

What Is Truth?
A Study in the Gospel of John
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.
www.lgpjr.com

*Pilate asked Jesus, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. **For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice**" (John 18:37). [Words of Jesus in red.]*

The Bible reveals the truth about reality, reason, and righteousness. — L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**

The Greek word for "word" is "logos." "Logos" is usually translated into English as "word, reason, or science," as in the word "biology," which means the science of life or "theology," which means the science of God. "The Word was with God, and the Word was God." The Bible is often referred to as the "Word of God written." The Bible reveals that the Word of God created all things good; that is, God created a reasonable and right (or just) reality. We now live in a fallen world where people too often believe and do what is inconsistent with reality, reasonableness, and righteousness. The Bible teaches what Jesus said and did in order to reveal the truth about reality, reason, and righteousness and to help us live in reality with sound reason and right choices.

John 1:14 And **the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, **full of grace and truth.**

In everything Jesus said and did while on this earth as a fully human person, who lived in human flesh just as we do, Jesus revealed the true nature, power, and character of God. He revealed how God is a truly amazing infinite-personal God, far beyond our finite abilities to grasp or comprehend without a revelation from God. He revealed how God is so full of grace and truth that He sent Jesus to not only reveal the truth, but to also give us the power to live according to the truth. Because God loves us, by grace Jesus gives us a completely new beginning after our living contrary to reality, contrary to sound reason, and contrary to what is right.

John 1:12 But to all who **received him**, who **believed in his name**, he gave **power to become children of God**.

More than all this, God sent Jesus to give us the opportunity to become children in His family. We can have God as our Heavenly Father. We can have Jesus as our Big Brother and Friend. We can have the Holy Spirit as our Advocate, Guide, Helper, Prayer Warrior, and Teacher. To become children of God, we must receive Jesus into our lives and follow Him as the Bible reveals. We receive Jesus, and we believe in His name as the Bible reveals His name. From the Bible, we learn many names of Jesus that reveal Jesus' full name, the Name above all names; that is, who He is as the Word of God made flesh. You and I have two, three, or more small names that reveal our legal name, with each name revealing something about us. In a similar way, Jesus has many great names that combined reveal His even greater Name, with each great name telling us more and more about Him. In Chapter 1 of John, we learn some of the great names of Jesus. These names include: God, the Word of God, the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Messiah, and the Lamb of God. All of these great names, and there are even more in the Bible, reveal the greater Name of Jesus, the Name above all names, and they tell us who Jesus is and why He did what He did.

John 1:29 The next day John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the **Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**"

The Bible tells us that Jesus came to take away our sin and the sin of the world. To do this, Jesus had to not only teach us how to live and empower us to live according to the will of God, Jesus also had to die a sacrificial death on a cross, rise from the dead, send the Holy Spirit to live within God's children, and ascend back into heaven. Jesus forgives and takes away the sin of all God's children. In this world, Jesus often takes away our sin one sin at a time. The Bible calls this the process of sanctification. Jesus sets God's children apart for God's holy use by offering them forgiveness for sin, cleansing from sin, and freedom from sin. As people receive and believe in Jesus, Jesus takes away the sin of individuals, families, churches, towns and cities. He has done this often enough for 2,000 years for us to look forward with confidence to the day when He will come again and take away the sin of the world.

John 1:33-34 “I myself (John the Baptist) did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is **the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit**. And I myself have seen and have testified that this is **the Son of God**.’”

In these verses, we learn that Jesus baptizes God’s children with the Holy Spirit, and the Bible teaches us that what Jesus does is beyond our human understanding. But the Bible will teach us more from book to book as we prayerfully read the Bible. Here we learn another great name of Jesus, “the Son of God.”

John 1:37 The two disciples (Andrew and John) heard John say this, and **they followed Jesus**.

In Chapter 1, we learn that Jesus is God, the Word of God made flesh who dwelt among us, the Son of God, the Son of Man, the promised Messiah, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and the one who will baptize believers with the Holy Spirit. As disciples of John the Baptist, after learning these truths from John the Baptist, Jesus’ first disciples followed Jesus and brought others to Jesus.

Because grace and truth came through Jesus, we have good and sufficient reasons to receive Him and believe in Him as the Bible reveals Him; and if we do, the Word of God written promises us that God will give us the power to become children of God and to live like a loved and valued part of God’s growing family.

John 3:7-8 “Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘**You must be born from above** (or born again). The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. **So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit**.’”

Jesus taught that people must be born again or born from above in order to live a new life as God intends, as children of God with the power of God to spiritually mature as God intends. We do not know how God does this work, but we know that the Truth of God, the truths Jesus revealed, and the Holy Spirit work together for a person to be born again and live in God’s family.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

Because God loves us and wants us to enjoy eternal life in His family forever, God gave and sent us His only Son. But what is eternal life? We learn in Jesus’ prayer for His disciples and all God’s children the definition of eternal life in John 17:3, “**This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.**” We will learn more about this later.

John 8:31-32, 36 Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “*If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.*”

The Bible teaches that receiving Jesus and believing in His Name gives us power to become children of God. As God’s children with the Holy Spirit indwelling us, we should continue living according to the words of Jesus. If we live according to the words of Jesus; then we will know the truth as a reality in our heart, mind, and life. As we live according to the truth of God’s Word, we are made free. That is, the truth of God’s Word and the Holy Spirit will free us from slavery to sin and Satan, so we can live for God and according to God’s will. If Jesus frees us from the power of sin and Satan, we are “free indeed.” Without Jesus’ Truth and the Holy Spirit living within us, the truth will not make us free. Jesus is the Son of God who makes His followers “free indeed.”

John 17:3 “**And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.**”

As children of God, as true disciples of Jesus, as Jesus prays for us and as we live according to all we are learning from the Bible, we learn more and more about the true God and Jesus. If we are not making the effort to learn more about God and Jesus according to the Bible, and if we are not making the effort to live more and more as Jesus wants us to live, we will not grow morally, spiritually, and intellectually as God intends for us to grow. We will not be “free indeed.”

John 14:1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. **Believe in God, believe also in me.**”

You often hear John, chapter 14, read at funerals, but it is a good truth to remember every day. If you are troubled, anxious, or worried about anything, here Jesus has given us the solution: “Believe in God, believe also in Jesus.” Believing in God and believing in Jesus gives us a relationship with God, and our relationship with God gives us the assurance that They are with us each moment of each day.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him (Thomas), **“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”**

Jesus is the Way to follow, as a sheep follows a shepherd. He is not a plan or a road map or just a giver of good advice or a new morality. To be with Jesus all the time we need to follow Jesus, and He will personally take us with Him where we need to go. We can choose to knowingly and willingly follow Jesus as our God and Shepherd, or we can choose to wander away from Jesus and get lost. If you want to learn the Truth, Jesus is the ultimate Truth and the ultimate Revealer of all truths no matter what the subject. Jesus is the Life, the source of all life, the source of our life each and every moment. Our very existence depends on Jesus. Our ultimate future and everlasting joy-filled life depends on Jesus. Everything and everyone depends on Jesus whether they know it, believe it, or deny it.

Now, in John 14:10-11, we will begin to learn more about what Jesus meant by saying, **“No one comes to the Father except through me.”**

John 14:10-11 **“Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.”**

No one can come to the Father except through Jesus, because the Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in the Father. They are inseparable. No one can break them apart from one another, though many have tried to separate them, or have tried to follow one and not the other. Jesus spoke only the words of His Father. The Father dwells in Jesus and does His works through Jesus. Jesus’ words and works in the flesh on this earth revealed the true God and showed us the character, nature, and power of the Father. Unlike any other person who ever lived, Jesus’ works revealed the true God.

John 14:15-17 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.”

If we are children of God, we will love our heavenly Father and we will love Jesus, our Big Brother and Friend. Because we love them, we will want to bring them happiness by everything we do. We will want to live with them and worship them forever. We do not have the power to do this perfectly or all by ourselves, so Jesus sends us the Holy Spirit to live in us and be with us. Therefore, we will supernaturally follow Jesus and obey Jesus, though not perfectly in this life. In this life, the children of God are in a sanctification process or a spiritual maturing process. Some people say, “I’m not all I want to be, but thank God I am not what I used to be.” The Holy Spirit helps us mature so we can be all God wants us to be. Because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit within us makes us what God wants us to be.

John 14:23-24 Jesus answered him (Judas, not Iscariot), “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.”

Because we love Jesus as God’s children, we will keep or obey Jesus’ words. The Holy Spirit within us helps us obey Jesus’ words. The Spirit teaches us how to obey Jesus, because He is the Spirit of Truth, and He works through the Truth, and the Truth is Jesus. As a child of God, remember this Good News: *God the Father and God the Son love us and they live within us and stay within us throughout our time on earth and in eternity!* Their love in us will increase our love for them, and we will keep Jesus’ words more faithfully, and His joy will fill our hearts. On the other hand, remember Jesus warning, “Whoever does not love me does not keep my words.”

John 16:13-14 “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

Just as Jesus did not speak on His own, the Holy Spirit will not speak on His own. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit will speak with one voice together in the Bible and within the children of God. They will never contradict one another in thought, word, or deed. They will speak the Truth together, and they will empower the children of God to understand the Bible and do the truth. Jesus did this in His first disciples and He does this in all of His disciples. Therefore, we glorify God and we will lead people to receive and love Jesus.

John 17:3 “And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

Eternal life is found in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit living within the children of God as the Bible teaches. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit reveal true reality, and they teach and empower the children of God to live in this fallen and sinful world according to what they learn. They teach the children of God how to think and live with reason in a fallen world that is unreasonable, and where many people think and do what is unreasonable. God lives within the total being of His children, and they teach and empower them to live authentically in righteousness and in do what is right (just). In our fallen world, the children of God will never always do right perfectly all the time, because the world, the flesh, and the devil will still tempt them. However, because they love God, the direction of their lives will be righteous living in the power of God and sin will be the exception.

John 17:8 “For the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.”

Jesus emphasized repeatedly that the words He spoke, the words recorded in the Bible, are words that God the Father gave Him to give to His disciples, and Jesus commanded them to give His words to others. They received the words, the teachings, and the examples of Jesus, and they learned, believed, knew, and shared the truth of Jesus. Three questions for us are: Do we believe Jesus spoke the truth? Do we believe that the Bible is true? Do we want to share the truth with others.

Joh 17:17-18 “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”

In John chapter 17, Jesus prayed for His disciples, and He prayed for all who would come to believe in Him and receive Him because of their testimony. For almost 2,000 years, Jesus' followers have continued to love Him and keep His words. God has used the Truth that Jesus revealed to set apart His children for a holy use in an unholy world, and they continue to share the Truth of God with others. The Truth that sets the children of God apart for a holy use is the Truth who is Jesus, the Spirit of Truth, and the Truth of God's word in the Bible all working together.

Remember: John 18:37 — What Jesus told Pilate, Jesus says to all of us:

“For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

The Gospel of John, the whole Bible, and Christianity give a multitude of good and sufficient reasons to be a Christian. All these reasons are good and sufficient because they are true. The one or main reason I am a Christian is because Christianity is true. The Word of God written is true. The Bible explains reality as created by God, as reality is today, and reality as God has promised it will be. The words of God are reasonable and righteous. The Holy Spirit has done and continues doing the work that the Father and Jesus have done and do in the Children of God. Will you listen to His voice?

As a child of God, if anyone asks you why you are a Christian, your first answer can be: “I am a Christian because Christianity is true.” With the help of the Holy Spirit and the Truth of God's Word, the Bible, you can help others learn the truth and though their learning the truth about Jesus they can begin stepping out in faith and follow Jesus. As Charles G. Finney said, “*The first step in saving faith is believing the Bible is true.*” With the Holy Spirit's help, as you share the Truth of God from the Scriptures, you can help others take their first step of faith. Remember: Jesus Christ is Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and He will take away the sin of anyone who will receive Him and believe in Him as He has revealed the true God in the Bible. Even more, He will give them the power to become children of God and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit will live within them.

Study the Gospel of John and a verse-by-verse commentary, go to the: [International Bible Study Commentary](#). Copyright 2024 by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.