

**Pastor Paul Bawden**  
**Grace Evangelical Church**  
**Sunday, November 8, 2009**  
**God – The Truth**  
**Hebrews 6:16-20**

### **A game show that was fun to watch when I was growing up was "To Tell the Truth."**

It was an American television game show created by Bob Stewart and produced by Goodson-Todman Productions.

"To Tell The Truth" had its beginnings in 1956. Along with *The Price Is Right*, it is one of two game shows in the United States to have aired at least one version in every decade since the 1950s.

If you remember the show, the show challenged a panel of four celebrities to correctly identify a described contestant who typically had an unusual occupation or experience.

This "person of truth" was joined by two "imposters" who pretended to be that "person of truth.

The celebrity panelists questioned the team of challengers, with the imposters allowed to lie, but the person of truth was "sworn to tell the truth".

### **Truth. What is truth? (was the question of Pilate to our Lord). Is there the true source for truth? Can you and I experience truth? How does truth affect our lives?**

#### **I. What is truth?**

##### **1. Definitions.**

The dictionary starts talking about truth as the conformity with fact or reality; Verified or indisputable fact: Agreement with a standard or original.

##### **2. Considerations.**

Thusly truth to be truth has to be fact or reality.

Even more than that, for truth to be truth it must be in agreement with a standard.

Even more than that, truth to be truth must be in agreement with an absolute standard – a standard that remains the same regardless of the passing of time.

Even more than that, for truth to be truth it must be the eternal standard. Otherwise it could be here today and gone tomorrow.

##### **3. Definition.**

**Which means that true truth is that which is ultimate eternal reality.**

Is there a source for that kind of truth – ultimate eternal reality?

#### **II. Is there a true source for eternal truth – ultimate eternal reality?**

##### **1. Is man that source for ultimate eternal reality?**

In the popular arena today, there is one source for truth, and that is man himself. One of the popular ideas is that you and I are truth. Therefore we can determine what truth is.

This means that truth is not absolute. Truth is not eternal.

#### **Why?**

For you and I are on this planet for a few years, and then we are no longer here, we pass from this life. Man, then, can't be eternal truth, neither can he determine truth.

Man, however, determining truth can be very dangerous, when it comes to developing his ideas, and developing his religion.

For if he determines that behavior is okay, such as being a terrorist bomber to kill people he doesn't agree with, then that is truth to him. If a person believes that his ideology for government should be that people are made to depend on government, or have major control over people's lives, that is truth to that person.

Or if a person determines that it is okay to lie under certain circumstances, that is truth to him. Sometimes lies are couched in words that make the lie sound true.

**For Instance:**

Writing letters of recommendation can be hazardous--tell the truth and you might get sued if the contents are negative. Robert Thornton, a professor at Lehigh University, has a collection of "virtually litigation-proof" phrases called the Lexicon of Intentionally Ambiguous Recommendations, or LIAR.

**Here are some examples:**

**\*To describe an inept person--"I enthusiastically recommend this candidate with no qualifications whatsoever."**

**\*To describe an ex-employee who had problems getting along with fellow workers--"I am pleased to say that this candidate is a former colleague of mine."**

**\*To describe an unproductive candidate--"I can assure you that no person would be better for the job."**

**\*To describe an applicant not worth consideration--" I would urge you to waste no time in making this candidate an offer of employment."**

**\*To describe one who is habitually lazy "You will be lucky if you can get this person to work for you."**

**Lying seems to be a way of life for many people.**

**The book 'The Day America Told the Truth' revealed these staggering statistics. Of those surveyed:**

**86% lie regularly to parents. 73% lie regularly to siblings 69% lie regularly to spouses.**

Yes, all done in the name of being truthful, for I determine what truth is, even though it is a lie.

Obviously, then, mankind can't be the source of truth. He is able to tell the truth, but he is also able to lie, and stretch the truth, which is really lying in the first place.

**If we are going to find the ultimate eternal reality, true truth, we will have to go outside of humanity. True truth can't be found in him and his ideas.**

**2. Is God that source for ultimate eternal truth?**

**(1) Any old god will do.**

Of course, it depends on the kind of God you believe in. If you believe in a god who has some kind of power and knowledge that is concocted by man with his limited power and knowledge that is the kind of god you will have. A god like man.

That's why one of the popular ideas about god is that man is god, which again doesn't make any sense for man lives and dies. Thusly, if man is god and dies, god dies too. How depressing is that!

And there are those today who think that it doesn't make any difference what kind of god you believe in, for we will all make it to the good place anyhow, if there is such a place.

**But can all the ideas of god agree so we all can get to the good place? Of course, they can't, so we end up not knowing if our idea of god will get us to the good place, for we don't know which one is true, if there is anyone that is true.**

Thusly, if any old god will do, we end up without having any true truth. We keep ever learning and never coming to a knowledge of what ultimate eternal reality, true truth, is all about.

## **(2) The one and only biblical God.**

That's why we must come quickly to the God of the Bible, the biblical God.

In this study of the attributes of God, we have seen that He is an eternal person, who has revealed Himself to us in His eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is also the God who is all knowing, omniscient, and all present – omnipresent, and all powerful – omnipotent, as we considered last week.

Since the biblical God is eternal, all knowing, and all present, and all powerful, it can only mean that **HE IS THE ULTIMATE ETERNAL REALITY – TRUE TRUTH PERSONIFIED. HE IS THE ULTIMATE ABSOLUTE STANDARD IN TIME AND ETERNITY!!!!**

Hear some of the Scriptures describing the God of the Bible in regard to truth.

### **\*\*From The Old Testament.**

**The word, truth in the Old Testament has the meaning of stability, or steadfastness. Yes, lasting reality.**

#### **Deuteronomy 32:4**

"He is our Rock, his work is perfect: For all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He."

#### **Psalms 31:5**

"Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth." David is speaking to the LORD here about his physical distress and danger. Christ used the first part of this verse when He gave up His last breath on the cross as He addressed His heavenly Father (Luke 23:46).

#### **Psalms 86:15**

But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth."

#### **Jeremiah 4:2**

"And you will swear, 'As the LORD lives,' in truth, in justice and in righteousness."

#### **Zechariah 8:8 – God's future for Jerusalem.**

"And I will bring them back and they will live in the midst of Jerusalem; and they will be my people, and I will be their God in truth and righteousness."

**The Old Testament is clear that God is the TRUTH, And is abundant in Truth – ultimate eternal reality.**

**Let's look, then, at the New Testament.**

### **\*\*From The New Testament.**

**Where the word for truth means to be worthy of credit – veracity – truly – or sincerely.**

#### **Romans 1:25**

"They changed the truth of God into a lie."  
God, the Father, then is truth.

**John 14:6**

Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but through Me."

**John 16:13**

"But when He, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."

**Now we begin to see that in the Triunity, God the Father is Truth, The Son, Jesus Christ is Truth, and the Holy Spirit is Truth. The ONE God existing in three persons is Truth – ultimate eternal reality.**

**There is no doubt that the biblical God is Truth and thusly the Source of TRUTH – ULTIMATE ETERNAL REALITY.**

**Which brings us to our third question,**

**III. Can you and I experience God's truth, His ultimate eternal reality?****1. Man's Condition before the biblical God of Truth.****(1) Romans 1:25.**

We quoted above Romans 1:25, that people exchanged the truth of God for a lie (really **the** (an article) lie).

What is that referring to? It is referring to when Adam and Eve rejected the biblical God who is truth and believed the lie in the temptation of Satan that if they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they would be as God (Elohim), knowing good and evil.

Adam and Eve certainly discovered what evil was. But they didn't become God, Elohim, yes, they didn't become truth, ultimate eternal reality.

Actually, in one sense, just the opposite, for still made in the image of God, Adam and Eve became sinners, needing God's forgiveness and grace. Adam's sin was passed unto to the entire human race, for by one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all have sinned (Romans 5:12).

Now that all are sinners before God, they can't really discover God's truth, His ultimate eternal reality on their own. For because of his sinfulness, man doesn't seek after God. As Romans 1 goes on to say, due to believing THE LIE, man worships the creature rather than the Creator. Why? **He is still believing THE LIE THAT HE IS god.**

**(2) II Corinthians 4:4.**

And THE LIE that man believed and continues to believe about being god, has caused his mind to be blinded so that he can't truly understand the biblical God, the Source of ultimate eternal reality, true truth (cf II Corinthians 4:4).

**Does that mean that man can not experience the biblical God who is truth, ultimate eternal reality? Of course not.**

**2. The God of Truth becomes directly involved in man's condition of living a lie, that he is god.**

How does He do that?

**(1) It has its culmination in the cross of Christ, His burial, and bodily resurrection – Calvary and the Open Tomb.**

The biblical eternal God who is Truth, sends His eternal Son who is Truth (John 3:16) to pay the penalty for man breaking God's law (which is death), because he believed the lie that he could be god by obeying Satan.

That's why Jesus declared that He was the way, the TRUTH, and the Life, and no could come to the Father but through Me.

As the Truth, Jesus could call Satan a murderer from the beginning, and that he does not stand in Truth because there is no Truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of it (John 8:44).

It's no wonder, then, that Satan tried his best to have Christ killed at his birth, through Peter have Christ get off his mission, and then try his best to keep Christ from going to the cross as He prayed three times in the garden.

The challenge was set from Genesis 3:15 – the first prophetic message of the Truth defeating the liar.

Now it comes to a head at the Cross of Christ.

**Truth versus liar.**

**Truth versus deception.**

**Truth versus error.**

**Truth versus falsehood.**

**And the question that comes is, who will win, TRUTH OR liar, TRUTH or falsehood?**

The One Who Is The TRUTH was the victor for He came forth from the grave bodily, defeating the liar, the devil himself, who is the father of death, stripping him of his power and might.

Yes, Jesus, the Truth did it for us, as well as His Father to satisfy His righteous demands, and paying the penalty for our sin in His death.

But He did it for us so that we no longer have to believe the lie that we are god and can run our own lives determining our destiny which is all part of the lie.

**To make Christ's truth, His forgiveness and grace available to us,**

**(2) God packaged His truth in Jesus Christ's person and work for us in His gospel.**

**What is the gospel?** Christ died for our sins according the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and the He was seen (I Corinthians 15:3-5).

**But note what Paul calls the gospel.**

**Galatians 2:5 – He calls it, "the truth of the gospel would remain in you."**

**Colossians 1:5 – "because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel.**

**The truth of the gospel, is what God has given us, the truth's person and work, Jesus Christ, for defeating the LIE that we are god and can do our own thing to get to God. Yes defeating the LIE that we are sinners needing God's forgiveness and grace.**

**Since the Truth, Jesus Christ, has defeated the liar, Satan, providing us forgiveness and eternal life, how is that truth received by us?**

**(3) God provides us the way to experience His truth, ultimate eternal reality – which is His very person.**

**Ephesians 1:13 says this:**

"In Him (Christ), you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise."

**There it is – Faith in, believing the gospel,** the message of Truth, that Christ died for one's sins (his substitute to pay the penalty for his breaking God's law by believing the lie), He was buried, and He rose again the third day.

**James 1:18 adds**, "In the exercise of His will, He brought us forth (regenerated by spiritual birth) by the word of truth (the gospel) so that we would be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures."

**(4) Each of us must make that decision to accept the gospel.**

We must believe that Christ was died to pay the penalty for our sin, was buried, and rose again the third day. If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, believed the Gospel – that He died for your sins, was buried, and conquered the grave for you,

**(5) Upon accepting Christ as personal Savior, the Truth, the believer has come to the knowledge of the Truth (I Timothy 2:4).**

**Paul told Timothy in I Timothy 2:4:**

**"Who (referring to God) desires that all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the TRUTH."**

**So the one who has accepted Christ as Savior, the TRUTH, that person now begins to have His spiritual eyes opened to have understanding into who Jesus Christ really is, what Christ has done for him, and has for him.**

**Now the believer knows for certain that Jesus is God, and the true Savior. The believer knows that Satan is the biggest liar about him being god or the person being god. These ideas are simply not true.**

**Satan has created a great deception, and now through the light of the glorious gospel of God, the TRUTH of Jesus Christ, one's life is given the LIGHT of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 4:6).**

**This is God's truth bringing supernatural life to the believer in Jesus Christ, the true truth. Now the believer has experienced and will continue to experience ultimate eternal reality in Jesus Christ.**

**IV. How does truth affect the believer's life?**

**1. Through exposure to the Word of Truth, God's written Word, the believer can, by yielding to the Spirit of Truth who indwells him, become like Christ more each day.**

**(1) The God of truth can certainly give us His truth in His word. (which is a first class miracle, but no difficulty for the God of all power and knowledge). That is why Christ prayed to His Father to sanctify them through Your Word, for Your word is truth (John 17:17).**

**(2) The word of Truth, God's Word, is eternally and powerfully alive. Hebrews 4:12 says that it speaks to our spirits to bring conviction, renewal, direction, and empowerment.**

**(3) This why the Psalmist penned that he hid God's Word in his heart so that he might not sin against God (Psalm 119:11). He hated every false way because he knew God's truth was alive and eternal giving him truth (Psalm 119:104).**

**(4) The entrance of God's word gives light, spiritual light, understanding, knowledge and wisdom into who we are and what God has for us as individuals, what God has for our families, our church family, our country, yes, for the world (Psalm 119:130).**

**(5) It's the Word of God, His Truth, that changes us into becoming like Christ in our thoughts, attitudes, and actions as we gaze into it each day, and not glance at it, as James teaches. It is there for our learning about God, what God has for us to give us perseverance, encouragement, and hope, even though the circumstances from our human viewpoint may seem very discouraging and hopeless.**

## 2. Through the truth of God's word, the believer has something that lasts to rejoice in.

Paul told the Philippians:

"Rejoice in the Lord (the Truth), always, and again I say rejoice" (4:4). Yes, this is day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118:24).

I Corinthians 13:5 says:

"Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth."

**How about that!** Think of all the unrighteousness that is reported in our news today. There are some awful happenings in our country. In fact a lot of money is made off of immorality in our decadent culture.

But the believer in Christ, the eternal Truth, can rejoice in Him, and the eternal teachings of His Word, which is Truth, which give eternal purpose and hope.

## 3. Through the truth of God's Word, the believer has something lasting to talk about.

"Speaking the Truth in love." Ephesians 4:15.

What's the Truth here? The gospel of Jesus Christ that we can share with others. The teachings of the word of God that we can learn about and apply to our lives.

We don't have to talk just about the weather. We can ask people how they are doing on their spiritual journey.

## 4. Through the truth of God's word, the believer is given discernment in life to make the right choices and glorify God in the process.

### (1) Regarding who Jesus, the Truth is – ultimate eternal reality.

John writes these words in his First Letter (I John 4:6).

"We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know that we have the spirit of truth and the spirit of error."

In the five verses before this verse, John is writing about false prophets. The way John instructs that you can know a false prophet is if he denies that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. Those who confess that Jesus is not from God are antichrist. But believers in Christ know that He is God in the flesh, and greater is He that is in them, (the believers - Christ lives in them), than he (the evil one, the liar) that is in the world.

**John gets right to the point here about how Truth gives a believer discernment regarding who Jesus is.** Those who deny that Jesus is God in the flesh are false prophets. Those who accept Jesus as God in the flesh, and sufficient for forgiveness of sin and eternal life, are not false prophets.

This is why when I talk with people who are in the cults, I only talk to them about who Jesus Christ is. They deny that He is God in the flesh. Denying that, they don't have true TRUTH, nor do they have the eternal Savior which they desperately need.

**Satan wants to have people deny who Jesus is, God in the flesh, because that keeps people from finding out who Jesus really is. Satan is the #1 deceiver today in this regard. Paul penned in II Corinthians 11:14 that Satan is transformed into an angel of light. Satan is an imposter posing as having the truth, but he is the prime deceiver and he uses people to accomplish his purposes in government, education. Philosophy, theology, life's values, etc.**

**Only God's Word the Bible taken as it is written gives us true insight into who Jesus really is – God in flesh and the Savior of the world.**

### (2) Regarding what God's Truth, His Word, says about our daily living.

#### 1. Since there is ultimate eternal truth, there is right behavior and sinful behavior.

There is purity of speech and attitude. There is purity before marriage, and in marriage. We seek to tell the Truth and act out the truth.

**The story is told of the man, who didn't earn much as a waiter, coming out of his place of employment late at night in a major city. He found a briefcase containing cash and negotiables in the parking lot. There was no owner in sight. No one saw the waiter find it, put it in his car, and drive off. But for the waiter, there was never any question of what to do. He took the briefcase home, opened it, and searched for the owner's identity. The next day he made a few phone calls, located the distressed owner, and returned the briefcase—along with the \$25,000 cash it contained!**

**The surprising thing about this episode was the ridicule the waiter experienced at the hands of his friends and peers. For the next week or so he was called a variety of names and laughed at, all because he possessed a quality the Bible holds in high regard: Truthfulness.. Yes, being honest.**

**May we be the same.**

**2. The believer will encounter the lies from Satan seeking to deceive him so he won't really live for God.**

**Chris Thurman has written a book he entitles, "The Lies We Believe." He lists some lies we are fed by the world, and by Satan himself.**

### **Self Lies**

I must be perfect.  
I must have everyone's love and approval.  
It is easier to avoid problems than to face them.  
Things have to go my way to be happy.  
My unhappiness is externally caused.

### **Worldly Lies**

You can have it all.  
You are only as good as what you do.  
Life should be easy.  
Life should be fair.  
You shouldn't have to wait for what you want.  
People are basically good.

### **Marital Lies**

My marriage problems are my spouse's fault.  
If my marriage takes hard work, my spouse and I must not be right for each other.  
My spouse should meet all of my needs.  
My spouse owes me for what I have done for him/her.  
I shouldn't have to change who I am in order to make my marriage better.  
My spouse should be like me.

### **Distortion Lies**

I often make mountains out of molehills.  
I often take things personally.  
Things are black and white to me.  
I often miss the forest because of the trees.  
The past predicts the future.  
I often reason things out with my feelings rather than with the facts.

### **Religious Lies**

God's love can be earned.  
God hates the sin and the sinner.  
Because I am a Christian, God will protect me from pain and suffering.  
All of my problems are caused by my sins.  
It is my Christian duty to meet all the needs of others.  
Painful emotions such as anger, depression, and anxiety are signs that my faith in God is weak.

God can't use me unless I am spiritually strong.

**Then Thurman came out, a couple of years later, with another book that he entitled, "The Truths We Must Believe."**

### **3. The biblical God wants the believer to act on His Truth, His word, and defeat the evil one's lies.**

#### **(1) The Truth of God's word can defeat the self lies.**

I need to realize my position in Christ. I am accepted in the Beloved (Ephesians 1:6). I am a saint, set apart as God's possession (I Corinthians 1:2). Nothing or no one can separate the believer from God's love (Romans 8:38-39). I am a conqueror in Christ (Romans 8:37). God wants to help me solve my problems and challenges that I am experiencing (Philippians 4:13; Romans 5:1-5).

#### **(2) The Truth of God's Word can defeat the worldly lies.**

Jesus taught that "life consists not in the abundance of what one possesses" (Luke 12:15). Still, my God will supply all my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

We are not to love the world, nor the things in the world. We are to use what God gives us to take care of ourselves and our families, and give a portion of it, as God prospers us (8%, 9%, 10%, 12%, 15%) to further the Lord's kingdom on earth. We are to wait on the Lord (Psalm 27:14).

#### **(3) The Truth of God's Word can defeat marital lies.**

Ephesians 5:18-33 is the classic passage that tells us the husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He is to be the spiritual servant leader of his wife and home, setting the example of Christ's unconditional and sacrificial service. The wife is to respect her husband. Together they let Christ change them in the power of the Holy Spirit. Together they are a team working together to glorify God seeking to meet the needs of each other, while leading their children in the teachings of Christ. They seek to spend time with each other enjoying each other's company.

#### **(4) The Truth of God's Word can defeat seeming distortions of life.**

The Scripture says that the things that are temporal are passing away. The things which are not seen are eternal (II Corinthians 4:17-18). There are some things in life that are sin, are wrong – "Immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, greed, anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech" (Colossians 3:5-8). In some areas, God's word gives us principles by which to direct our lives. "Is it a weight? (Hebrews 12:1). "Is it a stumbling block?" (I Corinthians 8:9). "Does it edify or build up?" (I Corinthians 8:1). "Does it glorify God?" (I Corinthians 10:31). We can trust God that He knows the future (Isaiah 46:9 – I am God. . . . declaring the end from the beginning . . . My purpose will be established."

#### **(5) The Truth of God's Word can defeat religious lies.**

"All our righteousness is as a filthy garment" (Isaiah 64:6). God proved His love toward us, while we were sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). In the world a follower of Christ will have tribulation, but we are to be of good cheer for Christ has overcome the world (John 16:33). We are all as believers in process and have our different challenges. Paul had them (cf. Romans 7 – where he wanted to do what is right and he didn't). Paul had a thorn in the flesh that God didn't remove, but gave Paul grace to go forward in His power in his weakness (II Corinthians 12:7-10). God will use any believer who is available to Him to do His will (Colossians 3:23-24).

**It's one thing to know the TRUTH. It's another thing to believe the TRUTH. It's quite another matter to DO the TRUTH.**

God who is TRUTH did the TRUTH for us in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ who is Truth. The Holy Spirit of TRUTH applies the TRUTH of God's word to our lives as we obey the Lord.

**The challenge this week is to be DOERS of the TRUTH – the ultimate eternal Reality – Letting Jesus Christ, the TRUTH live out His life through us.**

**May we always remember who we serve, The God of Truth who can not lie.**

**What does our text say in Hebrews 6:18ff?**

**“So that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie (His oath and promise), we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and on which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. ”**

**Anchored in the Lord, let's this week be people of ultimate eternal reality, God's TRUTH.**