

## Commitment to the Truth

- I. A gospel ministry should reflect that of the Lord Jesus Christ's.
- A. He is the truth. **JOH 14:6.**
  - B. He came to bear witness of the truth. **JOH 18:37; ROM 15:8.**
  - C. His ministers are charged to teach and command what He taught and commanded. **MAT 28:19-20 c/w ROM 9:1; GAL 2:14.**
  - D. Truth and its minister will not always be popular. **JOH 3:20-21; GAL 4:16.**
    - 1. One may be called to stand alone for the truth's sake. **1KI 18:19; JER 15:17.**
    - 2. One cannot please men and serve Christ. **GAL 1:10.**
    - 3. If one is looking to be universally popular, he should look elsewhere. **LUK 6:26.**
  - E. The great desire of a minister of Christ should be to know Him as He is revealed in the Scriptures so that he might know and declare the true God. **JOH 5:39; 1JO 5:20-21.**
    - 1. A primary duty of Christ's minister is to cast down men's imaginations and bring their thoughts into captivity to Christ's obedience. **2CO 10:5.**
    - 2. This cannot be done unless the minister first gives heed to his own solemn acquaintance with the truth. **1TI 4:16; 2TI 2:15.**
    - 3. A minister therefore must love the truth of God's word which He has magnified above His own name. **PSA 138:2; 119:162-163.**
    - 4. This love of truth will compel him to contend ardently for it. **JER 20:9; JUDE 1:3.**
- II. Truth is very exclusive. **PSA 119:128; GAL 1:8-9.**
- A. To affirm truth as absolute is to reject all opposition to it as a lie. **ROM 3:4.**
  - B. This requires making distinctions between truth and error. **1JO 4:6.**
  - C. Light can have no communion with darkness. **2CO 6:14.**
  - D. It is for the love of ambiguous grayness that Christianity is losing its light and accordingly accommodating sin. Where are those who are valiant for the truth? **JER 9:3.**
  - E. Woe unto the minister who does no better than turning men from darkness to grayness. **JER 23:32; ROM 16:18 ct/w ACT 26:18; MAT 6:23.**
  - F. Woe unto the minister who knowingly compromises truth out of fear or out of love of self. **JER 1:17; 48:10; 1CO 9:16.**
  - G. Woe unto the minister who teaches error for profit. **TIT 1:11.**
- III. Satan, the father of lies (**JOH 8:44**), competes with the truth so as to obscure God and His will.
- A. There are false gods. **1CO 8:5-6.**
  - B. There is a false gospel. **2CO 11:4.**
  - C. There is "another Jesus" (**2CO 11:4**) and "false Christs" (**MAT 24:24**).
  - D. There is a false spirit. **2CO 11:4; 1JO 4:1.**
  - E. There is a false prophecy. **2PE 2:1.**
  - F. There are false apostles. **2CO 11:13; REV 2:2.**
  - G. There is a false ministry. **2CO 11:15; 2PE 2:1.**
  - H. There is a false church. **ACT 19:35-37.**
  - I. There are false ordinances. **1CO 10:21; COL 2:20-23.**
  - J. There is a false grace. **1PE 5:12 c/w ROM 11:6.**
  - K. Not making distinctions between right and wrong/truth and falsehood is an error itself. **ISA 5:20; MAL 2:17; 1CO 13:6.**

- IV. The knowledge of the truth is necessary for:
- A. deliverance from falsehood. **EPH 4:13-14.**
  - B. proper worship. **JOH 4:22-24.**
  - C. proper service. **JOH 15:21; 16:1-3.**
    1. Dedication to an error does not justify the error.
    2. You can think and feel you that you are serving God when in reality you are not. **PRO 14:12; ACT 26:9-10.**
- V. One cannot truly say that he is committed to Jesus Christ unless he is committed to His truth.
- A. Is a person truly committed to Christ if he is not committed to His gospel? **MAR 8:38.**
  - B. Can a person say he is truly committed to Christ if he is not committed to His kingdom? **LUK 10:9-12.**
  - C. Can a person truly say that he is committed to Christ if he is not committed to His ordinances? **LUK 7:29-30; ACT 2:41-42; JOH 13:13-15; LUK 6:46.**
  - D. Can a person say that he is truly committed to Christ if he is not committed to His ministry? **JOH 13:20.**
  - E. Commitment is required so far as one is able. **2CO 8:10-12.**
    1. Learning is progressive. God does not expect men to know everything before they will do anything. **PRO 4:18.**
    2. However, continual learning that never yields commitment is another story. **2TI 3:7.**
    3. A person who has been given sufficient information to commit to what is right, but does not do so puts himself in a very delicate position. **JAM 4:17; LUK 12:47-48.**
  - F. If one is resolved to follow truth no matter where it leads, God will show it to him. **JOH 7:17.**
  - G. If one is resolved to not love the truth, God will show him strong delusion. **2TH 2:10-12.**
- VI. Commitment to God's truth is the most important concern: above concerns for comfort, wealth and security. **MAT 10:32-39.**
- A. To find one's life, one must count his own life loss for Christ by fully committing to His truth. **MAT 16:24-26; PHIL 3:7-8.**
  - B. Assuming Christ's burden is the way to peace and rest. **MAT 11:28-30.**
  - C. This bondage brings freedom. **JOH 8:31-32.**