

To Know Truth is to gain Wisdom!

July 24, 2016

Knowledge empowers people. When truth is revealed and understood, deception is impossible. The Scripture says that the "Truth sets you free." John 8:32. There are people who reject the truth and deny facts even when they are presented to them with undeniable evidence. They do not want to know the truth; they are happy to be in a fog and believe what they wish to be true so their lives are not disrupted facts contrary to their way of thinking.

Gamaliel, in Acts 5, was a doctor of the law who was famous and well respected among his peers and the Jewish people. In Acts 22:3, Paul stated that he had been Gamaliel's student and studied the law under this respected expert. Gamaliel was a person who had great wisdom and didn't react to situations with raw emotions, but was thoughtful in his considerations of events that took place around him. In this story, Peter and other apostles were preaching the truth concerning the events that surrounded the life of Jesus Christ and they were brought before the council as the chief priests, the High Priest, and the captain of the temple were determined to put the fact that Jesus Christ had not been given a fair trial or due process by law before being crucified behind them quickly. They wanted the era of Jesus Christ to end so they could continue in their old set of traditions and laws and disregard the teachings of Jesus Christ. They had threatened the disciples with severe punishment if they didn't stop preaching and teaching in the name of Jesus Christ.

It was apparent that their threats were not effective in stamping out the name of Jesus Christ from among the Jews and throughout the world. Peter and the other apostles stood firm and when the Jewish religious leaders threatened them, Peter replied, "We ought to obey God rather than men." He then gave a rendition of the events leading up to the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost fell on 120 of the disciples of Jesus. He declared that the God of his Fathers raised up Jesus whom the Jews killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him with his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior for to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. Peter continued by saying, "We are his witnesses of these things and so is also the Holy Ghost whom God has given to them that obey him."

When the High Priest, the captain of the temple, and the chief priests heard this, they were cut to the heart and took counsel to slay them. Gamaliel quickly took charge and had the apostles removed from the room so he could reason with his contemporaries.

He warned them to be very careful how they handled these men that were being judged before them. He reminded them that before Jesus Christ, there had been a man named Theudas who boasted about himself, had a following of four hundred men. They were all slain and as many who had chosen to follow him were scattered and they came to naught. Later a man named Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of taxing and drew many people

David said to "Buy the truth and sell it not. Proverbs 23:23. King David esteemed the words from God's mouth higher than thousands of gold and silver.

In Psalms 119:127, David spoke of people who have voided the laws of God. Yet he loved God's commandments above gold; yea above fine gold. Therefore he esteems all God's precepts concerning all things to be right; and he hated every false way. God's testimonies are wonderful therefore David kept them.

He went on to say that God's words bring light and gives understanding to the simple.

Read Isaiah 35:8. It reads like this: "And a highway shall be there and a way and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those the wayfaring man, though fools shall not err therein. No lion shall be there nor any ravenous beast shall go up there on, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there; and the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

In John 1:14, the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the Father full of grace and truth. Hebrews 6:18 says that it is impossible for God to lie. The prophet Zechariah tells us to always speak the truth every man to his neighbor.

Deuteronomy 32:4 says that He is the Rock; his works are perfect, all his ways are judgment; He is a God of truth and without iniquity.

John 14 says that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through him.

How important is the truth to you? Are you truthful in your dealings with others and with God? Do you make excuses and live a lie thinking that it doesn't affect anyone so there is no harm in it? Are you known for integrity? In John 1:43 there is a wonderful story of Jesus as he found Philip and told him to "Follow me."

Philip found Nathaniel and told him that he had found the Messiah of which Moses had written. He is Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. Nathaniel asked, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip told him to come and see. When he stood before Jesus, Jesus made this comment, "Behold an Israelite indeed in whom there is no guile." Jesus saw that within this Jew there was no deceit and no hypocrisy. He was an honest man.

I want to live my life to please Jesus Christ. I desire to live in such a way that those who know me will desire to follow me to the welcoming arms of the Savior. No one lives in a vacuum; we all affect the lives of others either directly or indirectly. The choices you make every day either bring light or darkness to those who are around you. The apostles suffered willingly that the gospel of Jesus Christ would be delivered to all people of every generation. They rejoiced that they could be counted worthy to suffer shame for the cause of Christ. Their sacrifices paved the road for us to hear and believe the gospel. Are we willing to ensure that future generations will hear about salvation through Christ?

to his way of thinking. He also perished and all that followed and obeyed him were dispersed.

He then advised them to refrain from their attacks on these apostles and leave them alone for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to naught. But if it be of God, you cannot overthrow it for it will result will be that you are fighting against God.

The leaders agreed to accept the counsel of Gamaliel and after they had beaten the apostles they let them go with the admonition that they must refrain from preaching in the name of Jesus. The apostles departed from the presence of the counsel, rejoicing that they were found worthy to suffer shame for the cause of Christ. And daily they continued preaching and teaching Jesus Christ in the temple and in every house.

In Second Thessalonians 2, Paul spoke about people being deceived by those who taught that the return of Christ had already taken place and claiming that Paul and the apostles had declared this to be so. He told them not to listen to these lies nor be deceived, for Christ would not return until a false Christ would come and set himself up as a ruler and claim to be the Messiah. He warned them that the day of the Lord would not take place until there was a great falling away of the truth. This man will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple and will proclaim himself to be God. What keeps this from taking place is the Holy Spirit, but once the Holy Spirit is removed, this person will have free reign over the people on earth. This will be in accordance to how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie. He will use all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refuse to love the truth and so be saved. Because of this mindset, God will send them a strong delusion and they will believe the lie and will face condemnation. This will happen to those who refuse to believe the truth and have delighted in wickedness.

Paul continues by saying that God has chosen those to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through believing in the truth. Paul said that God called people through the gospel that Paul preached that we might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. He admonishes believers to stand firm and hold fast to the teachings that were passed down to them from Jesus Christ and the apostles. He ends the letter with these words: "May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

This world is in turmoil and Satan has deceived many people into believing and accepting lies. The Bible clearly states that Truth is of God and Satan is the Father of LIES. Many people do not recognize lies for what they are. They have compartments for little white lies, lies that are necessary so not to hurt someone's feelings, partial truths that lead people to believe things that aren't accurate, and all different types of dishonesty. King