

## MAN CAN KNOW THE TRUTH

### Int.

1. Aim: To show that it is possible for man to know the truth of *God's Holy Word* !
2. John 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
  - a. We must abide in the words of Christ - v. 31
  - b. Then we shall know the truth and be made free from sin and death
3. In regard to the truth the world can be divided into two groups:
  - a. Those who seek for truth
  - b. And Those who do not seek for the truth
4. But can we ever find the truth and possess the truth and know that we know the truth?
5. If we cannot find the truth then it is foolish and useless for us to seek for it !

### Discussion

#### I. DENIERS ARE AFFIRMERS

- A. There are people who say that man cannot know the truth
  1. To say that we cannot know the truth is either self-contradictory or it is without meaning.
    - a. Has the individual who says we cannot know truth studied so much and learned so much that he knows truth does not exist?
    - b. This is a truth he claims to know - he knows that there is no truth - he knows that you cannot know truth.
    - c. If he can know this truth - then some truth can be known.
    - d. If he cannot know the truth - then he cannot know the truth that there is no truth.

2. To say "I know that nobody can know the truth" is a self contradicting and completely foolish statement!

B. Some are always searching for the truth but cannot ever find it. The Bible describes this kind of person as ..

1. II Tim. 3:7 "Always learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."
  - a. Those who reject the authority of Jesus Christ as the standard of right have no standard.
  - b. They are always reasoning, speculating, always learning.
  - c. But they are never able to know the truth for they have rejected the standard by which to arrive at truth.
2. Those who deny that truth can be learned affirm that they know the truth that truth cannot be known.
3. ILL. They are like a dog with stick tied to his body and a piece of meat dangling out in front of him. He can run and run but will never be able to catch it !

## **II. IS TRUTH ATTAINABLE**

- A. Many people make statements indicating they do not believe truth is attainable:
1. "Who knows what is true?"
  2. "Can we be sure that is the truth?"
  3. "Who set you up as a judge?"
  4. "Let's not become legalistic!"

B. The Bible teaches that there is truth and it is attainable

1. Pro. 23:23 "Buy the truth and sell it not."
  - a. We must secure truth and never let it go.
  - b. Truth is more important in the spiritual realm than any other area because it involves the eternal destiny of our soul.
  - c. We must buy the truth no matter what the cost, and never sell it.
  
2. John 8:30-32 "As he spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, [then] are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
  - a. Christ's definition of discipleship:
    - (1) Not if you are honest and sincere in your beliefs
    - (2) Not if you are a good moral man - situation ethics
    - (3) But... if ye continue or abide in my word - then are ye my disciples
    - (4) we can be disciples only by abiding in his word
  - b. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" implies...
    - (1) Man is in bondage - to sin
    - (2) There is a means by which he can be made free
    - (3) The truth will secure this freedom
  - c. If man cannot learn truth then he cannot be free from sin.
  
3. 1 Pet. 1:22 "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:"

- a. If we cannot know and learn the truth then how are we going to have our souls purified?
  - b. How could any person who believes the Bible teach that truth is not attainable?
  - c. Our souls are purified by obeying the truth. We must learn it to obey it !
4. John 4:23-24 "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth."
- a. Our ability to find the truth is essential in order to worship correctly.
  - b. If the truth is not attainable then we can not be sure about our worship.
5. Paul's rebuke of the Galatians shows that truth can be attained:
- a. Gal. 3:1 "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?"
  - b. Gal. 5:7 "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth."

- c. [Gal. 2:11 - 14](#) "But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?"
- d. These statements would have been very unkind and unreasonable if Peter and the Galatian brethren could not know the truth !

### **III. WE CANNOT KNOW EVERYTHING BUT WE CAN LEARN THE TRUTH**

- A. Foolish reasoning of some folks causes them to think we cannot know the truth
1. If no one knows everything then no one knows anything at all.
  2. No one knows everything
  3. Therefore no one knows anything at all !
- B. This is a valid argument - as far as the rules of logic are concerned - but it is unsound because the first statement is false.
1. To say that you do not know anything just because you do not know everything is false and ridiculous.
  2. There is no man on this earth who knows everything about any subject.

3. But there are many things I do know even though I do not know everything.
  - a. Mark 16:16 says in very clear language that we must believe and be baptized
  - b. Rom. 10:17 teaches us that faith comes by hearing the word

#### **IV. THERE IS NO MIDDLE GROUND BETWEEN TRUTH AND ERROR**

- A. Some who don't want to go quite so far as to say we can't know the truth will say:
  1. There is some middle ground between truth and error.
  2. They would say nothing is either black or white
    - a. White = truth
    - b. Black = error
  3. They would say it is gray - neither truth or error
  4. These approve of false doctrine and false teachers and say that there is good in them !
- B. Jesus said:
  1. "He that is not with me is against me." Lk. 11:23
  2. There is not a middle ground between being with God and not being with Him.
  3. He said. "No man can serve God and mammon." Matt. 6;24
- C. There is such a thing as truth between two errors, but there is no middle ground of truth between truth and error !
- D. An Example:
  1. One man says that the Bible teaches salvation is in the church
  2. Another man says that you can be saved outside the church
  3. A third man says there is good in both points of view.

4. This is the idea that a lot of liberal people have to try to prove that the church is not important.
  5. But there is no middle ground of truth. Either a person is saved in the church or he is not saved in the church.
    - a. The Bible teaches we are saved in the church - Acts 2:47
    - b. Acts 20:28 "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."
- E. We can tell the difference between truth and error
1. 1 Thes. 5:21 "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."
  2. Acts 17:11 "These were 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."
  3. If we cannot distinguish between truth and error than God has put a responsibility on us that we cannot meet.

### Conclusion

1. John 8:32
2. We can know the truth about:
  - a. Salvation
  - b. The church
  - c. Worship
  - d. Organization of the church
  - e. Work of the church

3. Because these things are revealed in the Bible God's revelation to man.
4. If man cannot know the truth then the revelation is meaningless and useless.
5. It would not be a revelation if it is impossible to understand it.
6. There are some things easier to understand than other. Because we read what Peter said about the writing of Paul "...in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures unto their own destruction." II Pet. 3:16
7. Can we know the truth today? Yes!
8. John said: "I have not written unto you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth." I John 2:21

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#### Bibliography

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1. FHC Lectures 1970 "Is truth attainable?" Paul Hall P. 135-144
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  3. Spiritual Sword Vol. II # 1 And Vol. III # 1
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