

Sacrifice Series 9:

**GOD'S  
WORD  
IS  
TRUTH!**

## GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH!

Oct. 19, 2014

**Sermon in a sentence:** When we say, “We have the truth”, we acknowledge the blessing of our access to the Holy Scriptures: the Word of God.

**Scriptures:** John 17:6-19; John 1:14

For this final message in the “Sacrifice” series, we turn our attention to the last prayer Jesus prayed for His disciples before going to Gethsemane to pray for Himself, and conduct the final spiritual preparation for His crucifixion.

By this time, He had done everything humanly possible to love His disciples, teach them and be an example to them. Having done all, He prayed and entrusted them to the Almighty, Divine Spirit of God.<sup>1</sup>

His interaction, and their interaction with the Word of God was a very prominent feature of His prayer:

John 17:6,8,14,17,19 NKJV <sup>6</sup> “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

<sup>8</sup> For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

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<sup>1</sup> This is a great example for us to follow. *Understand* God's perfect will and plan for our lives and live it. *Do* all we can *for* all we can, and ask God for His divine blessing to sustain and perfect the work of our hands.

14 **I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.**

17 **Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**

19 **And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.**

The main point of this message is quite clear. If Jesus confirmed that the Word of God is Truth, we have a very clear path to the knowledge, information, wisdom and revelation we need to live successful, overcoming and godly lives!

To ensure we all have the same understanding of the word “truth”, here is the Merriam Webster dictionary definition:

“... being in accordance with the actual state of affairs... conformable to an essential reality... being that which is the case rather than what is manifest or assumed”

Let us take note of the five points Jesus makes about the Word in His prayer:

1. **The Word of God is truth (v. 17)** More than simply being ‘true’, the Word of God is Truth itself. It does not just contain truth. It is the truth of God’s self-revelation to humanity! It is not abstract and inaccessible – it is truth we can understand.
2. **The Word was given to His disciples (v. 8,14)** God’s word was freely and clearly given to us, both verbally and in writing. He spoke at Mount Sinai (Ex. 20:1-17), at the Jordan River (Lu. 3:22), on the Mount of Transfiguration (Mt. 17:5) and in Jerusalem (Jn. 12:28). In fact “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (Jn. 1:14). Everything Jesus said was the delivery of God’s Word to humanity,

freely given, explained, honoured and shared with us by our Lord.

3. **They received the Word (v. 8)** We have often quoted the old saying: “You can take a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink”. However, the content of Jesus’ prayer indicates that the disciples were not just handed the Word, but they actually received it, understood it and accepted it. They did not reject the Word as their countrymen had done. (“He came to His own, but His own did not receive Him” (John 1:11 NKJV.)) We have the honour and privilege of doing the same today: receiving the Word.

4. **They obeyed (‘kept’) the Word (v. 6)** Of course, being given the Word and receiving the Word is not sufficient. It would be pointless if we did not obey it. We may not have the miraculous power of God working through us at every moment, but we have the personal responsibility to *obey* His Word in every area of our lives. Even though it may go against our human inclinations and desires, obedience to God’s Word gives us access to ‘life more abundantly’ (Jn. 10:10b).

There are many who expect divine intervention, provision and benefits from God while living in active disobedience to His Word. This is an impossibility.

5. **The truth of the Word of God was the sanctifying agent – that which was to make them holy (v. 19)** Holiness is not achieved by chance. God-likeness is quite the opposite to human-likeness. The way we should think, walk, talk, interact with others, do business, submit, love, worship and witness are all aspects of the holiness we learn from the Word of God. We cannot become God-like without the instruction of His Word. We cannot have the “mind of

**Christ” active within us without the mental and spiritual re-programming of the Word.**

**This final prayer of Jesus was not meant to be a theology lesson or an eloquent example of rhetoric or oratory. It was the heartfelt cry of a man who was about to die, praying that His life’s work and investment would not be for naught. And the greatest guarantee of His success was that His followers be sanctified and made holy through the Word.**

**It is possible to sacrifice all we own and all we are in ministry. But in the end, there will be no eternal impact upon the lives of those to whom we minister if we have not established them upon the truth of God’s Word.**

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## **Appendices:**

### **Excerpt from Faith Sanctuary – “Our Beliefs”:**

**We believe the Holy Bible is God’s true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; Is. 41:21-23; Is. 42:8-9; Is. 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17)**

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### **HOW DO WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD?**

The “Holy Bible” is a collection of 66 books, written by 40 authors in 3 different languages, over a period of 1500 years, on 3 continents. It claims to be inspired by God, literally “God-breathed” (2 Tim 3:16). The prophets and holy men spoke (and wrote) as the Spirit of God moved upon them (2 Samuel 23:2; Jeremiah 1:9; 2 Peter 1:21). In over 400 instances, the Bible refers to itself as the Word of God. It presents a unified message about God, His will, His character and His plan of salvation.

Christian apologists (defenders of the faith) have concluded that if God really wished to communicate with humanity, His method and message would have certain characteristics:

- It would be widely available to all people
- It would remain uncorrupted over time
- Its prophecies would be 100% accurate in their fulfillment
- It would be 100% accurate historically and scientifically
- It would give answers to the toughest questions in life and be effective in transforming individual lives

**It would be widely available to all people:** The Alliance of Religions and Conservation reports that in 2005 alone, 125 million full Bibles and 72 million New Testaments were sold around the world. In addition, the United Bible Societies distributed approximately 40 million Bibles. The Summer Institute of Linguistics estimates that the Bible will be available in more than 850 languages by latest 2022, making it the only universally translated book in the world. Over the past few decades, **billions** of Bibles have been printed, sold and given away.

**It would remain uncorrupted over time and be 100% accurate historically and scientifically:** The Septuagint (Greek version of the Hebrew Bible - 250BC), the Dead Sea Scrolls (250BC – 100AD) and the Masoretic Text (Jewish Old Testament, approx. 900AD), give us the bulk of historical support for the **Old Testament** outside of the ancient Hebrew / Aramaic scriptures. As one compares these three documents looking for differences, it quickly becomes clear they are virtually identical. In other words, **the OT text we have today is a direct replica of what Moses began to write 3500 years ago!** No other writing from ancient times comes remotely close to this degree of accuracy.

The **New Testament**, which details the birth, life, teaching, death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ – the human manifestation of God – has overwhelming historical and documentary support, both Christian and secular. There are over 24,000 documents to choose from (manuscripts, parts of manuscripts, translations, references, papyrus scraps, pieces of tablets etc.) to validate the New Testament, some copy evidence as close as 35 years to the original autographs (writings).<sup>2</sup> **Therefore, the New Testament we have today is exactly as it was written 2000 years ago!**

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<sup>2</sup> The next closest historical document to the New Testament in terms of external documentary evidence is Homer's "Illiad"

Other secular writings exist to verify the historical accuracy of the New Testament. These include books and letters by Josephus, Thallus, Phlegon, Tacitus, Seutonius, Pliny the Younger, Hadrian, Lucian of Samosata and Mara Bar-Serapion.

Archaeologist Donald J. Wiseman states that over 25,000 sites mentioned in the Bible have been found to date, establishing the historical validity of the Bible. Although the Bible is not intended to be a scientific text, its statements related to science are always proven accurate (eg. Leviticus 17:11; Job 26:7; Job 28:25; Job 36:27-29; Ecclesiastes 1:6; Isaiah 40:22)

Jesus freely read from, studied, debated and upheld the Old Testament and its prophecies as the received word of God.

**When we understand the fact that Jesus is none other than the Almighty God in human form, His approval of scripture is the greatest single proof we have that the Bible is indeed the exclusive word of God!**

**Its prophecies would be 100% accurate in their**

**fulfillment:** Fulfilled prophecy is the second greatest proof we have that the Bible is the word of God. They highlight two of the key attributes of God: He knows everything (omniscient) and He is all-powerful (omnipotent). He determines future events, communicates His plans through His prophets, and causes His will to be accomplished through His almighty power, despite opposition from His enemies. (For examples of specific “messianic” prophecies fulfilled in the life of Jesus, please see “Appendix 2” below.)

**It would answer life’s toughest questions and transform**

**people:** The Bible answers the big questions of where we came

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(written around 750BC), which has approximately 640 copies or portions available, the earliest copy dating 500 years after the original!

from, how we should live while we're here on earth, and what happens to us after we die. It reveals the nature and character of God, and gives us His plan for our lives. Although many view Christianity and belief in God's Word as a psychological crutch, this objection cannot be sustained when we examine the lives of the writers of the Word. Bible prophets were often arrested, tortured and even killed for their belief and assertion that they were God's spokespersons. Apostles who wrote the New Testament were transformed from cowards into martyrs. None of them would have given their lives "for a lie". They truly believed that God was speaking through them!

**Resources:**

***God's Infallible Word***, David K. Bernard, Word Aflame Press, Hazelwood, MO, 1992

***The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict***, Josh McDowell, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN, 1999

***Know Why You Believe***, Paul Little, Inter-Varsity Press, Downer's Grove, IL, 2000

[www.comereason.org/cmp\\_rlg/cmp005.asp](http://www.comereason.org/cmp_rlg/cmp005.asp)

<http://oncedelivered.net/category/apologetics/>

[www.clarifyingchristianity.com/b\\_proof.shtml](http://www.clarifyingchristianity.com/b_proof.shtml)



**Appendix 2:**

APPENDIX 2: Old Testament prophecies about Jesus (excerpted from <a href="http://www.clarifyingchristianity.com/m_prophecies.shtml">www.clarifyingchristianity.com/m_prophecies.shtml</a> )		
The Messianic Prophecy (paraphrased)	Where the prophecy appears in the Old Testament (written between 1450 BC and 430BC)	Jesus' fulfillment of the prophecy in the New Testament (written between 45 and 95 AD)
The Messiah will be the offspring (descendant) of the woman (Eve)	Genesis 3:15	Galatians 4:4
The Messiah will be the Son of God	Psalm 2:7	Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11; Luke 3:22

The Messiah will be raised from the dead (resurrected)	Psalms 16:10,11	Matthew 28:5-9; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:4-7; John 20:11-16; Acts 1:3 and 2:32
The Messiah crucifixion experience	Psalms 22 (contains 11 prophecies—not all listed here)	Matthew 27:34-50 and John 19:17-30
The Messiah will be pierced through hands and feet	Psalms 22:16	Luke 23:33 and 24:36-39; John 19:18 and 20:19-20,24-27
The Messiah's bones will not be broken (a person's legs were usually broken after being crucified to speed up their death)	Psalms 22:17 and 34:20	John 19:31-33,36
Men Will Gamble for the Messiah's clothing	Psalms 22:18	Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:23,24
The Messiah will be accused by false witnesses	Psalms 35:11	Matthew 26:59,60 and Mark 14:56,57
The Messiah will be betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9	John 13:18,21
The Messiah will ascend to heaven (at the right hand of God)	Psalms 68:18	Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9; 2:33-35; 3:20-21; 5:31,32; 7:55-56; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20,21; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22 . . . sorry, we got carried away!
The Messiah will be given vinegar and gall to drink	Psalms 69:21	Matthew 27:34; Mark 15:23; John 19:29,30
The Messiah is a "stone the builders rejected" who will become the "head cornerstone"	Psalms 118:22,23 and Isaiah 28:16	Matthew 21:42,43; Acts 4:11; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:6-8
The Messiah will be a descendant of David	Psalms 132:11 and Jeremiah 23:5,6; 33:15,16	Luke 1:32,33
The Messiah will be a born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-35
The Messiah will make the blind see, the deaf hear, etc.	Isaiah 35:5-6	Many places. Also see Matthew 11:3-6 and John 11:47
The Messiah will be beaten, mocked, and spat upon	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67 and 27:26-31
The "Gospel according to Isaiah"	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
The Messiah will be rejected	Isaiah 53:3	Matthew 27:20-25; Mark 15:8-14; Luke 23:18-23; John 19:14,15
The Messiah will be killed	Isaiah 53:5-9	Matthew 27:50; Mark 15:37-39; Luke 23:46; John 19:30
The Messiah will be silent in front of his accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 26:62,63 and 27:12-14
The Messiah will be buried with the rich	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:59,60; Mark 15:46; Luke 23:52,53; John 19:38-42

The Messiah will be crucified with criminals	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27; Luke 23:32,33
The Messiah is part of the new and everlasting covenant	Isaiah 55:3-4 and Jeremiah 31:31-34	Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:6-13
The Messiah will be our intercessor (intervene for us and plead on our behalf)	Isaiah 59:16	Hebrews 9:15
The Messiah has two missions	Isaiah 61:1-3 (first mission ends at “. . . year of the LORD’s favor”)	First mission: Luke 4:16-21; Second mission: to be fulfilled at the end of the world
The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1 and Luke 2:4-7
The Messiah will enter Jerusalem riding a donkey	Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 21:1-11
The Messiah will be sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12,13	Matthew 26:15 with Matthew 27:3-10
The Messiah will forsaken by His disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Matthew 26:31,56
The Messiah will enter the Temple with authority	Malachi 3:1	Matthew 11:7-10, Matthew 21:12 and Luke 19:45