

DRILLING BIBLE BASICS (III)

TRUTH

Introduction

- 1) ***“What is truth?”*** (Pilate’s question asked of Jesus – John 18:38)
- 2) A most serious question that deserves a proper and accurate answer
- 3) Many search for truth – Can it be known? Where is it found? Are there different “truths”?

I) The Nature of Truth

- A) “Truth” is what is real, actual, factual, genuine (1 Thess. 2:13)
 - 1) What is not real or genuine, or which does not conform to true standards is false and untrue, counterfeit (1 Cor. 8:4-6; Jn. 17:3)
 - 2) The truth on any topic is what is real and factual about that topic (Prov. 12:17; 3 Jn. 12)

II) The Source of Truth

- A) God is the source of all truth, for in God is summed up the reality of all things (Acts 17:28)
 - 1) Whatever God declares, commands, or does is the essence of truth (Deut. 32:4; Rev. 15:3)
- B) God has revealed all truth for us today – His word, the gospel (Jn. 17:17; 16:13)
 - 1) Has come into all the world (Col. 1:5-6)
 - 2) Know how we came to be, why we are here, and where we are going

III) We Can Know the Truth

- A) We can hear the truth (Eph. 1:13) and understand what has been revealed to us (Eph. 3:3-5)
 - 1) Contradictory interpretations arise from misunderstandings of revealed scripture
- B) We know the truth when we abide in the word [doctrine] of Christ (Jn. 8:31-32)
 - 1) Knowing the truth makes us free [from sin] (v. 34)
 - 2) “Abiding in the word” requires hearing, understanding, and obeying (Jas. 1:21-22)

IV) Divine Truth is Absolute, Objective, and Complete

- A) The truth is ***objective*** – not arise from subjective human reasoning (Prov. 3:5; 20:24)
- B) The truth is ***absolute*** – not changed by situations or culture (Psa. 119:89; 1 Pet. 1:23)
- C) The truth is ***complete*** – no need for revision or addition (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

V) The Danger of Error

- A) Beware of human philosophies and wisdom (Col. 2:8; 1 Tim. 6:20-21; 1 Cor. 3:18-20)
 - 1) Carried off captive, stray concerning the faith, futile thinking devoid of truth
- B) Truth is suppressed [hindered] by the unrighteousness of men (Rom. 1:18)
- C) Can be deceived by fables of men and turn away from the truth (2 Tim. 4:3-4)

VI) Judging Between Truth and Error

- A) Being filled with truth gives us wisdom and spiritual understanding, a basis upon which to judge the truthfulness of all that we see and hear (Col. 1:9; Heb. 5:14; Psa. 119:104)
 - 1) The Bible is our final authority – we must not to go beyond what is written (1 Cor. 4:6; 2 Jn. 9; cf. 1 Chron. 15:13); respect divine boundaries of good and evil
- B) Truth is characterized by an appeal to the authority of the inspired word of God – book, chapter, verse (1 Pet. 4:11); restoring New Testament Christianity in the hearts of men

Conclusion

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (Jesus – Jn. 14:6). There is no other truth except what is revealed and in harmony with the word of our Lord Jesus Christ (Jn. 18:37; 1 Jn. 4:6). Any other “truth” is error and deceit (Gal. 1:8-9).