

DO YOU KNOW THE TRUTH?

Knowing the truth makes us free from the law of sin and death.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ We should know that when we come to the house of God we are at a special place, as we learned in the message a few weeks ago, "My Preferred Place." It is our place to meet with God!
- ❖ Sadly though, the house of God is not the "Preferred Place" for many people. There are those who would rather be elsewhere and only come because of their parents. There are others who may come just to appease a friend, but they're really thinking "this is not for me."
- ❖ But if only you knew the truth—both of *where* you are when you come into the house of the Lord and of *who* Jesus is.
- ❖ Genesis 28:16-17 tells us that the house of God is the very Gate of Heaven. Imagine being at the very Gate of Heaven and not knowing it. Not until we begin to immerse ourselves in the word of God are we going to know the truth and be set free.
- ❖ The text from John 8:31-36 tells us that Jesus is speaking to Jewish believers. As in times past, the scripture is expressly speaking to us today and the message has not changed: If we abide in His word, then are we His disciples indeed (John 8:31).
- ❖ Those of us who are in the house of God may all be believers, but not everybody is His disciple. Jesus' disciples abide in His word and others take notice of their love for one another (John 13:25).
- ❖ Being Jesus' disciple begins with obedience to the gospel: repenting of our sins, submitting ourselves to the church to be baptized in the name of Jesus, and then God will gloriously and miraculously fill us with the baptism of the Holy Spirit as He has promised (Acts 2:38).
- ❖ "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed" (John 8:31). To abide is to accept or act in accordance with (a rule, decision, or recommendation); to live, dwell, reside (www.dictionary.com).
- ❖ When we abide in His word, we are studying to show ourselves approved unto Him (2 Timothy 2:15); we are searching the scriptures (John 5:39).
- ❖ When we abide in His word, not only will we be His disciples, but we shall know the truth and the truth will set us free (John 8: 32).
- ❖ Each of us need to know Jesus for ourselves (Matthew 16:15-17). We must immerse ourselves in, abide in, and continue in His word that we may know Him.
- ❖ The Hebrew term *go el* means "kinsman-redeemer." It denotes one who delivers or rescues (see Genesis 48:16; Exodus 6:6). Jesus is our "kinsman-redeemer." Without Jesus, we are nothing. In fact, we're dead in our trespasses and sin (see Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:13-15).

KEY SCRIPTURE:

John 8:31-36

- ❖ When we know Jesus, sin has no dominion over us (Romans 6:14). When we know Jesus, we don't sweat the small stuff because we know "He is faithful that promised" (Hebrews 10:23).
- ❖ We often boast that we have the truth. However, rather than boasting that we *have* the truth, we should boast in the fact that we *know* the truth because knowing the truth is what makes us free.
- ❖ It is in knowing Jesus that we are made strong. Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits (Daniel 11:32).
- ❖ The Apostle Paul's cry was to know Him (Philippians 3:10).
- ❖ Consider who we once were—idol worshippers, adulterers, thieves, drunkards, etc. (see 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)—but look what the Lord has done!
- ❖ The Word that became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14) is the same Word we are to be immersed in, so that the truth may be revealed to us and we may be free indeed. We become new creatures in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- ❖ The way into Christ, the way into truth, the way into eternal life is simply through obedience to the gospel: repenting of our sins, baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, receiving the Holy Spirit and living in obedience to the Word gives us the power to live above sin.
- ❖ So, do *you* know it? Do you know the Truth?

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Define the word "disciple." On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being very good, how would you rate yourself as a disciple? What are some changes you think you should be making in your discipleship?
2. "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed" (John 8:31). Do you live/dwell/reside in the word of God? Is delving into the Word your priority or do you find yourself shifting it to the back burner? How would you rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being very good?
3. Do you consider yourself to know God as prescribed in Daniel 11:32? Do you consider yourself strong? Have you done exploits in His name? What can one do to achieve strength?

Prayer Time

Lord, help me to get know You. In Your power. In Your might. In Your suffering.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

👉 (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: Have you ever told an "untruth"? Was it to spare someone else's feelings...or your own?