

Purpose of the Truth



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The true Christian life is not just going through the motions, or going through life with no real purpose—there *is* a purpose; and there *is* a goal; and there *is* a Heaven as a final home. Eternity is way *too long*; and the lake of fire far *too horrible* to not think about the *purpose* and *goal* of life here on earth. The purpose of God's Truth, is to be free from Satan's power.

Jesus prayed John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” If we live by the Word and follow the teaching of the New Testament, we will live a life in faith, and we will know God personally, because we are really trusting Him for everything. God is to be the supreme focus of our love and trust and adoration.

Not many people have a correct knowledge of God's Truth and plan for life. Most think that if they do the best they can; live a reasonably good moral life; belong to a church; donate to charity; and do not deliberately harm others, they will go to Heaven—but that is not the entire truth of God's plan, because sincerity and good intentions cannot save anyone.

No matter how *sincere* and *honest* and *moral* we may be, it cannot *change* our inward nature. Satan *wants* people to think they are okay just because of outward *sincerity* and *morality*. His purpose is to *deceive* them, and to *keep* them in spiritual darkness, until it is too late to make the necessary changes for eternal life.

The death of self; the removal of the sin nature; genuine faith in God, and freedom from trust in human plans or policies—is *not known* nor *understood* by the average Christian, because God is *not* the supreme object of their love. They drift along in life with no real purpose, and finally end in the flames.

That is why Jesus asked Luke 18:8 “When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” And it is why Jesus *appeared* to the apostle Paul, converted his heart, and commissioned him to take God's Truth to the Gentiles—to Acts 26:18 “To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”

Our being *sanctified by faith in Jesus* does not come automatically—it is a *choice* of the individual. We must go *beyond* knowing the historical facts of the Bible—it is to really know God personally; to know what He can *do*; and then *acting* as if we really *did* believe that.

A faith that brings deliverance and victory over Satan's influence in this life, is the only faith that counts—anything less is *not* faith. It would be better to have *no* faith than to just have 2 Timothy 3:5 “a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.”

Jesus warned the Laodiceans—Revelation 3:15 “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” Jesus wants us to be totally committed to Him. We should totally accept God's Truth—or we totally follow the world—be *one* or the *other*, He meant.

The *worst* thing is to mix *the world* with *the Truth*. It is awful to *claim* we believe in Jesus, and yet hold on to worldly ways and attitudes

and rebellion. Real repentance means really giving up worldly ideas, and plans of self. After sincerely repenting, we can accept God's plan of trust on Him for everything.

There were idols in Bible times—when people were sick, they prayed to the idol—asking it to deliver them, or protect them. Idolatry today just takes other forms—when people are sick, they ask the doctor for prescription medicine—it is idolatry of a different type. Idols in the Bible were too big to swallow.

If we were as moral as Job, or righteous as Cornelius—and yet would depend on *anything* or *anyone* else to deliver us from troubles, sickness, or problems we encounter, it would cancel any good about us. The young man who wanted eternal life, was told that he lacked something—and *that* needed to be corrected if he wanted God's kingdom. The *lack* nullified the *good* of following some of the Commandments.

The young man obeyed *most*, but he was not trusting God for *money*. Luke 18:22 “Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.” By saying the man *lacked* one thing, Jesus meant that the man *lacked* real faith. He did not love God with all his heart, nor did he love his neighbor as himself.

This lack of love for God and his neighbor was a *critical* lack, as evidenced by what Jesus told a Pharisee. Matthew 22:36-40 “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

The Bible has *one goal*—that we take a right *attitude* toward God; toward His Word,

and toward everyone else. If we truly loved God with all our heart, we would always trust Him—even at the risk of our life. If we really loved others, we would treat *them* as we want them to treat *us*. Love for God in our heart compels us to do that for everyone.

Jesus touched the idol in the young ruler's heart. This idol was just as serious as if the man bowed to a statue of Buddha—even though the man was attending a synagogue and was living an outward moral life. Jesus revealed the idol Luke 18:22 “*Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.*”

The man's heart *deceived* him. His *life* and *choices* showed that he did not really care about God, and he did not care about his fellowman. The young ruler's possessions meant everything to him. When the idol he was depending on, and which he loved more than God, was *touched*, his true spiritual condition was *revealed*.

All Jesus asked him to do, was transfer his bank account from *earth* to *heaven*, but he would *not do* that and walked away—proving that he did *not* love God with all his heart, and did *not* love his neighbor either, otherwise he would have *shared* what he *had* with them.

Luke 18:24-25 “*And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.*”

That was difficult to accept, but it was the Truth from God. 26-27 “*And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved?*” to which Jesus responded, “*The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.*” Matthew 19:26 “*With God all things are possible.*”

Luke 18:28 “*Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee.*” They had followed the advice Jesus gave to the young ruler—they had *sold* what they could depend on, *gave* it to the poor—placing their money in Heaven, and *followed* Jesus.

29-30 “*And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.*”

Our repentance and surrender to God is for *one purpose*—to give up our *self-will* and to accept His *divine will*. In doing this, we are enrolling ourselves in God's training school, and asking Him to teach us how to get away from all human dependence, and to deliver us from every worthless idol—God will *do* that if we will *let* Him.

Ezekiel 36:25-27 “*Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*”

God not only delivers us from sin and idolatry, but He includes a thorough *knowledge* of Himself; a true *relationship* with Him; a perfect *love* for Him; and a total *trust* in His Word. This results in being delivered out of life's troubles and problems. Abraham, Job, Joseph, and others were led away from *human* trust, and taken to a position of *divine* trust on God.

The center of all sin is idolatry—trusting some *thing* instead of trusting *God*. When that *idol* is removed, all other *sins* are removed with

it—because all other sins are just fruits of idolatry. When the *idol* is out of the way, real *faith* in God is possible. Many think it is fanatical to trust God for money, for divine healing, or for anything else, but it is just commonsense.

Jesus said Matthew 28:18 “*All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*” To have such Power at our side, and not take advantage of it—that is fanaticism! How foolish it is to pay someone to try to heal us, when they cannot heal themselves, and when we have the great God of Heaven by our side and ready to heal us for free—in the present moment.

If we are depending on, or have it hidden in our heart to depend on, anything, anyone, any plan, pill, or procedure other than the living God for what we need in life—spiritually, physically, financially, and every other faith issue, it is *idolatry* and *must* be corrected.

If we will give our heart and life to God without compromise, He will teach us, and He will lead us to where we totally trust Him for everything. It will result in a complete *knowledge* of God, and perfect *love* for Him.

Most importantly, an actual preparation for eternal life is included. It will eventually prove that God has never changed; that He is no respecter of persons; and anything He did for anyone in the Bible, He will do for us today. *That* is the purpose of God's Truth.



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