

## Our Duty Toward the Truth

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

### I. Introduction: I

1. **2** We increasingly live in a world where every man defines “truth” based on his own ideas, wants, and desires. The politically correct view is that each man’s “inner voice” is authoritative in defining “my truth.” Really nothing new! **Judges 21:25:** “...everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”
2. God’s word teaches the exact opposite, “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” (Jer. 10:23) So, we cannot infallibly use our “inner voice” as a guide, because “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” (Prov. 14:12)
3. Instead, our only infallible guide is God’s word: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (Psa. 119:105; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
4. There is no more important principle for one to be considered by God as His faithful child than for a person be a person “of truth”! **Jn. 8:31-32:** “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
5. **3** Therefore, we must remember we have grave responsibilities towards God’s truth. Let’s discuss **Our Duty Toward the Truth.**

### II. Discussion:

#### 1. **4** Must love the truth:

- A. Truth has no positive effect on our life unless we love it. Paul said God will allow those that have “received not the love of the truth” to “believe a lie” and “be damned”! 2 Thess. 2:10-11
- B. Do you really love the truth of God’s word or are you enamored with the teachings of a denomination? Prov. 23:23  
**Prov. 2:1-5:** “My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, 2 So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; 3 Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, 4 If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; 5 Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.
- C. Don’t forget the dire consequences! 2 Thess. 2:11-12 (“And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”); 1 Kgs. 13; Gal. 1:8-9
- D. Many religious people do not love the truth (2 Thess. 2:10; Matt. 7:21-23; Matt. 7:13-14).  
**Psa. 19:7-11:** “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; 8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.”

#### 2. **5** Must know the truth:

- A. Some people cannot recognize the truth (biased, prejudice, willful ignorance, deceived by false teachers/teaching, etc.).

- B. God's word is truth (Jn. 17:17) and was revealed for our good (**Deut. 29:29**: "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."; 1 Jn. 5:3).
- C. Only the Scriptures can make us "complete" in God's sight and "thoroughly" equip us "for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- D. But, we can only be saved when we "come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim 2:4). We can understand God's word! Eph. 3:1-5; Acts 17:11
- E. So, do you know the truth? Lk. 8:15; **Jas. 1:21**: "...receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 1:3-5; Rom. 10:17
- F. Does what you believe and practice square with what the Bible says? Acts 17:11 Ignorance is not bliss! (e.g., Athenians in Acts 17)
- G. God's word is for "those who love Him" (1 Cor. 2:9-10; Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 2:3-5; **Isa. 8:20**: "To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.").

### 3. **6** Must believe the truth:

- A. Belief of the truth is required to be saved (**2 Thess. 2:13**: "...God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,").
- B. This belief isn't a **blind leap** into the dark (i.e., 'blind faith,' [Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens] God's word (truth) presents reliable, objective evidence designed to produce "saving belief" (Jn. 20:30-31) that is based on objective evidence (**Heb. 11:1**: "...faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen,").
- C. The Bible is the most trustworthy book of antiquity! Lk. 2:1-2: census in days of "Caesar Augustus...while Quirinius was governing Syria" (32 countries, 54 cities, 9 Mediterranean islands); prophecy: **2 Pet. 1:19-21**: "And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."; (~360 concerning Christ).
- D. Have you carefully weighed the evidence of God's word, or are you relying upon the wisdom of men? Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23; 2 Thess. 2:11-12

### 4. **7** Must obey the truth:

- A. God's word presents us with facts to be believed and commands to be obeyed.
  - (1) Peter said that we purify our souls "in obeying the truth" (1 Pet. 1:22; 2 Thess. 2:13: chosen for salvation by belief in the truth; 1 Jn. 2:3-5).
  - (2) Truth is not a spiritual smorgasbord of options from which we are free to pick and choose; take some, leave the others. The sum of God's word is truth (Psa. 119:151, 160: "And all Your commandments are truth. 160 The entirety of Your word is truth,").
  - (3) All He revealed on a subject is the pattern we must obey (Acts 20:27; 1 Cor. 14:37: "...the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord."; 4:17; Jn. 16:13).
  - (4) There is a "pattern" (Rom. 6:17; **Phil. 3:17**: "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern."; **2 Tim. 1:13**: "Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me,"; **Heb. 8:5**: "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."; Col. 3:17).

- B. Thus, we are responsible to “*handle aright the word of truth*” (2 Tim. 2:15). Neglecting one part of God’s word constitutes sin by which one will eternally perish (**Jas. 2:10**: “*For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.*”). Do you obey the truth? 1 Cor. 2:9-10

5. **8** Must walk in the truth:

- A. Do John’s words describe you? **3 Jn. 3-4**: “*For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*”)
- B. “walk” refers to one’s manner of life (**Psa. 26:1-3**: “*Vindicate me, O LORD, For I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted in the LORD; I shall not slip. 2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart. 3 For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, And I have walked in Your truth.*”).
- C. The righteous incorporate God’s truth into every aspect of their lives and walk therein; 24/7, whether others are looking or not (Phil. 1:27; Eph. 4:1).
- D. Regardless of circumstances, the man who walks in the truth will not compromise it (Col. 3:17; Prov. 23:23) and it will always serve as his/her standard (worship and service; Jn. 4:23-24; 1 Pet. 4:11). How’s your “walk” in the truth?

6. **9** Must teach the truth:

- A. Paul, an inspired apostle (Jn. 16:13) always demanded the truth be taught! **Gal. 2:5**: “*to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.*”; **1 Tim. 1:3**: “*As I urged you when I went into Macedonia — remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine,*”; **Gal. 1:6-12; 4:16**: “*Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?*”
- B. Doctrinal purity is a prominent theme; 2 Jn. 9-11; 1 Cor. 14:37; 4:17; **Acts 20:28-31**: “*Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.*”; **Matt. 7:15**: “*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.*”
- C. How is this achieved? **1 Cor. 1:10-13**: “*...that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*”; Col. 3:17; 1 Pet. 4:11; 1 Jn. 4:1, 6; Acts 17:11; Lk. 8:15; 2 Thess. 2:10-12

7. **10** Must defend the truth:

- A. The Bible constantly warns us about false teachers (Matt. 7:15; **2 Pet. 2:1**: “*But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them...*”).
- B. The truth is under assault! **1 Jn. 4:1**: “*Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*”
- (1) By secular society (postmodernism; Gen. 1 & 2 (evolution); same-sex marriage (Matt. 19:4-6).
- (2) Worldliness (1 Jn. 2:15-17).

- (3) Religious false teachers from without (modernism, denominationalism, Acts 20:28-29) and by false teachers from within (modernism, e.g., “days of creation,” “serpent,” no eternal punishment, inspiration of 2 Peter & Jude; MDR, A.D. 70).
- (4) By the poor attitude toward controversy by otherwise faithful brethren (**Acts 18:28** NIV: “...he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.”; **Isa. 30:10-11**: “They say to the seers, ‘See no more visions!’ and to the prophets, ‘Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions. I / Leave this way, get off this path, and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!’”; 2 Tim. 4:3-4; 2 Jn. 9-11).
- C. We must defend even if it offends! Matt. 15:9, 12-14; Jude 3; Acts 2:23; 5:28; 7:51-53; Acts 20:26-27; Ezek. 33:6, 8-9

### III. Conclusion: II

1. Are you discharging your duties toward the truth?
2. Do you:
 

☛ <b>Love it?</b>	☛ <b>Walk in it?</b>
☛ <b>Know it?</b>	☛ <b>Teach it?</b>
☛ <b>Believe it?</b>	☛ <b>Defend it?</b>
☛ <b>Obey it?</b>	
3. Jesus said, “Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” (Jn. 18:37)