

## TRUTH MATTERS

### THE PASSAGE

Romans 16:17-20

### THE TRUTH ABOUT *SPIRITUAL* TRUTH

- (1) Spiritual truth is **NO DIFFERENT** than any other truth.
- (2) Some **TRUTH** is more important than other **TRUTH**.

#### *TWO KINDS OF BIBLICAL TRUTH*

- (1) **Open-Handed** Truth  
Romans 14:1-7, 13-14, 19, 22 John 13:34-35 1 Corinthians 11:17-18
- (2) **Closed-Fisted** Truth  
John 14:6 Acts 4:12 Romans 16:17-20 Galatians 1:8-9 2 Corinthians 11:3-4  
2 John 1:10 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 2 Corinthians 11:14-15

### THREE SPIRITUAL POISONS TO AVOID LIKE THE PLAGUE

- (1) Those who raise the **BAR**.  
*Making it **HARDER** for people to come to Jesus*  
Romans 16:17 Luke 11:45-46
- (2) Those who promote **SPECULATIVE** arguments.  
*Reading things into the Bible that **AREN'T THERE***  
1 Timothy 1:3-7 2 Timothy 2:16-18 Titus 3:9-10
- (3) Those who **CONDONE** sin.  
*Turning grace into a license for **SIN***  
Jude 1:3-4

## Food for Thought for the week of August 27, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

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1. The need for spiritual truth is vital, especially because of our culture and how what we see or hear on a daily basis can influence our beliefs. Adding to this is the fact that as Christ followers we have an enemy whose main goal is to distort truth in our life. How do the descriptions of our enemy in the verses below reinforce our need for spiritual truth?

**1 Peter 5:8-9** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>8</sup> Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

**Genesis 3:1-5** *New International Version (NIV)*

*The Fall*

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

<sup>4</sup> "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**John 8:42-44** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. <sup>43</sup> Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. <sup>44</sup> You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

How do the verses above differ or align with your previous understanding of our enemy?

2. While we know we have an enemy looking to deceive us, our relationship with God can be our greatest tool to help guide our life. As you read the following verses, jot down anything that reinforces the idea of God wanting to lead or guide us.

**Psalms 32:8-9** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>8</sup> I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

<sup>9</sup> Do not be like the horse or the mule,  
which have no understanding  
but must be controlled by bit and bridle  
or they will not come to you.

**Psalms 119:105** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light on my path.

**Philippians 2:13** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

**John 10:3-4** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.

Can you think of any other verses that have been especially important in guiding your life?

3. Larry gave us three spiritual poisons to avoid like the plague: those who raise the bar, those who promote speculative arguments, and those who condone sin. Of the three, is there one you need to be more careful of than the others?

How might Philippians 2:1-11 help us if we find ourselves falling into any of the three spiritual poisons?

**Philippians 2:1-11** *New International Version (NIV)*

*Imitating Christ's Humility*

<sup>1</sup> Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.