God. We can know the truth, believe it and walk in it. Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

This tract is condensed from a lesson presented at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-West Lectures, "God's Precious Promises." To hear or view the complete lesson go to [www.kc-cofc.org/2009Lectures.htm](http://www.kc-cofc.org/2009Lectures.htm) or contact the 39th Street Church of Christ 15331 East 39th Street Independence, MO 64055-4240 USA

**God's Precious Promises...  
We Can Know  
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