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# The Truthfulness of God

### MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

In an age when truth is often seen as entirely subjective, the Bible's presentation of a God whose truthfulness is absolute and objective stands in stark contrast. Moreover, the claim that this God has spoken truth in sacred Scripture stands the wisdom of this world on its head. In this lesson, Dr. Lawson examines several aspects of the truthfulness of God, showing why it is such a radical and countercultural view to hold in today's world.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 14:6; 17:17-19

### TEACHING OBJECTIVES

1. To explain the multifaceted richness of God's truthfulness
2. To instill trust in the truthfulness of God's word
3. To contrast the Christian and secular views of truth

### QUOTATIONS

*The truth of God is a great pillar for our faith. Were not he a God of truth, how could we believe in him? Our faith were fancy; but he is truth itself, and not a word which he has spoken shall fall to the ground.*

—Thomas Watson

*Truth holds together. Therefore, there is no phase of truth that is not related to every other phase of truth. All things that are true are part of the truth and stand in a proper and inescapable relationship to God, who is himself the truth.*

—James Montgomery Boice

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## LECTURE OUTLINE

### I. Divine Truth

- A. All truth has its origin in God.
  - i. Truth is defined by God's very nature.
  - ii. Humanity has access to truth only through God's revelation.
- B. God not only speaks truth; He *is* truth (John 14:6).
- C. Though God appoints human teachers for His people, it is ultimately the Spirit of truth who instructs the people of God (John 15:26; 16:13).

### II. Absolute Truth

- A. Truth makes exclusive claims about reality.
- B. Though the Bible at times speaks of *a* truth, it nevertheless also speaks of *the* truth.
- C. Truth establishes a firm boundary between right and wrong, factual and fabricated.

### III. Objective Truth

- A. Truth presents specific propositions and claims.
- B. God's Word is true even down to its most minute details.
  - i. Certain statements in Scripture are of greater importance than others.
  - ii. Yet, all of Scripture's claims are true, regardless of the subject matter.
- C. God's words are inherently true and do not depend on human understanding or feelings.

### IV. Singular Truth

- A. Truth stands as a single body.
  - i. Truth does not compete with itself or contradict itself.
  - ii. God exists in complete harmony with himself.
  - iii. Scripture expresses a unified system of reality.
- B. God's revelation to humanity is consistent.
  - i. He does not say something to one group and something else to another group.
  - ii. God does not reveal different paths of salvation to different people.
  - iii. God's Word communicates a unified message that applies to all people, places, and times.

### V. Immutable Truth

- A. Just as God does not change, His truth does not change.
- B. No part of Scripture will ever be annulled or removed.
- C. God's words to humanity are always relevant and up to date.

### VI. Universal Truth

- A. Truth transcends societies, cultures, centuries, and continents.
- B. Truth does not change to accommodate one's worldview, surroundings, or social norms.
- C. All people need to hear and obey God's truth.

### VII. Illuminating Truth

- A. Truth enables us to understand the world around us and perceive things as they actually are (Ps. 119:105).
- B. Apart from God's Word, humanity remains in darkness and in a state of spiritual blindness.

### VIII. Trustworthy Truth

- A. God's words are utterly reliable and dependable.
- B. God does not mislead people or lead them down the path of falsehood.
- C. Those who believe and live according to the truth base their lives on a firm foundation.

### IX. Authoritative Truth

- A. Because God is the source of truth, He has the power to assert claims and make demands upon human beings.
  - i. Truth is never merely a collection of interesting information.
  - ii. Rather, it requires a human response of obedience.
- B. God's people are to "be doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22).
- C. Truth is essential.
  - i. In order to live well as God's people in the world, we must understand things as they truly are.
  - ii. Our salvation involves hearing and responding to the truth of Scripture (Rom. 10:13-17).

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Since Satan is the antithesis of truth, it can be said that he never utters true statements.
  - a. True
  - b. False
2. Since truth is absolute, all of the following are true *except* \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. One truth cannot be more important than another
  - b. Truth cannot contradict itself
  - c. Scripture will never become untrue
  - d. The gospel message must be the same to every culture
3. Because the Bible is trustworthy, all of the following are true *except* \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Its truth will never be overturned
  - b. Its truth depends on proper interpretation
  - c. It is true for all people and for all time
  - d. It makes scientific inquiry pointless

4. Those who don't have access to Scripture cannot be held responsible for acting contrary to Scripture, because they don't know of its authoritative status.
  - a. True
  - b. False

#### BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If Pilate had waited for a response from Jesus when he asked Him what truth was, how do you think Jesus would have responded?
2. Consider Dr. Lawson's point that truth is singular, forming "one perfect tapestry of truth." How should this affect one's interpretation of difficult passages in Scripture?
3. In a time when the Bible is often attacked as containing mythology and contradictions, how can you help fellow believers to hold fast to its trustworthiness? How can you challenge unbelievers in this respect?
4. If someone were to tell you that they respect your religious beliefs but that those beliefs are not true for them, how would you respond?