The Stewardship of TRUTH

(I Cor 4:1-2, Luke 12:42-48, John 8:30-32 & other Scriptures)

8-18-2021

Introduction: See: I Cor. 4:1 God has entrusted us with His Word (His truth). *Rev. 3:10*
See: Luke 12:42-48; *2 Peter 2:21*
John 8:30-32

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

*** In these days of lies and deception, we need to know what the TRUTH is and be faithful with what God reveals to us.**

I. We are responsible to KNOW the Truth (because it is available)

- Truth is not determined by popular opinion.
- Truth is not determined by the five senses.
- Truth is not relative but absolute
- Truth does not change with time.
- Truth does not change with culture or custom
- Truth is not invented it is discovered
  John 17:17 - Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Truth is embodied in God

1. **God the Father is the truth.** Jn. 5:32
2. **Jesus Christ is the truth.** John 14:6 - "I am the way, the truth, and the life."
3. **The Holy Spirit is the truth.** Jn. 14:17, 15:26 - He is called the "Spirit of truth."

Truth is available to all

II. We are responsible to BELIEVE the Truth (because it is credible)

Hebrews 4:2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

III. We are responsible to APPLY the Truth (because it is applicable)

Truth is the basis for morality
Truth shall set you Free! See: John 8:30-32

IV. We are responsible to PROCLAIM the Truth (because it is Reportable)

Don't give it up, but give it out!
Truth is not for sale

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Introduction:

Definition of "Stewardship": Management of God's Blessings
(Implies Responsibility & Accountability)

Luke 16:1-2

And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods. [2] And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

Examples of Stewards: Joseph in Potephar's house
The Kings over Israel (David; Solomon)
Jesus with the Father's will
Paul with the Gospel

We are managers of everything God entrusts to us. Every possession, gift, opportunity, position, person, put into our care.

We are stewards of: Truth (God's Word; "The oracles of God…" (Romans 3:2)
Time (moments & opportunities)
Talent (Gifts; "What do you have that you have not received" (I Cor 4:7)
Treasure (money & possessions; "The earth is the Lord's…")
Temple (Body; "We are bought with a price…")
Tribe (Family; children)

See: I Cor. 4:1

"Let a man so (in this way) ***account of us" -*** Paul says, "When you think about Apollos, Peter, and me, don't have grandiose, bigger than life, superman images in your minds. Rather, have a mental reckoning of us as servants and stewards.

Just view us as humble servants (serving another Master) and humble stewards (caring for Another's possessions).

"Ministers" - *huperetas* - under-rowers. The word was used to refer to the slaves who would row on the lower part of a ship which had three banks of oars.

Paul says, "View me as a hard-working slave for Christ."

True greatness, according to Jesus, is being a servant. The more you serve, the greater you are (SEE: Mt. 20:25-28).

"Stewards" - *oikonomous* - manager; one who would manage or take care of the household belongings of a master (EX: Joseph in Potiphar's house).

Paul was responsible to manage the mysteries of God (i.e. the formerly hidden, but now revealed revelation of God).

V. 2

The key requirement of a steward is not good looks, charismatic personality, charm and wit, but faithfulness to the task.

"Faithful" - One you can put "full faith" in; reliable, dependable ("The greatest ability is dependability" - Bob Jones, Sr.).

As Christ looks at you, does He find you to be faithful? Can He count on you to get a job done the way He wants it done? Will Jesus say of you, *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant"* (Mt. 25:21)?

To be smart, you must realize that the greatest men of God are great at serving Christ.

God has entrusted us with His Word (His truth).

Rev. 3:10

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

See: Luke 12:42-48

Luke 12:48

But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

The nation of Israel failed in their stewardship of God's Word (by ignoring it; adding to it traditions)
(Rom. 9:4-5; Matt 15:3)

Judas Iscariot failed in his stewardship

Mark 14:21 The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.

2 Peter 2:21

For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

Introduction: John 8:30-32

- 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?

In a day in which lies prevailed Pilate asked Jesus Christ the question, What is truth? (John 18:38)

God's Word has much to say on the topic of "truth." The word occurs 342 times in the KJV translation of the Holy Bible. (truth = 224; true = 77; truly = 41).

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.

Related terms of truth:
"Faithful" – something for someone you can place full faith in; reliable; dependable. Worthy of trust.
"Sincere" – Realness or genuineness in action, utterance, or character.

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.

"I believe it is proper to say that the story of this tragic 20th century is the story of the battle for truth. The chronicling of its history is the chronicling of its truth-journey. Others have documented this battle and defined this journey as unfolding in three steps:

1. There was the *traditional era* where truth was mediated to the culture by the preacher out of the Bible.

2. There was the *modern era* where truth was mediated to the culture by scientific naturalists in their laboratory and by rationalistic philosophers in their logic.

3. Finally there came the *postmodern era* where truth is now mediated to the culture by rock musicians and where the MTV world-view reigns supreme.

First there was truth as defined by God – "true truth"; then there was truth as defined by man – temporal truth; and finally there was no truth – non-reason, nihilism, despair, the tragic loss of truth. This is a microcosm of the 20th century's philosophical and spiritual journey. In this kind of world, where truth is anything anybody wants it to be, passionate truth bases are absolutely indispensable. To me, that is what historic, biblical fundamentalist churches and agencies have always been." (Doug McLachlan, Fundamentalism – What's in a Name?)

Hosea 4:1

Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

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?

Are we bigoted or chauvinistic to insist that there is one true Faith? Or to believe that Christianity is superior to all other religions?

While we certainly believe and most of us would die for the right of everyone to have freedom of choice as to which god they will follow or which faith they will believe, we believe and have the God-given right to believe that Jesus Christ is the Truth and the only Savior of mankind.

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

Pr 29:18 "Where *there is* no vision, the people perish" This means: "where there is no revelation from God the people go unrestrained" Where there is no truth, the people go off the deep end.

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. There is an underlying current today, to do away with all authority structures. Whether it be authority in the home, church, or government. Authority is a bad word today. It flies in the face of humanism (man being the measure of all things) and relativism (anything goes). Therefore any Authority, such as a supreme God or The Bible must be eradicated from society.

"Preachers are tolerated so long as they stick to therapeutic messages of enhanced self-esteem, and resisted whenever they inject divine authority or universal, absolute truth claims in their sermons." (Burggraff, p.7)

*** In these days of lies and deception, we need to know what the TRUTH is and be faithful with what God reveals to us.**

In our study, we will see that our stewardship involves 4 responses to the truth:

KNOW it because it is available
BELIEVE it because it is credible
APPLY it because it is applicable
PROCLAIM it because it is reportable

I. We are responsible to KNOW the Truth (because it is available)

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.

When you believe a Lie, you will live a lie and tell a lie. Those of false religions are prone to telling lies because they are believing a lie. Lies beget lies. Satan is the father of such lies (John 8:44).

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 time. (As a Fundamental Law, what was true 2,000 years ago remains true today)

- Truth does not change with culture or custom (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 not invented it is discovered (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)

"Absolute truth is marked by objectivity and know-ability. We are neither agnostics nor Athenians. The Athenians, according to Luke, built an altar to "the unknown God" (Acts 17:22, 23). But the God of truth is not unknown or unknowable, because He has revealed Himself to us. And this is a revelation which is both objective – personified in Jesus (who has now gone to heaven) and deposited in Scripture (which we hold in our hands) – and knowable – through the quickening and illuminating influence of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-16) and the accurate exegesis of a text (2 Timothy 2:15)." (Doug McLachlan)

In this postmodern day, truth is viewed as inaccessible. "As postmodern philosopher Richard Rorty asserts, truth is made rather than found; all truth is socially constructed. That is, social groups (such as Christians, for example) construct their own "truth" in order to serve their own interests. Thus, the role of the intellectual is to "deconstruct" truth claims in order to liberate society. (cited by David Burggraff)

God has revealed the truth (He has made it known and knowable)
Ask God to reveal His truth to you.

The Lord Jesus Christ said: John 17:17
Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Accept the Bible as God's Word and you will know the truth

John 8:31-32 - Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Whether you are aware of it or not there is an agenda to “deconstruct” the literal or normal meaning of significant texts of Law and Literature.

“This new hermeneutical method explains much of the current debate in literature, politics, law, and theology. All texts—whether the Holy Scripture, the United States Constitution, or the works of Mark Twain – are subjected to criticism and dissection, all in the name of liberation.

Therefore, the Bible is subjected to radical reinterpretation, often with little or no regard for the plain meaning of the text or the clear intention of the human author. Texts which are not pleasing to the postmodern mind are rejected as oppressive, patriarchal, heterosexist, homophobic, or deformed by some other political or ideological bias.

While we claim that the Bible is not the mere words of men, but the Word of God, our claim to divine revelation is written off by the postmodernist as only one more projection of oppressive power.” (David Burggraff)

Everyday there is less and less respect given to the Bible or to any written Law for that matter.

Isaiah 8:20
To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

“Nobody can know truth about God, or "do theology" as God ordained, apart from confidence in and meticulous attention to God’s own revelation of Himself in the text of Scripture. Even God’s revelation of Himself in the Person of Jesus of Nazareth is of little help to us now, since He has ascended back to heaven. But the text of Scripture is something we hold in our hand and can hide in our mind and heart.” (Doug McLachlan, p.6)

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.

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.).

Absolute truth corresponds to the Divine Nature of God. This nature of Truth has been revealed to man in Christ (the living Word), and specifically though His Written Word.

Truth is available to all

God has revealed some aspects of Himself via creation
(many suppress “hold down” that truth in unrighteousness; Romans 1:18-20
“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; [19] Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. [20] For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”

God has sent His Gospel throughout the world
Romans 10:18 - But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

Psalm 100:5
For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

John 17:17
Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

II. We are responsible to <u>BELIEVE</u> the Truth (because it is credible)

Hebrews 4:2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

You will miss God's eternal Rest
if you don't have the <u>right mixture</u> of <u>hearing</u> plus <u>believing</u>!

***"Gospel"* =** good news

God's good news to the Israelites was that they could enter His rest if they believed His promises. The same Good News applies today!

"The Word preached did not profit" - These are zero benefits to coming to church and hearing the Word preached, if you do not intend to trust the truth God delivers to you from His Word.

<u>Hearing</u> the Gospel is essential (Rom. 10:14), but it is not enough.

Hell will be full of people who knew the truth (Mt. 7:22-23).

There is *"no rest"* for the hearers only!

Dreadful consequences fall on the life of one who hears but doesn't heed (Mt. 7:26). Don't be *"hearers only, deceiving your own selves"* (Ja. 1:22).

Knowing the truth does not profit if not believed; it simply heightens the guilt and condemnation of the one who knew it yet failed to respond (*"To whomsoever much is given. . . much shall be required"*; cp. Ja. 3:1).

"If you run a red light and a policeman pulls you over and starts to give you a ticket, you do not show him your copy of the state driving laws as your defense. You do not try to establish your innocence by telling him you have read the booklet many times and know most of the regulations by heart. Far from making you innocent, this would make you all the more responsible for living up to the laws and all the more guilty for breaking them. Knowing the law is an advantage only if we obey it. "For indeed circumcision is of value, if you practice the Law," Paul says, "but if you are a transgressor of the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision" (Rom. 2:25)." (MacArthur, p. 100)

God's equation for spiritual profit is. . .
Listening & Believing = Benefit
Knowing & Trusting = Blessing
Hearing & Heeding = Heaven

We don't believe,

--When we hear but don't heed (v. 2)
--When we know but don't trust (v. 3)
--When we wait, but don't respond (v. 4-10)
--When we conceal but don't let God reveal (v. 11-13)

One word disqualifies you from God's rest. If this one word is true of your life, you will forever forfeit God's rest-- that one word is "unbelief".

Are you at rest in your spirit?

Are you free from fear, anxiety, and guilt? Or are you tossed to and fro, running from one philosophy to another, one religion to another, one lifestyle to another in search for rest?

No rest for the wicked (SEE: Rev. 14:9-13)

God's rest is still available today no matter who you are or what you have done.

"In his younger manhood Mel Trotter was as debauched as can be imagined. His children were starving because he spent his money on alcohol. His little girl died of malnutrition when she was about four. The neighbors gave enough money to buy her some new clothes and a casket to be buried in. In the middle of the night Trotter broke into the mortuary, took the clothes off his dead child, and exchanged them for a drink. Not long afterward, however, Jesus Christ reached down and changed his life, and he became one of the greatest preachers America has ever known." (MacArthur, p. 99).

Rest in God's promise of free grace in Christ today!

III. We are responsible to <u>APPLY</u> the Truth (because it is applicable)

Because truth is the basis for morality

Psalm 119:142
Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.
1 John 1:8
If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Why would truth be discarded? The answer is simply this: John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

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."

People dodge truth to preserve their sin. Mankind's basic self-centered nature will very often ignore truth, deny truth, or even fight the truth in order to gain or maintain some pleasure or selfish ambition.
The question lurking in most hearts today is not: "What is True?" but "What makes me feel good?" The issue for most people in our society today is not: "What is right", but "I want my rights."

"The "feel good" religions are replacing the "negativity" of offensive biblical texts, and thus the Bible is dispensed altogether." (David Burggraff, p.6)

Truth shall set you Free!

See: John 8:30-32

"As he spake these words" – While Jesus taught about His equality with God the Father and the Father's authentication of His Son, many of the Jews believed in Him. They came to trust His Person while they listened to His words.

This is exactly how "faith" comes into a person's life – by their hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). You cannot have faith in Christ apart from the Word of God. Faith and the Word cannot be separated. To have faith apart from God's Word is to have a faith without a solid foundation.

Therefore, whenever you witness, always give the Word of God.

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).

"Many believed. Yet before long they were picking up stones to cast at him (8:59). It is the old story of pseudo faith" (The Wycliffe Bible Commentary, Peiffer & Harrison, Moody Press, p. 1091).

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 <u>remain</u> or <u>abide</u> in the Word of Christ

The grand mark of a true disciple of Christ is <u>continuity</u> in His Gospel message.

A true disciple is one who holds on to the truth and never lets go. There is <u>no</u> 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 <u>are</u> ye" – Jesus uses His words carefully. He does <u>not</u> say "then <u>will ye</u> be."

He is not saying that continuing in His Word will <u>make</u> you a disciple, but rather that continuing in His Word <u>reveals</u> that you "<u>are</u>" 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 <u>indeed</u>" – 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 <u>not</u> 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 discip0le (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).

True Spiritual Freedom can be yours, if you go to the right place to get it!

"Ye shall know the truth" – Here, the term "truth" is linked to the term "word" in v. 31. It is interesting that Christ, who is the living "word" (*logos* – Jn. 1:1, 14) and who is the living "truth" (Jn. 14:6), is the one who gave us His written word which is written truth (Jn. 17:17 – "Thy word is truth").

"Knowing the truth" is inseparably connected to continuing in Christ's Word (v. 31). Therefore, your relationship with God's Word will determine your knowledge of the truth which will in turn determine whether or not you are **"free"** from sin.

Question: How much time have you spent in God's Word this week?

Truth is the engine or driving force of the Christian's life.

Apart from the truth we dwell in the realm of lies, deceit, darkness, and death!

A good definition of truth: Truth (*aletheian*) is reality; it comes to us as reality that has been revealed, unveiled, unsealed, or opened up. When God's revelation opens up before our eyes, we come to see and know reality. The fog and mist of Satan's lies is lifted and the reality of Jesus Christ and His will becomes clear to us.

He is the truth (Jn. 14:6) because He not only tells us reality, but He is reality. He is really God. He is in fact God in visible form. He is the personification of everything that is real.

"**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" – free from what?

Free from enslavement of sin (v. 34)

Free from the lies of Satan (v. 44-45)

"Freedom *intellectual, moral, spiritual) is only attainable when we are set free from darkness, sin, ignorance, superstition and let the light of the world shine on us and in us" (RWP, p. 149).

The precious theme of freedom from condemnation of the Law and from the enslavement of sin is found in verses such as:
Romans 6:18
Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Romans 8:2
For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

2 Cor. 3:17
Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Galatians 5:1
Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

1 Peter 2:16
As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

Knowing the truth about . . .

- God sets you free from the lie and enslavement of idolatry
- Man sets you free from the lie and enslavement of humanism
- Creation sets you free from the lie and enslavement of evolution
- Salvation sets you free from the lie and enslavement of false religion
- Love sets you free from the lie and enslavement of self-centeredness
- Marriage sets you free from the lie and enslavement of divorce and adultery
- Church sets you free from the lie and enslavement of the cults

There is one main truth for all. The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

John 8:36 - If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

IV. We are responsible to <u>PROCLAIM</u> the Truth (because it is Reportable)

Don't give it up, but give it out!

Truth is not for sale

Truth must be held to with tenacity. Truth is not for sale no matter how high the price!

"Solomon was right to say: "Buy the truth and sell it not" (Proverbs 23:23). We need a whole new generation of believers who refuse to sell the truth, whomever the highest bidder may be. Whatever kingdom, empire or salary, whatever name or fame may be offered, we are responsible to affirm that truth is not for sale, and make certain that we hold tenaciously to it whatever the cost may be." (Doug McLachlan)

Truth must be proclaimed with conviction

All truth must be shared courageously and compassionately.

Today, is no day for wimps. If you hold to truth, then it is "over your dead body" that you move from that truth.

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.

"Absolute truth matters profoundly to serious-minded, deeply-committed Christians. Such Christians pay attention to the epistolary mandates – all those commands in the New Testament epistles which require that we guard the gospel, hold fast the faithful word, continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and contend earnestly for the "once-for-all" delivered faith. More than that, serious-minded Christians are prepared to draw lines, set limits, erect boundaries and refuse concessions based solely on obedience to biblical absolutes." (Doug McLachlan)

When it comes to preaching God's Word, we need to deliver a precise, unexaggerated, unembellished reflection of the passage we are preaching. We don't add or take away from what God said and what He meant by what He said. The precept, principle or message we deliver from God's Word must follow the discipline of hermeneutical law and conform to the context of the passage. Our preachment should be an accurate reflection of the grammar and syntax of the passage we are proclaiming.

CONCLUSION:

One is not saved by how he manages the talents entrusted to him. However, how he manages the talents reveals whether or not he has been saved.

Outward works are a demonstration of inward character (Ja. 2:20, 26)

What have you done with the TRUTH God has given you?
Did you believe it?
Did you live it?
(cp. Rev. 3:10)

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. Read the Truth & Hear the Truth
   John 17:17-18
   Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

   Memorize the Truth of God's Word

3. Share the Truth to others

   Tell the truth to your children -
   Isaiah 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."
   "Preach the Gospel to every Creature"

4. Live your life according to the truth - Ps. 86:11
   "I will walk in thy truth" -- II Jn. 4; III Jn. 4.

5. Worship in "spirit and in truth." - Jn. 4:24

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