

The Love of ‘the truth’

10th Word of the Kingdom Conference

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2Th 2:10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.....**12** that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**13** But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth **14** to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Ti 2:4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth

PART ONE –FOUNDATIONS

Introduction

Let us start of by looking at the scripture in Luke Chapter 24

- **Lu 24:45** Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.
KJV
 - First understand – *nous* = mind; intellect
 - Second understanding – *suniami* = put together
- I bring this consideration up here because a good chunk of this lesson takes a somewhat ‘word study’ approach to see from the scriptures what the bible has to say about ‘the truth’. And it is my prayer that the Lord will open (remove every obstruction) our mind that we might understand (**by putting together, associating and comparing scripture with scriptures - precept upon precept in order to see ‘the truth’ as God presents it in**) the scriptures.
- Notably, there are enough places in the NT scriptures where ‘truth’ is articular especially in the KJV and YLT versions - while some versions leave it without an article. NB – definite article refers to something specific.

YLT - is an extremely literal translation that attempts to preserve the tense and word usage as found in the original Greek and Hebrew writings. For the most part it removes the translational bias that can creep in to English translations, but of course, not always.

- As I have been praying and thinking about what we should invest the two hours of study allotted to me in this conference, I strongly felt that it may be necessary to pick some truths about *'the truth'*
- This is certainly a foundational thing – and many of us are already familiar with the subject. But I think there is a lot that sometimes we gloss over and miss certain EMPHASIS that the Holy Spirit offers out to us in the Word.
- The emphasis of the subject before us – is two pronged (1) knowing what *'the truth'* is; relating to *'the faith'* and *'the hope'* and (2) what the LOVE of it entail i.e. taking it beyond just information to applying ourselves to *'the truth'* – **Ro 12:2**. I trust this will be something we will pay attention to

Foundational Outline

1. To get a good handle of this foundational subject (like all scriptural subjects) we are safer beginning in the beginning. It is in Genesis where the whole structure of Scripture is laid out so perfectly. We will however, not go into details of this structure portrayed in Genesis BUT will pick out some REMINDERS to help us understand the subject a little bit.
 - a. God created man for a specific stated purpose – i.e. purpose of ruling in the place of the disqualified ruler over the earth, Satan - **Ge 1:26** *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth" ...28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*
 - b. We know that man disobeyed and fell – failed the test [**Ge 2:16** *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die"* and **Ge 3:6** *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate*) – as a result they suffered TOTAL DEATH which led to the forfeiture of the opportunity to rule (*and this forfeiture should be seen as part of this total death*).

- c. We know that God killed animals and clothed them with tunics [**Ge 3:21** *Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them*] – a divine redemptive action which ONLY God could do – pointing (4000 years forward) to Christ going to the cross as the spotless lamb of God according to His eternal plans & purposes designed even before the foundations of the world – **Re 13:8** *All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.; and 1Pe 1:18* *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot **20** He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.*
- d. We know God's plans and purposes cannot be thwarted – they will come to pass as He predetermined them – **Isa 46:9** *Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me **10** Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure'.* This means God will ensure that man will eventually rule.

Based on the foregoing I ask a legitimate Question - would you expect God to HIDE His plans and purposes to man?

† **THIS BEING THE CASE** - We can therefore expect God to provide INFORMATION concerning these 'plans and purpose' (which essentially involve the doing of His pleasure) for man in the scriptures.

And as a matter of fact, this would be ONE MATERIAL THING He would deal with as a central theme throughout scripture.

- e. And at the very beginning then we see God making this wonderful promise in Genesis. The promise of the Seed of the woman was to bring these plans and purposes to pass – **Ge 3:15** *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

Anchoring ‘the truth’ in Prophecy (*only in a brief sense – by Isaiah*)

- f. And approximately 3000 years later, we see a version of the complete panorama of His purposes scoped in the prophecy by **Isaiah - Isa 9:6** *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* This would be approximately 1000 years to the time when the promise of the Seed of the Woman would be fulfilled. Let us gather some details that may be helpful at this moment.
- g. From this we see the display of the all surpassing wisdom of God. He is the Alpha & the Omega. The beginning and the end.
- h. And as God would have it He would invite us to a BEGINNING of the MATTER so that we can UNDERSTAND the END of the MATTER. In the verse Isa 9:6,
- The first part has to do with – His first advent - His incarnation
 - The second part has to do with matters beyond the first advent – it covers the purpose of His coming - His government (and all this as predetermined before the ages began)
 - The first part happened to legitimize (make possible) the second. It is impossible to disentangle or separate them. One necessitated the other.
 - God orchestrates an inextricable connection between a first part and a second throughout scripture in many respects.
- a. Connecting with what we have noted above, we know that in the fullness of the time the Seed of the woman arrived - **Ga 4:4** *But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law*

Connecting ‘the truth’ in the OT with ‘the truth’ in the NT

[As recorded primarily by John the apostle]

- b. Keeping what Isaiah prophesies in **Isa 9:6** (in the OT) in mind – and moving on to the NT, we see Apostle John clearly recording this scope as Jesus Himself testified before a senior government official - **Joh 18:36** *Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."***37** *Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and*

for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." NKJV.

- c. John here records clearly the REASON for His (the Seed of the woman) coming – He came to bear witness to 'the truth'. I would like us to examine this scripture closely (*keeping in mind Isa 6:9*)
 - a. His first advent was to show forth or testify to “*the truth*” – i.e. for this purpose He came – *to bear witness/testify to the truth.*
 - b. He was born to be king ... *and the government will be upon His shoulder – Isa 9.* However, He was not going to rule just yet. He first has to display full obedience – death of the cross (**Php 2:8**) – thus make provision for the penalty of sin of the world [**Isa 53:7-9, 11; Joh 1:29**] and go back to the Father, and ANOTHER is sent to make witness to ‘*the truth*’ and prepare a bride (**Ro 8:17b**) for Him to rule with.

Teaching about Christ and His coming kingdom and the call of man to participate in this as a coheir with Christ is the emphasis of the gospel - ‘the truth’.

- c. John further records another claim by Jesus Christ that He is the embodiment or personification of “the truth” – **Joh 14:6** *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.* This agrees with John the Baptists testimony - **Joh 5:33** *"You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth.*
- d. The Pharisees challenged Christ’s personal testimony of Himself as ‘the truth’ and Jesus had this to say - **Joh 8:13** *The Pharisees therefore said to Him, "You bear witness of Yourself; Your witness is not true." 14 Jesus answered and said to them, "Even if I bear witness of Myself, My witness is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from and where I am going - and later He speaks to Jews who believed in Him - **Joh 8:31** *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed 32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* It is ‘the truth’ that brings deliverance as we see in **Joh 8:32***

The Holy Spirit is in the Church to Testify of 'the truth'

- e. The Holy Spirit (called the spirit of truth – **Joh 15:26**, testifies of Him = the truth). He is sent into the church to teach, guide and remind us of 'the truth' - **Joh 16:13** "*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he shall guide you into all the truth: for he shall not speak from himself; but what things soever he shall hear, these shall he speak: and he shall declare unto you the things that are to come* **14** *He shall glorify me: for he shall take of mine, and shall declare it unto you.* NASB
- f. Perhaps we can remember what specific INFORMATION the Servant presented to Rebekah in line with our subject today in **Genesis 24 - Ge 24:33** *Food was set before him to eat, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told about my errand." And he said, "Speak on." 36 "And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and to him he has given all that he has. 37 "Now my master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell 38 'but you shall go to my father's house and to my family, and take a wife for my son.'...58 Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go.*
- g. And without going into the whole description of this OT type, here we can see the work of the Holy Spirit in this dispensation is clearly cut out – bringing out 'all the truth' – that which involves the search and procuring of a bride for the God's Son. When this is clearly taught to us – we should rise up (hopefully) with a resounding conviction – 'I will go' – like Rebecca.

Connecting 'the truth' in the OT with 'the truth' in the NT

[As Paul taught 'the truth']

- h. And Paul describes this subject very succinctly as he writes to believers at Ephesus and Colossae - **Eph 1:13** *in whom ye also, having heard the word of the truth--the good news of your salvation--in whom also having believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise.* YLT and in a parallel scripture in **Col 1:5** *because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel. 6 which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth* NKJV. And here it

should be very clear what ‘the truth’ is = the good news (gospel) of your salvation. This cannot be Common Salvation BUT Salvation of the Soul.

‘the truth’ the hope’ and ‘the faith’

- i. Paul and Peter help us to see that ‘the truth of the gospel’ describe ‘the hope’ in Christ - **Col 1:5** because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, and **1Pe 1:4** to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.
- j. And again Paul helps us recognize that ‘the faith’ is dependent on ‘the truth’
 - **2Ti 2:18** who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. When false teachers stray from ‘the truth’ and teach that which is contrary to the truth, the faith of some hearers will be shipwrecked.
 - **2Ti 3:8** Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith. These are two of the magicians of Pharaoh – resisting and antagonizing the plan of God for His people Israel - **Ex 7:9-13**. Israel - called out of land of their birth to the land of promise – REST. This is the context of the contest that happened in Egypt – Moses encountered before Pharaoh.
 - **Tit 1:1** Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness (NKJV).
 - And Paul having believed ‘the truth’ – having seen the END/REST – right out ahead – ‘pressed on toward the mark of high calling in Christ Jesus – **Php 3:14**’ and at the end of the race confessed confidently that it was not in vain to have done so- **2Ti 4:7** I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith **8** Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.