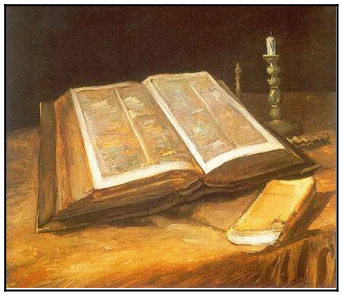
What is Truth?



And do you really believe it?

***Part 2* - Selected Scriptures**

2/20/05

Introduction: John 8:30-32

Definition of "Truth": Truth describes that which conforms to fact or reality.
We believe that "Absolute truth is the fundamental moral category in the universe. Without it people perish" (Proverbs 29:18)

- We claim to believe that Truth is embodied in God the Father, Son, and Spirit;
- We profess that God's Word is Truth and that His Gospel Message is Truth;
- We further acknowledge that God in Truth speaks to all important issues that relate to life (whether it be speaking on the subject of marriage, parenting, church polity or Christian conduct etc.); However…

*** Do We Really Believe the TRUTH?**

God's Truth will produce a radical difference in our lives, if that Truth is held to with Genuine Faith

I. ***Do we really believe Truths*** **that <u>DO NOT IMPACT our personal life</u>?**
Ephesians 4:17-<u>21</u>

Truth
TRANSFORMS

II. ***Do we really believe Truths*** **that <u>WE DO NOT TAKE THE TIME TO READ, REVIEW, & MEDITATE ON</u>?** John 18:37

Truth
ILLUMINATES

III. ***Do we really believe Truths*** **that <u>WE DO NOT PRACTICE</u>?**
James 1:22-f; 2:20,26

Truth
LIVES

IV. ***Do we really believe Truths*** **that <u>WE DO NOT SHARE with others</u>?**
Matthew 5:16

Truth
SPREADS

V. ***Do we really believe Truths*** **that <u>WE ARE ASHAMED OF in public</u>?**
Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 1:16-17

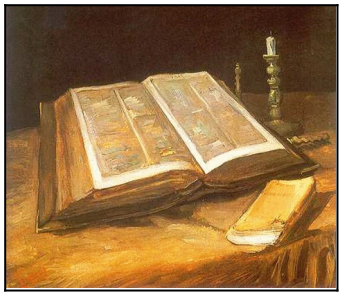
Truth
SHINES

VI. ***Do we really believe Truths*** **that <u>WE are willing to COMPROMISE</u>?**
Revelation 2:14,20

Truth
STANDS

Our prayer needs to be: ***"Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief."*** (Mark 9:24)

What is Truth?



And do you really believe it?

***Part 2* - Selected Scriptures**

2/20/05

Introduction: John 8:30-32

A Review of Part 1 of "What is Truth?"

Definition of "Truth": Truth describes that which conforms to fact or reality. Truth is fact and reality. A "Truth" then is a fundamental law, statement, object, or event or action that matches with ultimate reality. Truth describes actuality; realness; authenticity; & genuineness.

Opposite of Truth: Falsehood; lies, distortion or misrepresentation of facts.

Today we live in an anti-truth world.

2 Tim. 3:7-8
Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

Is there a <u>true</u> way …

- For husbands & wives to relate to each other in marriage? (Are there roles & responsibilities for the home?)
- Of rearing children? ("train up a child in the way he should go…" Which way is that?)
- To organize a church, evangelize, or make disciples? (Who qualifies for church leadership?)
- What about sex? Are there defined boundaries as to when, where and with whom such activity is to occur?
- To enter Heaven or Eternal Life? Is Jesus Christ really the only way? If so why?

Without Truth, anything goes (there are no rights & wrongs, no ethics & morals)

America's general rejection of God (He is no longer allowed in our public schools or public life) has become the catalyst behind much of the chaos, confusion, disorders we find today in family life, education, the legal system (court system etc.), etc.

- If there is no God (and we are a product of chance or evolutionary cause, as Darwinism)
- Then there is no Lawgiver to whom we are accountable.
- If there is no Lawgiver then there is no law or standard by which to measure right & wrong.
- If there is no Law or standard by which to measure right & wrong, there is no absolute truth.
- And if there is no absolute truth, there is no basis for morality.
- Each person can determine the "rules for life" and man can be his own god.

The problem with this is this: If everyone can make his own rules for life, then when my rules and your rules conflict, there is no structure to society to determine how to resolve the issue.

Each will be out for what he wants at the expense of anyone else's property or life. There is no basis for common law, if there is no basis for truth. If God is "dead" or non-existent then everything becomes permissible.

Interestingly enough, God said “lawlessness” would mark the last days, prior to Christ’s return. And the Antichrist will be called the “lawless” one as he will embody the lawless spirit that will engulf the world in the end times. (2 Th. 2:8 – “Wicked one” = anomos; lit. without law). The stage is being set today for his arrival.

Our culture is committed to attaining it’s vision of radical liberation from all authority. Authorities are viewed by many as the enemy of individual freedom.

Without Truth, there is no way of knowing anything for sure

“Absolute truth is the fundamental moral category in the universe. Without it people perish (Proverbs 29:18 – where "vision" is "revelatory vision" or truth from God). Individuals, cultures and entire civilizations unravel at the seams when they are subjected to a truth-deprivation.” (Doug McLachlan)

Beliefs directly affect morals. What you believe determines how you behave.

John 8:44
Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

- Truth is not determined by <u>popular opinion</u>. (There was a time when the majority of the world believed that the earth was flat; they were wrong)

- Truth is not determined by the <u>five senses</u>. (Our sense of sight for example might mistake a mirage for water) Truth is not apparent reality (what seems to be real), but reality itself.

- Truth is not <u>relative but absolute</u> (It is often said “what is true to you may not be true to me”; But we are not the measuring stick by which truth is determined);

  It must be recognized that we live in a pluralistic society. “Pluralism is simply recognition that different cultures believe different things. But pluralism is also the harmful ideology that heralds the message that all truth is relative and all religious beliefs -- even those that flatly contradict each other – deserve equal respect. Pluralism is best distilled in the popular mantra: “that may be *your* truth, but it’s not *my* truth.” (David Burggraff)

  There exist many enemies of those who hold to absolute truth. Though they believe in no absolutes, they are absolutely sure that those who believe in absolutes are absolutely wrong for doing so. Radical relativism is a direct challenge to the Christian Gospel.

  Enemy # 1 to many people are those who hold to a “one way” to God belief system.

- Truth does not change with <u>time</u>. (As a Fundamental Law, what was true 2,000 years ago remains true today)

- Truth does not change with <u>culture or custom</u> (What is true in Africa is true in America). Lying is wrong in any culture; the same goes for stealing; committing adultery etc.

- Truth is <u>not invented</u> it is <u>discovered</u> (Man cannot create truth, he can only discover truth; Man can discover truth whether that truth is locked away in something in the physical universe or whether it is a law or principle that God uncovers for man to comprehend, as Christians believe He has done for us in the Bible)

1. We believe that Truth is embodied in God

All truth must be tested by a standard, and there is no standard beyond God. He is the perfect and ultimate source and standard of truth.

--Truth is not invented by man.
--Truth does not evolve from society's mores.

a. God the Father is the truth.
b. Jesus Christ is the truth.
EX: John 14:6 - "I am the way, the truth, and the life."
c. The Holy Spirit is the truth.
Jn. 14:17, 15:26 - He is called the "Spirit of truth."

2. We believe that Truth is knowable

The Lord Jesus Christ said: John 17:17
Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.
God's truth was revealed to us in the person of His Son, and has been recorded for us in the pages of sacred Scripture.

3. We believe that Truth must be proclaimed with conviction

2 Timothy 4:2-5 - Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

4. Truth shall set you Free!

See: John 8:30-32

At the very least these people made an outward profession of faith (Rienecker, citing Morris & Schnackenburg).

There is a belief which is not a true saving faith (Acts 8:13-24; Ja. 2:19; 1 Cor. 15:2).

The "belief" was perhaps "nominally at any rate, as in John 2:23" (Robertson Word Pictures V, p. 148).

v. 31

Some might profess to be believers (or true disciples) but the real test is whether or not they remain committed to the Word of Christ.

Jesus now singles out those whose faith has been ignited upon hearing His Words.

"Continue" = to remain or abide in the Word of Christ

The grand mark of a true disciple of Christ is continuity in His Gospel message.

A true disciple is one who holds on to the truth and never lets go. There is no apostasy for a true disciple; there are no defectors from genuine Christianity; there is no true child of God who will ever abandon his/her faith in the word of Christ.

"Then are ye" – Jesus uses His words carefully. He does not say "then will ye be."

He is not saying that continuing in His Word will make you a disciple, but rather that continuing in His Word reveals that you "are" a true disciple.

"My disciples indeed" – A disciple is one who has come under the spiritual teachings and disciplines of His master (the word discipline and disciple are related terms).

The word "disciple" refers to one who has been trained in such a way that he mimics, imitates, or copies the lessons and lifestyle of his teacher.

That is why the first-century Antiochian believers were called "Christians," because others noticed how much they resembled Christ (in their actions and reactions, in their attitudes and motivations).

"Disciples indeed" – the word "indeed" means truly. It is the same word as the word "truth" in v. 32.

A disciple "indeed" refers to a true, bonefied, real or genuine disciple. The statement then does not refer to a good disciple or a better disciple (as if some might assume that Jesus is implying that one might be a disciple but not a good one, unless He continues in His Word).

Here, Jesus is referring to a real disciple (is a real Christian) as opposed to a false one.

Jesus is saying: "Your future loyalty to My teaching will prove the reality of your present profession. . . continuance in the word (teaching) proves the sincerity or insincerity of the profession. It is the acid test of life" (R.W.P. p. 149).

> "**You will know" –** future middle – meaning: you will come to know for yourself. You will be personally enlightened or illuminated to the truth.
>
> **'The truth shall make you free" –**
>
> ***"the" truth -
> Truth is exclusive (truth is not relative; ex. What is true for you may not be true for me)
> Truth is not optional, where you can pick any set of beliefs and turn out okay
>
> ***"shall make you"
> Truth is powerful
>
> ***"shall make you free" –
> Truth is liberating
>
> The word "free" means to be released from enslavements; to be unshackled from that which held you captive.
>
> Free from enslavement of sin (v. 34)
> Free from the lies of Satan (v. 44-45)

- We claim to believe that Truth is embodied in God the Father, Son, and Spirit;
- We profess that God's Word is Truth and that His Gospel Message is Truth;
- We further acknowledge that God in Truth speaks to all important issues that relate to life (whether it be speaking on the subject of marriage, parenting, church polity or Christian conduct etc.); However…

We know the truth. But are we convinced that it is really from the true God and must be followed?

*** Do We Really Believe the TRUTH?**

God's Truth will produce a radical difference in our lives, if that Truth is held to with Genuine Faith

I. ***Do we really believe Truths*** **that <u>DO NOT IMPACT our personal life</u>?**

Truth TRANSFORMS

2 Cor. 5:17
Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

See **Ephesians 4:17-<u>21</u>**

Ephes. 4:21
If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as <u>the truth is in Jesus:</u>

How has God's Truth changed your private life? Family life? Lifestyle? Entertainment choices? Etc.

Serve Him in Truth: 1 Samuel 12:24
Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

Walk in Truth: Psalm 86:11
Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.

Stand in Truth: Ephes. 6:14
Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth

II. ***Do we really believe Truths*** **that WE <u>DO NOT TAKE THE TIME TO READ, REVIEW, & MEDITATE ON</u>?**

Truth
ILLUMINATES

If it's not important enough that we would set apart time each day to have a personal devotional life, do we really believe it?

John 18:37
Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

One mark of someone who has come to the truth, is that they love the truth. They love to hear it taught.

Be Saturated With Truth. Biblical passion is not mindless. It is defined, shaped and bounded by the truth of God's Word. As the disciples on the road to Emmaus said following their post-resurrection interview with Jesus: "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us" (Luke 24:32). An in-depth knowledge of the Word sets our hearts aflame for God. In getting to know God's truth we get to know the true God, and the passion grows. (**Keeping Ourselves Theologically Literate - Dr. Douglas R. McLachlan)**

We all need a Devotional Immersion In Scripture

1 Tim. 4:15 - Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

Psalm 1:2 - But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalm 119:11 - Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Col. 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

III. ***Do we really believe Truths*** **that <u>WE DO NOT PRACTICE</u>?**

Truth
LIVES

Don't be a Pharisee: Mt 23:3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, *that* observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

See James 1:22-f

Jas 1:22 But be ye <u>doers</u> <u>of</u> <u>the</u> <u>word</u>, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Why are some people content to hear the Word and not do it?

1. They are self-deceived (v. 22). Many are deceived into thinking that knowing truth
equals righteousness.

   This is not true! Ex. The devils believe (know about God) and tremble (Ja. 2:19).

2. They are <u>careless</u>.

--They take <u>too quick</u> a look into truth(v. 24)
--They look without any intention of changing

Or he may:
--look with <u>someone else</u> in mind
--look with <u>good intentions</u> but never get around to doing them.

Jas 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that <u>faith</u> <u>without</u> <u>works</u> is dead?
Jas 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so <u>faith</u> <u>without</u> <u>works</u> is dead also.

"Faith alone justifies; but faith that justifies is never alone." (John Calvin)

IV. ***Do we really believe Truths*** **that <u>WE DO NOT SHARE with others</u>?**

Truth
SPREADS

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Truth is important. If it is that important, then it must be shared

Don't hide your <u>light</u>!
(The world needs to <u>see</u> the <u>brilliancy</u> of Christianity and of God's Gospel TRUTH)

A Christian who unashamedly shines on the mountain peaks of life cannot be hid.

ILLUS: Children's hymn - "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. . . Let it shine all over New York. . . Won't let Satan blow it out. . . Let it shine till Jesus comes. . . Hide it under a bushel -- No!"

"A hidden light is still light, but it is useless light"

What the world needs is more light! Not more candles! Our city has plenty of candles (Christians), the problem is that not too many are lit in public!

"Earth. . . world" - so that we would not miss the point Jesus uses two terms synonymously. Christians must not merely be "salt" and "light" when they congregate, but must be so before the eyes of the unregenerate lost world of mankind.

"Earth...world" - we can only influence earth, <u>not heaven</u>! <u>Now</u> <u>not later</u>!

The salt must "get out of the salt shaker"

The light must shine where it is needed most - in the darkness.

Jesus didn't save you so that you could be a secret Christian or an undercover believer. Don't conceal your identity. Don't be ashamed. The only thing we should be ashamed of is sin!

"Candlestick" - lampstand

"It giveth light" - that is its purpose! What is your purpose?

"unto all" - in a dark house, all benefit from the light.

Light <u>reflects</u>
Light <u>exposes</u>
Light <u>guides</u>

"<u>So</u> shine" - to shine <u>in this way</u>

"Before men" - Balance this statement with Matthew 6:1-6. There is a sense in which we do good works to be seen of men.

Our goal is not to be seen by men, but the result of doing good <u>for</u> men will be that you are seen by them.

<u>"See</u> your good works" - The Christian life is not mere <u>talk</u> that can be heard but it is <u>work</u> that can be seen!

"Works" - plural; God desires more than Easter morning Christians.

"Glorify" - to cause to shine or glow. Does your life cause men to praise and esteem God?

Do we really believe in the doctrine of Hell and of eternal judgement?

If so, we will be like John the Baptist and warn people to *"flee from the wrath to come"*

V. *Do we really believe Truths* that <u>WE ARE ASHAMED OF in public</u>?

Truth
SHINES

Matthew 10:32-33

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

"Confess me" - to <u>say the same thing</u> about Jesus that the Bible says about Him.

Confession before men is a manifestation of true salvation.

"Before my Father" - Jesus will say of those who testify of him: "Father, they belong to me, they believe in me."

"Before My Father" - Jesus also said that He would confess us before the holy angels of God (Lk. 12:8). Why? So that they will know who to gather up at the Rapture (Mt. 24:31; cp. Mk. 8:38; Lk. 9:26)

We can deny Christ by <u>word</u>, <u>act</u> (*"works"* - Titus 1:16); or by <u>silence</u>.

To be <u>denied</u> by Jesus will be the greatest loss!

For Him to say, *"I do not know them"* or *"They do not belong to me"* will be the height of tragedy.

NOTE: Peter denied Christ (Mt. 26:34, 75) but later repented and then boldly and fearlessly acknowledged Him (Acts 2-5).

The Anabaptist Balthazar Hubmair did the same.

No one is a possessor of Christ who is not a confessor of Christ.

"The fear of man bringeth a snare (a lure into a trap - an eternal trap!) *but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe"* (Prov. 29:25).

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

To be "ashamed" means - to have a feeling of fear or shame which <u>prevents</u> a person from doing something. To be embarrassed, humiliated, or blush because of something you did that others view as wrong.

The only thing we should be <u>ashamed of</u> if sin (immorality)! (cp. Titus 2:8)

1. **No one should be ashamed of "<u>good news</u>" (this is what the gospel is!)**

   Paul said to Timothy: "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord..." (II Tim. 1:8).

   Jesus said - "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels." (Luke 9:26)

2. **No one should be ashamed of <u>that which saves</u>.**

   "Power" = dynamite - explosive and sustained energy that is able to crack open any hard heart!

   Have you ever seen the power of the Gospel? I have seen it change homosexuals, drunkards, drug addicts. If it can do that, should I be ashamed of it?

3. **No one should be ashamed of <u>that which is for everyone</u>.**

   Salvation is sufficient for all, but only efficient to those who believe.

4. **No one should be ashamed of that which is <u>right</u> (v. 17).**

   God's righteousness is unveiled in the Gospel of Christ.

   Never be ashamed of truth!

   People may view the gospel as foolish, but it is their only hope of salvation!

When are we ashamed? When we lack confidence in the trustworthiness of God. What is the secret to sharing the gospel without shame? <u>Total</u> confidence in it!

Paul said in II Tim. 1:12 - "I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."

VI. ***Do we really believe Truths*** **that <u>WE are willing to COMPROMISE</u>?**

Truth STANDS

To Pergamos - Re 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

To Thyatira - Re 2:20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

<u>Ecclesiastical Separation</u> - a church must not associate, cooperate, or fellowship with other churches that are not of like precious faith (II Cor. 6:14-18; Gal. 1:6-9; Eph. 5:6-11; II Th. 3:6; I Tim. 6:3-5; II Jn. 9-11)

ILLUS:--A mother who loves her children will beware of whom they play and associate with.

--A pastor who loves his flock will also beware of whom they fellowship with.

(EX: Paul's warning to the Ephesian pastors - Acts 20:28-32).

We cannot <u>mix</u> with those who will dirty our walk with Christ.
We cannot <u>harmonize</u> with those who are sounding another tune.
We cannot <u>join hands</u> with those who are working for another cause.
We cannot <u>walk</u> with those who are going in another direction.

To the churches of Pergamos and Thyatira, Jesus said the same phrase: "I have a few things against thee" (v. 14, 20). When Jesus holds something against a church, it is serious!

Both of these churches had the same problem - they compromised with false religion. In doing so they had a part in that which Jesus hates (v. 15).

Jesus knew that Pergamum was a working church (v. 13a).
He knew that Thyatira was also (v. 19).

Thyatira was a <u>working</u> church
<u>loving</u> '' ("charity")
<u>serving</u> '' ("to minister")
<u>believing</u> '' ("faith")
<u>enduring</u> '' ("patience" - she remained under)
<u>busy</u> '' ("served more than at first - when first established)
(No doubt a growing church with many programs and activities)

"Any church or Christian that compromises with evil must have some good qualities or there would be nothing to compromise" (Neil, p. 42).

Why do evangelical Churches compromise with pagan churches? ANSWER: To have larger crowds, to reach more people, to avoid the stigma of being called an "isolationist" or "unloving."

They generally have good motives but bad methods.

"The end never justifies the means."

God's work must always be done God's way!

Examples: --ecumenical evangelism
--charismatic movement
--any work that cooperates with false religions (such as RCC, protestantism, etc.)

May have great initial growth, but it will die at an early age (it will be short-lived).

Why? Because the growth was not produced God's way (ILLUS: growth produced by steroids). Poison has entered the church - it may endure for a while, but will eventually die! (cp. v. 22-23)

Satan knew he could not bring such strong churches into worldliness until he brought the world into the church.

Today, he is again tempting God's people to compromise with the world. How? Christian rock music; worldly standards of dress and hair styles; worldly viewpoints on roles of husband and wife, divorce, child training, materialism, alcohol, etc

Compromise happens when a Church is deceived

1. Beware: They are religious

Balaam, the Nicolaitanes, and Jezebel all have one thing in common. They all spread doctrine. They all teach. They all, no doubt, had a Gospel to proclaim (Note, however, Gal. 1:8-10).

NOTE: Doctrine is very important to Jesus Christ.

(Many today say "Doctrine" is not essential - "Love" is. Remember, there is no true love where there is false doctrine. Love rejoices only in truth - I Cor. 13:6).

Balaam (v. 14) was a religious man (he did work in the name of the LORD [Yahweh]_.

Cp. Mt. 7:22-23 - "Many will say to me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name?..."

Nicolas (v. 15) had a religion (though immoral)

Jezebel (v. 20) - called herself a "prophetess." She claimed she received revelation from God, and then heralded it out.

The fact that that woman Jezebel was teaching God's servants should have revealed to them that she was "false" and "out of order," because God says that women are not to teach (I Tim. 2:11, 12), but are to learn in silence int he assembly and not prophesy publically (I Cor. 14:34).

--We are to test the spirits (I Jn. 4:1)

--Paul warned us to be on guard against religions, cults, and religious teachers who appear to be godly (II Cor. 11:13-15 - "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

2. Beware: They are seductive

Balaam was seductive (Num. 22 - 25). He was hired by the Moabite king Balak to curse Israel (II Pet. 2:15). When Balaam attempted to pronounce a curse, God allowed him to utter only blessings. When he realized he could not curse them, he decided to corrupt them.

"Stumbling block" (v. 14) - that which causes someone to trip and fall.

Balaam knew that God would not destroy Israel when they were pleasing to Him. The only way this Satanically-inspired man could have Israel ruined is if they sinned.

(SEE Num. 31:16, 25:1-9)

What did the doctrine of Balaam, Nicolas, and Jezebel have in common?

ANSWER: Idolatry and immorality under the guise of spirituality.

Balaam introduced Israel to Baalism.

Nicolas introduced Christianity to license and free love (similar to Baalism)

Jezebel, by marrying King Ahab, promoted Baalism in Israel (I Ki. 16:31).

What was the doctrine of Balaam, Nicolas, and Jezebel?

ANSWER: You can have God and the world. You can worship Christ and conform to the standards of the world. You can have religion and immorality. You can have spirituality with sensuality.

As a matter of fact, Baal worship was very sensual and appealing to the base, carnal, nature of man.

What would Balaamism, Nicolaitanism, and Jezebelism be like today?

ANSWER: It is the teaching that says: "You can be saved and live anyway you want." "You can have Christ and sin." "You can lay up treasures in Heaven and treasures on earth." "You can serve two masters." "You can have your cake and eat it too."

This sounds appealing, but it's a lie of Satan.

Paul warned against such teachers: Phil. 3:18, 19 - "For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things."

Satan knew he could not bring such strong churches into worldliness until he brought the world into the church.

Today, he is again tempting God's people to compromise with the world. How? Christian rock music; worldly standards of dress and hair styles; worldly viewpoints on roles of husband and wife, divorce, child training, materialism, alcohol, etc.

When it comes to clearly delineated TRUTH, we cannot compromise. We can make compromises on preferential issues, but we can never bend on the truth.

Over church history, many people have died Martyrs' deaths because of a relentless refusal to compromise on the truth of the Gospel.

Men like John Chrysostum, William Tyndale, John Hus, and Michael Satler were put to death because they would not recant on their convictions.

Our prayer needs to be: ***"Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief."*** (Mark 9:24)

Michael & Margeretta Satler - Michael had been a priest, but left the priesthood after he found there was no Biblical evidence for celibacy. So he left and was married. More than that, they joined a group called the Anabaptists. The prefix Ana means again. The again-baptizers; more easily said, re-baptizers. The Anabaptists were people who believed that their infant baptism didn't count, because they said it's not found in the Bible; therefore, we need to be re-baptized as adults upon profession of faith. And so they went ahead as adults, having professed faith in Christ, and they baptized one another as part of a little group way back in Germany in 1526. When they were coming back from a little town called Schlicime, they were arrested while walking through the forest and captured and on May 17, 1526, they were tried, and after 1 1/2 hours, the judges came back with this verdict, "Michael Satler shall be committed to the hangman who shall take him to the square and there first cut out his tongue and then chain him to a wagon, tear his body twice with hot tongs and five times more before the gate, then burn his body to powder as an arch-heretic." He was brought to the place, and just before he died, he cried, "Almighty eternal God, thou art the truth, and because I have not been shown to be in error [he had asked if he could debate the point from the Bible, but his prosecutors said "No."], I with thy help on this day testify to the truth and seal it with my blood." With a sack of powder tied around his neck to hasten the death, Satler was thrown into the fire. When the ropes on his hands burned through, the dying man raised his hands in a sign of triumph and prayed, "Father, I commend my spirit into thy hands." His wife was persuaded to recant, but she did not. Eight days later, she was forcibly drowned in the Necar River.

Erwin Lutzer - "The Anabaptist Controversy" (tape: origins of infant baptism)

Conclusion:

Because God is truth. We must:

1. Love the truth -
   Prov. 8:7 - "For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abonomination to my lips."
   We are to "buy the truth and sell it not" (Prov. 23:23); we are to "love the truth" (Zech. 8:19).

2. Always tell the truth -
   Eph. 4:15 - "Speak the truth in love."
   God's truthfulness never ends (Ps. 11:5, 117:2); neither should ours.

3. Tell the truth, no matter what the cost -
   EX: Peter's lying in his denial - Mt. 26:69-74.
   God hates lying - Zech. 8:16, 17.

4. Tell the truth, even when others do not want to hear it -
   Gal. 4:16 - "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?"

5. Tell the truth to your children -
   Is. 38:19 - "The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth."

6. Live your life according to the truth –
   Ps. 86:11 - "I will walk in thy truth"
   3 John 1:4 - I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

7. Keep your word -
   Do what you say you will do.
   Nu 30:2 If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.
   De 23:21 When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee.

8. Be sincere (genuine, not a hypocrite)
   Josh. 24:14 - "Now therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth."

   I Sam. 12:24 - Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things He hath done for you."
   Ps. 51:6 - "Behold thou desirest truth in the inward parts."
   Jn. 4:24 - Worship in "spirit and in truth."

9. Our church must uphold the truth.
We are the "pillar and ground of the truth" (I Tim. 3:15).

1) The "pillar" - that which holds the building up before the world, makes it attractive.

2) The "ground" - the foundation, that on which the building rests, that which keeps it firm and stable.

3) The point: The truth of God is kept firm and made attractive to the world by means of the ministry of the church. [a local church that is functioning Biblically (cp. context of I Tim. 3) will preserve the truth for ages to come and protect Christians from doctrinal error (I Tim. 4:1ff)]

10. Come to the Truth – Jesus Christ
John 14:6
Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.