

Are You Afraid Of The Truth?

Author Unknown

Jesus stated, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Think about what that statement says.

First, we can know truth. Jesus said so. Some people think that truth is relative. They believe that truth changes based on time, circumstances, and personal feeling and interpretation. They see truth as fluid, always adjusting, changing. What is true today may not be true tomorrow, and then it may be true again next week. Jesus, however, settled the matter. His statement is unequivocal; **we can know truth!**

Second, it is the truth that will make us free. How odd that so many people see it exactly the opposite. They're afraid of the truth; it scares them. They believe what they believe, and they're happy in that belief. Any substantive examination of what they believe makes them extremely uncomfortable. To put their understanding of truth under a microscope of analysis is taken as a threat to them personally. Often, they react to the prospect by simply shutting down the process. They will not allow examination of what they believe to be truth. But Jesus said, "the truth shall make you free!" Learning truth should set one's mind free, it should be liberating. Going through the process of gaining knowledge of truth is exactly what education is all about. Study is aimed at searching for truth. Knowing truth **equips** a person to successfully deal with whatever situation might confront him.

Third, some points of truth can be inconvenient, even painful. But even in those cases, the truth is still the truth. Running from it, pretending it doesn't exist, refusing to believe it does not change the fact that it is the truth. **Denying** the reality of truth in a given situation ultimately makes it harder to deal with that situation. A person who is injured from a fall, examined, x-rayed, and subsequently diagnosed with a broken leg can refuse to believe that his leg is broken. He can even refuse to see a doctor for fear of what the truth may be. That will not change the fact, however, that his leg is broken. Denying the truth, refusing to believe it will only make his life more difficult.

Many people **refuse** to face the truth that their spiritual lives are a mess. Their defense mechanism is to simply not think about it. But not thinking about their spiritual state, refusing to deal with it realistically will not help them - "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

The only thing that will help you get your life in order is to get into God's word, search out the truth, and properly apply it to your life.

WE ARE SAVED BY MANY THINGS

Terry Joe Kee

Most religious people will acknowledge that we are cleansed by the blood of Christ. Actually, no one can deny this fact because the Bible plainly says we are cleansed by the blood (I John 1:7; John 1:29; I Peter 1:18,19). The blood of Christ was shed at His death (John 19:34). The only place where we contact that blood is in baptism (Romans 6:3,4). The religious world emphasizes faith, repentance, and confession, but then minimizes the importance of baptism. The argument is made that baptism does not save, but the scriptures plainly tell us that it does (I Peter 3:21). We would never try to suggest one is saved by baptism alone, but to act as if baptism has nothing to do with salvation is ludicrous.

We are saved by many things:

Faith. "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law" (Romans 3:28).

Grace. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8,9).

Belief. "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31).

Hope. "For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?" (Rom. 8:24).

Blood of Christ. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins" (Col. 1:14).

Calling on the name of the Lord. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:13).

Confession. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:9,10).

Baptism. "The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 3:21).

There are more things that could be added to this list, but I mention these, just to help us see we are not saved by any one thing alone. Not by faith alone, grace alone, blood alone, hope alone, or baptism alone. But all these working together are what bring us to Christ and into Christ. It is by all of these that we are saved and not by any one separate from the others.

But also let us be perfectly clear, NO ONE can be saved without all of these. No one can be saved without the blood of Christ, faith, confession, baptism, hope, etc. Which of these can we leave out and still be saved? It is the sum (cf. Psalm 139:17) of these things that bring us into Christ, into salvation, and which give us the hope of heaven.

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

Remember in Prayer:

Myra Preston remains in ICU in NEA Baptist. She is still on a ventilator.
Mark Brewer was able to return home from the hospital and is showing some improvement.
Marshall Lands is in Encompass, Room 215 by the door, and if all goes well, he can go home January 20th.

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on Prayer Request Lists.

Please update us if needed.

Also please pray for these who are directly or indirectly affected by Covid-19,
and please keep us updated.

Jeff and Paula Presley

Tim and Tracy Johnson (son and daughter-in-law of James and Sandra Johnson).

Tim and Tracy are in ICU at NEA Baptist.

Sympathy:

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Nick Warren, son-in-law of Gerald and Sandy George, who was killed in a plane crash this past Monday.

Our sympathy also goes out to the family of Louis Preston. Memorial service arrangements for Louis remain incomplete at this time.

Sympathy is extended as well to the family of Gloria Thomas. Her arrangements are also incomplete at this time.

In Other News:

Children and Teens: Even though our elders and your Bible class teachers are showing an abundance of caution to keep you safe by keeping you with your family during class time for now, that does not mean your Bible study needs are forgotten!

Ages from Babies to 6th grade and parents are invited to continue the routine of going before Bible class to Room 4 on Sunday a.m. and Wednesday p.m. to pick up a Bible study/activity packet to carry to the auditorium and work on during each Bible class period.

Teens, please go to your classroom to get your Bible study packet to work on in auditorium during class time or at home if you prefer!

Those Privileged To Serve

January 10, 2021

SUNDAY MORNING
 Song Leader: Mark Wooten
 Opening Prayer: Ben Johns
 Closing Prayer: Mitch Mosley
 Bible Reading: Scott Pratt
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD’S TABLE

Presiding: Hal Baugh
 Mike Felts Dan Nichols
 Jack Johnson Jimmie Powell
 Tom Carner Carlos Wood

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Randy Oden

SUNDAY EVENING
 Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
 Opening Prayer: Hal Baugh
 Closing Prayer: Carroll Morris
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

January 13, 2021
 Song Leader: Noah Flanrey
 Opening Prayer: Steve Stoker
 Closing Prayer: Kevin Roush

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

January 13, 2021
 Scottie Blanchard

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

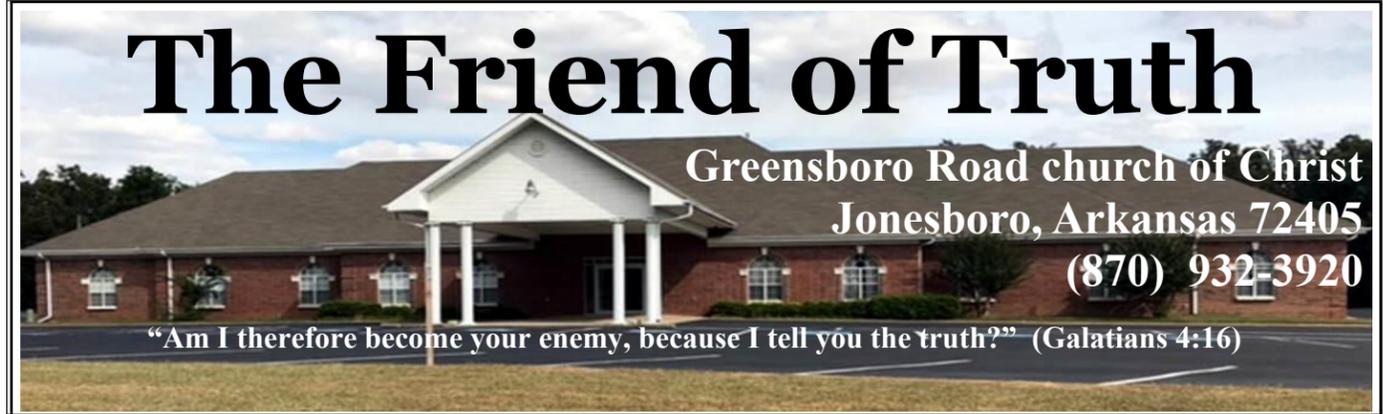
Week Of

January 3, 2021

Sunday Bible Study	51
Sunday AM Worship	80
Sunday PM Worship	76
Wednesday Bible Study	79
Contribution	\$5675

“Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.”

Proverbs 21:2



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KeeNotes

- SHEPHERDS**
 Dan Nichols
 Randy Oden
DEACONS
 Scottie Blanchard
 Jerry Dodson
 Mike Felts
 Jason Garland
 Marshall Lands
 Mark Wooten
EVANGELIST
 Terry Joe Kee
MISSIONARIES
 Samrit Kammanee
 Arnold Kelley
 Micah Robertson, Montana
 Warren, PA
SERVICES
SUNDAY
 Classes 9:00 a.m.
 Worship 10:00 a.m.
 5:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

We all rejoice with our brethren who desired special prayers being offered for their lack of evangelistic zeal. As I told you, this sermon was my own confession. We rejoiced Sunday for the privilege of praying with our brethren and sisters: Reginald and Susan Read, J. L. and Brenda May, Carroll and Myra Morris, Vicki Powell, and Lou Ann Baugh. We also had a number of our members who acknowledged after services their desire to be numbered with those who were determined to do better. I had several Sunday morning and evening who either asked me to add them to this list of those needing our prayers or wrote it on their attendance cards. I am afraid I will forget someone who personally asked me to add them to the list of those with such desires of heart, so I just say, many more than the eight souls mentioned by name need to be added to the number of souls determined to do more and do better in sowing the seed of the kingdom in 2021.

But some may ask, how can I help? Or I am not quite ready to challenge the beliefs of my family and friends, but I want to help sow the seed, so what can I do? Let me offer some simple things you might try as you become braver. Leave a tract whenever you visit someone. If you go to the doctor’s office, barber shop, or many other places of business, there may be a table where leaving a tract would be possible. A brother in Christ years ago, who had been a barber, had a customer who left a tract sitting on the table with the magazines each time he came. At first the brother just threw them away, but over time he picked one up and began reading. The more he read over the months and even years, the more he became convinced of the truth and was converted to Christ. That man’s son-in-law and grandson are preachers today - all because of a Christian who never said a word, but simply and quietly left a tract. You see, he just sowed the seed.

How about those who are on Facebook just posting a favorite scripture once a week? Maybe sowing that little seed will help open a door of opportunity to teach someone the gospel. If you are not sure what to write or what to say, how about sharing the church’s Facebook posts for all of your friends to see or sharing some brother’s or sister’s scriptural posts from time to time. If that one little seed were to fall into just the right place, who knows what might begin to grow and flourish? It is all about taking the time to sow the seed. God will give the increase.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?
Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17
Believe the Word of God
John 8:24
Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3
Confess your faith in Jesus as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10
Be Baptized for the remission of your sins
Acts 2:38
Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10

Each One Invite One in Twenty-One