

You Shall Know The Truth, And The Truth Shall Make You...

(John 8:32)

- Introduction:
1. Jesus declared that He was truth personified (John 14:6).
 - a. His *words* were truth on whatever issues He addressed.
 - b. His *behavior* was truth exemplified.
 2. Because of Jesus' relationship with truth, one would naturally expect truth to be a key issue with His disciples.
 3. As disciples of Christ, we are to love, seek, and live the truth.
 4. Why? Because we are purified and sanctified (made holy) by the truth (I Peter 1:22; John 17:17).
 5. But before the truth makes us free, it often accomplishes other things as well.
 6. Let us notice what "the truth shall make you...".

I. YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, BUT THE TRUTH WILL BE HARD FOR YOU TO HEAR

- A. As we encounter truth, we all bring our personal histories, prejudices, and backgrounds that often blind us.
- B. This can be the only explanation of why people do not see the Bible alike without unfavorably reflecting upon the work of God.
- C. (John 6:60,66) Hard sayings caused some to stop following Jesus.
- D. Too often Jesus and the truth He brought are the product of our own construction which distorts the biblical depiction.
 1. Jesus was far from unoffensive, He gave offense left and right.
 2. Even His followers often found Him disconcerting (Matthew 19:10).
 3. He upset many of the established norms of religious propriety.
 4. He spoke of God in terms of intimacy which to many sounded like blasphemy.
 5. He enjoyed the most questionable company.
- E. (Acts 7:57) "They stopped their ears."
- F. Often Jesus would say, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

II. YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, BUT THE TRUTH MAY FIRST MAKE YOU MISERABLE

- A. Hearing and receiving the truth requires an honesty and humility that some can never achieve.
- B. It confronts us with our own frailties and limitations.
- C. It demands that we admit we have been wrong.
- D. For some, this confrontation is so painful that they are happier in self deception than in the truth.
- E. (II Thessalonians 2:10-12).

F. (Acts 18:24-19:7) Apollos corrected about baptism.

III. YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, BUT IT WILL OFTEN BE PAINFUL TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT

- A. We cannot be honest while intellectualizing about the truth, but refusing to practice it.
- B. Truth beckons courageous people who will stand against the current.
- C. (Daniel 3 & 6).

IV. YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

- A. This is the beauty of truth.
- B. For all the difficulty of hearing, accepting, and acting on truth, its value is vindicated in the outcome - deliverance!
- C. The humble teachable heart can be set free from sin.

Conclusion:

1. Truth challenges, truth often hurts, and truth makes tough demands.
2. But if anyone wants to enter into life, truth is the door through which he must pass.