"GOD IS TRUE"

INTRODUCTION:

Lack of truthfulness is a chief characteristic of these evil days in which we live.

In the business world, the phrase, "You have my word on it" is meaningless.

In the social world, fidelity between friends is hard to find.

In the domestic world, faithfulness to marriage vows is a rarity.

In the ecclesiastical world, "thousands who have solemnly covenanted to preach the truth make no scruple to attack and deny it" (Pink, p. 52)

It seems that just when you thought someone told you the truth, you realize it was a lie. When you thought they were sincere, you find out it was just a cover-up. Where is truth to be found?

The answer is in God!

God is called: A God of Truth (Deut. 32:4; Is. 65:16)

A. WHAT GOD IS IS TRUE
(God is true in His essence)

God's truthfulness is linked to His holiness in Rev. 3:7: "These things saith He that is holy, He that is true"; and in Rev. 6:10, where the Tribulation martyrs cry out, "Holy Long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"

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.

God not only tells the truth, He is the truth. Truth is part of the essence of God.

1. God the Father is the truth.

   Jn. 5:32

   Jesus said of the Father: "He that sent me is true" (Jn. 7:28; 8:26.

   Jesus came that we might know the "only true God" (Jn. 17:3; cp. I Jn. 5:20).

   The Thessalonians turned from idols to serve the living and true God (I Thes. 1:9).

2. Jesus Christ is the truth.

   EX: John 14:6 - "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

   It is said of Jesus that He was "full of grace and truth" (Jn. 1:14); "grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (Jn. 1:17).

   Pilate didn't realize it, but when he stood before Jesus Christ, he was staring truth in the face--yet he said, "What is truth" (Jn. 18:38).

   The Bible says that: "The truth is in Jesus" (Eph. 4:21).

   Jesus is so true, He is called "the Amen, the faithful and true witness" (Rev. 3:14).

   Jesus called true - Rev. 19:11 - "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war."

3. The Holy Spirit is the truth.

   Jn. 14:17, 15:26 - He is called the "Spirit of truth."

   Because the Holy Spirit is truth, He never guides anyone into error, but only in the truth (Jn. 16:13 - "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he

will shew you things to come."

The Holy Spirit's job is to tell the truth about Christ - "It is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth" (I Jn. 5:6).

God's essence is truth - in contrast to false gods (idols which cannot think, act, etc.).

B. WHAT GOD SAYS IS TRUE
(God is true in His words) (Jn. 17:17)

God's Word is called: "The Scripture of truth" (Dan. 10:21).

The Bible says, "Every word of God is pure."

1. His declarations are true.

a. Everything God says about Himself is true.

1) His attributes

2) His likes and dislikes

b. Everything God says about man is true.

1) His sinfulness

2) His need for salvation

One reason why men do not believe the truth is because they love their sin.

II Thes. 2:12 - "That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

Cp. II 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."

c. Everything God says about the past is true.

1) The creation account with Adam and Eve

2) The opening of the Red Sea

d. Everything God says about the future is true

1) The Tribulation

2) The Judgment

3) The lake of fire

4) The eternal Kingdom

2. His promises are true.

a. Everything He promised His saints, He did.

1) Noah (flood)

2) Abraham (seed)

3) Moses (deliverance)

4) David (a kingdom)

5) Jeremiah (70 years captivity)

b. Everything He promised Israel, He will do.

1) The Messiah will return

2) The Messiah will reign

a) Justice and peace will prevail

b) The curse will be removed

c. Everything He promised about salvation, He did and will do.

1) The Savior fully satisfied the just demands of God regarding sin (Is. 53:11)

2) The Spirit seals the believer until the day of redemption (Eph. 1:13, 14)

God's Law is truth (Ps. 119:142).
God's Commands are truth (Ps. 119:151).
God's Promises are truth (Ps. 132:11).

God's words are truth - in contrast to lying prophets (Ezek. 13:3, 6-11) and Satan ("the father of lies" - Jn. 8:44).

C. WHAT GOD DOES IS TRUE
(God is true in His works)

1. How God works is true (His manner of working is sincere).

Ps. 33:4 - "For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth."

God's manner of working is in contrast to man, who often does good things with wicked motives (EX: man's hypocritical giving and praying - Mt. 6:1-6; man's hypocritical religious deeds - Mt. 23).

2. What God makes is true (His workmanship is sincere).

Dan. 4:37 - "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride He is able to abase."

When God created the earth and all things therein, His workmanship was without flaw or defect; it was "good" (contrast - man, who is an "inventor of evil things" - Rom. 1:30).

God did not create the earth with age built into it for the purpose of deceiving man into thinking that things evolved.

God's workmanship is sincere, in contrast to man, who often produces things that are not what they appear to be.

ILLUS: The N.T. Greek word for "sincere" literally means "without wax" and refers to cracked vessels that were held together with wax and sold as though genuine.

CONCLUSION:

Why should we be truthful? Because <u>God is truth</u>.

We must:

1. <u>Love</u> 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. <u>Always</u> 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 <u>cost</u> -

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" -- II Jn. 4; III Jn. 4.

7. Keep your word -

Do what you say you will do.

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).