

Week 13: "The Truth Shall Set You Free"

Memory Verse

"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God." I John 5:1-5

Day One

Sunday, January 12, 2003

"The Truth Shall Set You Free"

Read: John 8:31-36 (p. 1211) and Commentary (p. 1212)

Reflect: What is inner freedom to choose? Does that mean free to choose any option or does "freedom" mean "free to choose what is right"? What do you think the Bible teaches about this?

Dig: What does the Bible teach about sin and its relationship to truth and freedom? To answer this question, take a look at this present passage and compare it to Romans 1:21 (p. 1279) and Proverbs 1:7 (p. 693).

There is an "if-then" statement in verses 31 and 32 of this passage. Read this carefully and see if you can re-state it in your own words related to your own search for truth in your life.

Finally, how is John 8:31-32 similar in meaning to Romans 12:1-2?

Apply: Think of at least two lies of the devil that you are sometimes tempted to believe. Then turn to page 1511 of your Freedom in Christ Bible and read aloud the prayer in bold print in the middle of the page. Now go out and live in truth today!

Day Two

Monday, January 13, 2003
"Absolute Truth"

Read: Proverbs 3:5-7 (p. 694) and Commentary (p. 695)

Reflect: Do you believe that there are absolutes? Why? Do the people in your work/friendship circles believe that there are absolutes?

Dig: What three words are used in the text (Proverbs 3:5-7) that describe the way we ought to relate to the Lord (hint, they are the three verbs)?

Does "truth" have more to do with wisdom or knowledge? What does scripture have to say about that?

What are the three theories of truth given in paragraph two of the commentary?

Describe the two present-day movements in one sentence as given us in paragraphs three and four of the commentary.

How do these movements stack up to Proverbs 3:5-7?

Apply: Confess to God where you are relying on your own understanding and then make a commitment to have a heart which trusts God this day.

Day Three
Tuesday, January 14, 2003
"Owning Truth"

Read: Psalm 51 (p. 627) and Commentary (p. 626)

Reflect: When have you lived in denial about yourself? What effect did that denial have on your life?

Dig: Read 2 Samuel 12:1-14 (p. 344) and answer these questions:

1. What made Nathan's method so effective?
2. How is confession linked to forgiveness?
3. Are there left-over consequences?

Now go back to Psalm 51 and make a list of all the evidences in the Psalm (verbs that David uses, descriptions of his offences) that show that David indeed owned the truth.

Apply: Turn to page 1512 of your Freedom in Christ Bible and take a look at the

"Ways to wrongly defend yourself." Note which ones you use and then pray the short prayer in bold print at the close of that section.

Day Four
Wednesday, January 15, 2003
"The Sinner's Prayer"

Read: Lamentations 3 (p. 900) and Commentary (p. 901)

Reflect: It seems to be a commonly accepted idea in our culture that you cannot control or command the way that you feel. Is that a biblical idea? Why or why not?

Dig: Read the introduction on page 895 to give you a sense of the form and theme of the poem.

Look up these other passages which that do command emotions:

1. Psalm 100:2 (p. 657)
2. Psalm 37:4 (p. 616)
3. James 4:9-10 (p. 1446)

According to the commentary, how is truth supposed to impact our emotions? Check out the last paragraph of the commentary.

What might be the "yoke" that is spoken of in verse 27? Hint, compare to verse 1 of this chapter and Matthew 11:29 (p. 1091).

Apply: The last line of the commentary states:

"We are emotionally impacted by how we mentally interpret the circumstances of life and by what we have chosen to believe."

Taking that truth to heart, what must you choose to believe today?

Day Five
Thursday, January 16, 2003
"Destroyed for Lack of Knowledge"

Read: Hosea 4:1-6 (p. 982) and Commentary (p. 983)

Reflect: What faulty knowledge have you held that has been destructive? Take a look at these "lies about God"(p. 533) listed: *hateful and unconcerned, mean and*

unforgiving, unpredictable and untrustworthy, conditional approval, absent when needed, killjoy, critical and impossible to please, rejecting, unjust and unfair.

Which of these lies have you believed? How have these untruths been destructive in your life?

Dig: Look up the cross-references and see how they fill out the picture of the meaning of the phrase "lack of knowledge" by comparing these other scriptures:

- Hosea 2:13 (what are the idols that we in our culture are setting up?)
- Malachi 2:1-8 (p. 1069) What current application could you think of?
- Hosea 8:1,12 (p. 986) How is our current practice of daily Freedom in Christ devotionals and year-long study combating this concern?

Apply: Think of one thing that God has taught you lately (or reaffirmed in your life) and ask God to bring it to your mind often today. Live in the freedom of truth!