

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Ms. Dannels, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

Oak Grove Church of Christ Bulletin
2922 NW 76th Terrace, Jennings, FL 32053

October 10, 2021

Loving the Truth

By Derek Long

Christians may encounter people in the world who claim to be interested in the truth and seek to make Christians out to be people not interested in the truth. What is involved in truly loving or being interested in the truth? Do Christians love the truth or do people in the world love the truth?

Christians are people who are really concerned about the truth. Jesus points out His disciples will know the truth if they abide in His word (John 8:31-32). God's word is the source of truth (John 17:17). God's desire is for all to know the truth (1 Timothy 2:4). Christians are seeking to manifest the truth to those around them while Satan is trying to keep people from seeing and accepting the truth (2 Corinthians 4:2-4). Lies do not originate with God or His word but have as their origin the devil and those who would follow Him (John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15). A person cannot be a follower of God without having a respect for and longing for the truth.

Sinners are people who resist the truth. Romans 1:18 speaks about those who will experience God's wrath as those, "who suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (NKJV). Sin leads

a person to suppress the truth because truth will point out the sins in a persons life and call upon them to change. John 3:19-21 speaks about how certain people hate the light because their deeds are not what they ought to be. The person who is going to receive the truth is the person who is willing to do what the truth teaches. People who reject the existence of God are not people who love the truth but instead are denying a truth which is evident from the creation all around them (Romans 1:20). People who reject the historical reliability of the Bible are people who are not interested in the truth but are rejecting the truth which can set them free from sin.

The Bible speaks about some people who are, “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” and “resist the truth” (2 Timothy 3:1-9). It seems our world contains people who fit this description. There are people who appear to be in a perpetual search for the truth but really never reach the truth because of their bias against God and His word. Such people may spend a lot of time “learning” a bunch of different things but end up resisting the truth instead of accepting it. We need to be careful not to be intimidated by such people and feel like we do not love the truth as much as some people might profess to love the truth. In Acts 17:20-21 there were people in Athens who wanted to hear Paul’s preaching but their interest was more in novelty than in actually learning the truth. We may encounter people today who will ask us questions yet their questions might be motivated by a purely academic discussion of the subject without any desire whatsoever to apply such truths to their lives. It is also possible people will ask us questions in an attempt to stump us and make it look like they are fine in rejecting the gospel because some Christian could

not answer their question. It would do us good to remember Jesus did not always directly answer every question which was brought to Him and the Bible teaches us there are some questions which do not deserve an answer (Matthew 11:1-6; 21:23-27; John 8:2-6; 1 Timothy 1:4; 6:4; 2 Timothy 2:14, 16, 23; Titus 3:9; Proverbs 26:4). Some people seem to take delight in asking questions which are not the real question which needs addressing. Perhaps sometimes it would be good to ask a person, “If I answer this question, will you be ready to obey the gospel? If not, what is the real question or issue which is keeping you from doing what is right?”

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 gives a sobering warning to those who reject a love of the truth. It says, “and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (NKJV). Let’s make sure we are people who love the truth and reject unrighteousness or the warning is eventually we will end up being deluded into believing a lie! As the wise man said, “Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding” (Proverbs 23:23, NKJV).