

THE WORD OF TRUTH THE GOSPEL

Colossians 1:5 “Of this (the hope laid up for you in heaven) you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel. . .”

Do you question a lot of what you read and hear? There are helpful postings on social media, but then again there is a lot there that is questionable. News organizations have “fact checks,” trying to sort out truth from that which is less than truthful to outright lies. Who makes sure the fact-checkers are truthful? Those I want to look up to, respect and believe, I find it hard to trust what they say, how about you?

Thirty-One percent of Americans, according to a recent poll, believe that what the Bible says is true. That obviously means that a significant majority of sixty-nine percent do not believe the Bible is truthful. I find, and I expect you also do, the result of this poll hard to believe. After all, from my youngest days I was taught that the Bible is the inerrant, trustworthy, reliable, the truthful word of God. Is this what you were taught? More important, is this what you believe?

There are a number of Bible passages that address the truthfulness, reliability and inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures. Here are a few of them: 1) John 17:17 “Thy Word is truth.” 2) John 10:35 “Scripture is always true.” (New Century Version of the Bible) 3) Matthew 5:18 Jesus said, “. . . until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.”

John commenting on the Gospel the Holy Spirit inspired him to write said, “. . . these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31) Your very eternal life depends upon the truth of the message of the Gospel because “. . . the gospel. . . is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” The Gospel is not just words. It is God’s word, backed by God’s power for the salvation of all people. “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)

Unbelief, not believing God’s word, not believing Jesus is the Savior of the World, not believing there is only one God, not believing what the Holy Scriptures say is

not new. Note the comment found in John 12:37 “. . .though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him;” In spite of the fact the people had witnessed Jesus perform many miracles, and they had said of Him “no one has taught with such authority” (Matthew 7:29); in unbelief the masses turned on Jesus on Good Friday demanding Pilate condemn Jesus to death by crucifixion. Unbelief is not new!

“. . .these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31) This is the word of truth of the Gospel. This is God’s good news to sinners. This is God’s message of salvation. “. . .it is impossible for God to lie.” (Hebrews 6:18) Your eternal life depends upon the truth of the Gospel.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, grant me faith to believe and trust the truth of the message of the Gospel. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens, Let Your Word to me come near;
Newborn life and spirit give me, Let each promise still my fear.
Death’s dread pow’r its inward strife, Wars against Your Word of Life;
Fill me, Lord, with love’s strong fervor That I cling to You forever!

Oh, what blessing to be near You And to listen to Your voice;
Let me ever love and hear You, Let Your Word be now my choice!
Many hardened sinners, Lord, Flee in terror at Your Word;
But to all who feel sin’s burden You give words of peace and pardon.

Lord, Your words are waters living When my thirsting spirit pleads.
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving; On Your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, Your words will be my light Through death’s cold and dreary night;
Yes, thy are my sword prevailing And my cup of joy unailing!

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; Let Your words in me take root.
May Your Spirit e’er be near me That I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing Your praise, From my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given In the endless joy of heaven.
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