

# The Stewardship of Truth

Saugus Bible Readings 2011

## "What is truth?" (John 18:38) THE IDENTITY OF TRUTH

Conformity to (ultimate) reality

Truth in a Being "*I am the Truth*" (John 14:6)

Truth in a Book "*Your word is truth*" (John 17:17)

Post-modern denial of absolute truth (logically absurd)

My truth/your truth "*every man did that which was right in his own eyes*" (Jdg. 21:25)

## "Buy the truth" (Prov. 23:23) THE ACQUISITION OF TRUTH

Sin has linked profitable labor with pain and perspiration ("*the sweat of thy face*"); anything worth acquiring will require personal sacrifice and rigorous toil

"*Search the scriptures*" (John 5:39)

"*Buy of me gold*" (Rev. 3:18)

Intellectual grasp and spiritual apprehension are not mutually exclusive

Reason and revelation cooperate under the direction of the Spirit of God

The ultimate goal-- "*Truth in the inward being*" (Psa. 51:6)

## "Rightly handling the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15) THE CONSERVATION OF TRUTH

Truth calls for responsibility and accountability

"*Take heed unto the doctrine*" (1 Tim. 4:16)

Do I take steps to maintain what I have learned?

"*Acquire what you treasure, treasure what you acquire*"

"*Sell it not*" (Prov. 23:23)

"*Hold fast to that which is good*" (1 Thess. 5:21)

The role of memorization

"*Thy word have I hid in my heart*" (Psa. 119:11)

The importance of notetaking/recording truth; failing memory

## "Walking in the truth" (2 John 4; 3 John 3-4) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TRUTH

Walking in the truth= obedience (Gal. 5:7 et al)

Accountability, not merely for what I know, but for what I am capable of knowing

Progressive understanding based on obedience

"*If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine*" (John 7:17)

"*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*" (Luke 6:46)

"*If ye love me, keep my commandments*" (John 14:15)

**"Guard the deposit" (1Tim. 6:20)    THE DEFENSE OF TRUTH**

If God loves something, the Devil hates it!

Nehemiah's soldiers; working with weapons (Neh. 4:17)

External enemies; internal error (Acts 20:29-30; Gal 2:11ff)

Sometimes its Amelek; sometimes its Aaron

*"By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you"* (2Tim. 1:14)

The Levitical role of guarding the Tabernacle (Num. 1:53); doorkeepers in the Temple

**"Faithful men...teach others" (2Tim. 2:2)    THE COMMUNICATION OF TRUTH**

Personal responsibility to be truthbearers to a deceived world

*"Jesus answered... to this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth"* (John 18:37)

The primary role of parents in teaching truth (see Deut. 6)

Assembly testimony requires gifted pastor/teachers

The long-term viability of testimony depends on effective communication of truth to succeeding generations

**"Truth... will be with us forever" (2 John 2)    THE TRIUMPH OF TRUTH**

The lost are destined to an eternity with the Father of Lies; believers, however, will enjoy the fellowship of Truth in perpetuity.