

The Truth Will Set You Free

Jesus said, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). From what does the truth set us free?

Free from Satan – Jesus pulled no punches; He told His Jewish listeners that they were children of the devil (John 8:44). So it is with every person who lives in sin: the devil has a claim on our souls. Only the truth revealed through Jesus Christ can break such power and release us from our bondage (Heb. 2:14-15).

Free from immorality – Those who do not love truth find their lives profoundly affected. The “works of the flesh” in Galatians 5:19-21 reads like a laundry list of what is far too common in people’s lives and relationships. God’s truth shows people a better way to live (Ps. 119:105). The sanctifying power of the Gospel transforms lives (John 17:17; Rom. 12:1-2).

Free from confusion – God is not the author of confusion, but rather of peace (1 Cor. 14:33). Truth shines like a beacon in the midst of a mixed-up world. A poet surveyed the current “information age” and asked: “Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?” The answer to both questions is found in the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:18-25).

Free from petty conflict – Many of the battles we choose to fight are ultimately pointless and destructive. Other battles absolutely MUST be fought: “Contend earnestly for the faith...” (Jude 3). God’s word sets us free to be able to know the difference.

Free from false ideas – Naaman was a slave to his own expectations until he encountered a man of God who told him the truth. Because of truth, Naaman’s, “Behold, I thought...” (2 Kings 5:11) became, “Now, I know...” (2 Kings 5:15). People only believe that which they think is true; however, God’s word must be allowed to inform, and if necessary change, those beliefs.

Free from improper values – Christ came to earth with a message for all humankind: “You are all thinking too much in the short-term.” He asked, “What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?” (Mk. 8:36). The truth sets us free from the tyranny of self-centered, short-sighted desires and enables us to treasure God above all things.

Free from a spineless lack of conviction – While professing a lack of conviction may seem safe to most, the truth convinces us that there is great good to be found in standing on the promises of God (2 Cor. 1:20). Another poet wrote, “The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity.” The truth, embraced and believed, will set us free from the danger of spinelessness in matters of great consequence.

Free from condemnation – “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1). Obedience to the truth found in the Gospel will set a person free from sin and condemnation (Rom. 1:5, 16:26). No wonder the Proverbs writer exclaimed: “Buy the truth and do not sell it” (Prov. 23:23).

Thank God for His truth that has the power to set us free!

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