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Dear Associates and Friends,

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Truth. It is an enigma for some, but it should not be mysterious for students of the Bible. Truth is precisely defined several ways depending on the context. Truth is the subject of this month's presentation by Dr. Ernest L. Martin titled "[What Is Truth?](#)" It is an article with information combined from two lectures by Dr. Martin from the late 1970s. Let us take a quick survey of "truth" in the Bible.

The apostle John said "**no lie is of the truth**" (1 John 2:21). A lie and the truth are opposites. However, sometimes truth is spoken even though the intent is to lie. Pharisees trying to trap Christ did this very thing:

"Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk. And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, 'Master, we know that you are true [a lie they did not believe], and teach the way of God in truth [another lie], neither care you for any man [a lie, probably]: for you regard not the person of men [perhaps true through their own observation]. Tell us therefore, What think you? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?' But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, 'Why tempt [test] you me, you hypocrites?'"

• *Matthew 22:15–18*

The Pharisees lied, yet they unknowingly told the truth. Jesus answered for them to give to Caesar the things that are his and to God the things that are God's (Matthew 22:21). The apostle John tells us:

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, 'If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'"

• *John 8:31–32*

"But now you seek to kill me, a man that has told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. You do the deeds of your father.

... You are of your father the devil, ... He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode [from the beginning] not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, you believe me not. Which of you convinces [convicts] me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do you not believe me? He that is of God hears God's words [which are truth]: you therefore hear them not, because you are not of God."

• *John 8:40–47*

"Jesus said unto him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me. If you had known me, you should have known my Father also: and from henceforth you know him, and have seen him.'

• *John 14:6–7*

All the paths of YHWH (not some, but all) are lovingkindness (mercy, *hesed*) and truth (Psalm 25:10). God says He will send forth his lovingkindness and truth (Psalm 57:3). We believers should ask of God that He "**send out your light and your truth: let them lead me**" (Psalm 43:3). That truth will lead us to be closer to Him. Truth has a direct effect on evil: "**By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of YHWH men depart from evil**" (Proverbs 16:6). God's laws, commandments and words are truth (Psalm 119:142, 151, 160, Hebrew). Everything God does in His operations leads to truth:

“The works of his [God’s] hands are verity [truth] and judgment; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever [for *olam* (the age) and beyond], and are done in truth and uprightness.”

• *Psalm 111:7–8*

“[Who can approach God?] He that walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart.”

• *Psalm 15:2*

God’s Holy Spirit, **“the Spirit of Truth”** will guide us to the truth, step by step, moment by moment (John 16:13). We are to think on those things that are true (Philippians 4:8). We are to protect ourselves with truth (Ephesians 6:14). Every human being will someday know God’s truth:

“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.”

• *1 Timothy 2:3–4*

This “knowledge” in Greek is from *epignosis* which means “full knowledge.” So, not only will all people be saved, but each person will also have a full knowledge of the truths of God.

On the negative side, the truth can be held (known) by men in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18), which is a great evil. They withhold truth from those who need to know that truth. Paul says that some men are not above claiming the truth of God is actually a lie (Romans 1:25). In fact, your mind can be so corrupted that you turn from the truth (2 Timothy 4:4; Titus 1:14), even rejecting truth that you once knew and believed (1 Timothy 6:3–5). Some in the last days will be **“Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth”** (2 Timothy 3:1 and 7, which describes most religious people today). In the future after God’s truth has enlightened much of mankind during the times of refreshing (Acts 3:19–21):

“... the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and [they] shall be turned unto fables [toward myths].”

• *2 Timothy 4:3–4*

Thank You

Myths and lies predominate in this world. Our hearts naturally propel us to lies and deceit (Jeremiah 17:9–10). Only God can know and change our hearts, working through His Holy Spirit. You have a head start on that knowledge of truth. Truth is precious in this world. It should be sought, embraced, and held on to with force. **“Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding”** (Proverbs 23:23). Be thankful for the truth you have learned. Preserve it, review it, and treasure it. The truth needs to be correctly divided or partitioned (2 Timothy 2:15) for us to be approved of by God as workmen. **“The house of God, which is the ekklesia of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth”** (1 Timothy 3:15).

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“For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof you heard before in the word of the TRUTH of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and brings forth fruit, as it does also in you, since the day you heard of it, and knew the grace of God in TRUTH:”

• *Colossians 1:5-6*

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