

## The Saving Power of the Truth

When the Lord was on trial, Pilate asked him, "What is truth (John 18:36)?" It would be difficult to find a more important question. Jesus answered the question in John 17:17: "Sanctify them in truth: your word is truth." This same truth, the word of God, makes one free. Jesus said, "If you abide in my word, *then* are you truly my disciples; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:31-32)."

The Bible not only teaches that the truth is the word of God but it is the gospel, which saves us. Paul wrote in Rom.1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." In view of this, consider these points:

First, we become Christians through the power of the word of God: "Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures (James 1:18). Obedience of the truth also purifies the soul. Peter said, "Seeing you have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned love of the brethren, love one another from the heart fervently (Peter 1:22)." Paul declared that the gospel is God's power to save (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor.15:1-2). One is not saved by what one thinks is right nor by the doctrines and opinions of men. The gospel, which is the word of God, the truth, saves.

Second, we grow as Christians through the power of the word of God. The word of God provides spiritual nourishment. Peter admonishes, "As newborn babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto salvation (1 Peter 2:2)." God's word builds up and gives an eternal inheritance (Acts 20:32). The scriptures furnish the man of God unto every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Third, we overcome temptation by the power of God's word. (Psa. 119:11, 165; Mt. 4:7-10).

Fourth, the basis for God's judgment will be His word (John 12:48; Rev. 20:12). Feelings, opinion, and theological thought and writings will not judge us. It is urgent to find and obey the truth.

Fifth, error will condemn the soul when substituted for the word of God. Paul warns about the danger of believing a lie (2 Thess. 2:10-12). We must search the scriptures to find the truth and obey it as the word of God, the gospel of our salvation (Eph. 1:13).