BIBLE TRUTH AND PRESENT TRUTH

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There are only half truths being preached in many churches today, but the world desperately needs the whole gospel truth, and the present truth, which is why Jesus said about the end times ... "THIS gospel must be preached to the whole world and then the end will come". By saying THIS gospel, He meant the whole gospel truth, not just parts of it, and half truths that we hear so much today in the churches. And why is truth so important for us?

John 17:17 'Sanctify them through Thy Word, Thy Word is truth.'

It is through seeking the TRUE Word of God and "doing" it (James 1:22) that we are sanctified and set apart for holy use by God. But can we know the truth? According to the Roman Catholic Church and many Protestant pastors, you can only come to the truth through THEM!! By saying this, they cast down the power of God and lift themselves up in His place. But this is wrong, as you can come to the truth through your own study and prayer to your Heavenly Father who wants to open your eyes to His truth ... 1 Timothy 2:4 'Who will have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth.'

Let me show you why it is important to study for yourself and ask God to teach you through His Spirit, rather than rely on pastors and priests to teach you. What do the Catholic priests teach their members? That Mary is a mediator between us and God. But what does the Word of God teach? ... 1 Timothy 2:5'For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.' So as we can clearly see here, the Catholics priests are teaching error to their members. This is why it is so important to study for yourself, as there is a LOT MORE error being taught in the churches today.

Now as we found out above, we are sanctified through the Word of God. But are we sanctified by just "knowing" the Word? No, there is something else we must do 2 Thessalonians 2:13 'God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief in the truth.' 1 Peter 1:2 'Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience.' So as we can see from these two Bible verses, we not only need to KNOW the truth, we need to believe it and obey it.

1 Peter 1:22 'Seeing ye have <u>purified your souls</u> in <u>obeying the truth</u> through the Spirit.'

John 4:24'God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him <u>MUST</u> worship Him in <u>spirit and</u> truth.'

I hope you can see how important it is to study for the truth yourself, and believe it and obey it. Don't be fooled into thinking that you can only be taught by your priest or pastor. There is only ONE great Teacher that we need, and that is **JESUS CHRIST!** Give your all in searching God's Word for the truth and you will be greatly blessed.

This important issue of sanctification is greatly ignored in many churches today.

Present Truth

So what about "present" truth? Is there a present truth for our time that we need to know about? Does the Bible talk about present truth anywhere? 2 Peter 1:12 'Wherefore, I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be ESTABLISHED in the present truth.' Many Bible truths apply to All people of all ages, but there are certain truths that only apply to one generation, and for them, salvation would be dependent on them believing and obeying that present truth. For example, was the flood present truth for Noah and his generation? Yes! Did salvation depend on people believing the truth about the flood and obeying God to build and board the ark? Yes!

Hebrews 11:7'By faith, Noah being warned of God by things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house, by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.'

Unfortunately it was only Noah that believed the present truth for his time and only him and his family were saved as confirmed in 1 Peter 3:20. Only 8 people were saved out of possibly millions that were living during that time. Now did you notice what the above Bible verse in Hebrews said? It said that Noah being warned, obeyed God and that was for his and his family's **SALVATION!** His mere belief in God was not enough to save him and his family, he <u>HAD TO BELIEVE</u> the warning, and <u>OBEY IT</u> to be saved. So many professing Christians think that faith alone is enough today, even though the book of James confirms that faith on it's own is dead without works, (ie, obedience to the Word). Don't you think that there were many people out of the possible millions that lived during Noah's day who "believed" in God? So why were they lost? Because their "belief" wasn't enough. They HAD to OBEY also. Is salvation for our generation living during the last days dependent on certain present truth? We will find out.

Jonah also had a present truth message for the city of Nineveh that was unto salvation ... *Jonah 3:3-4'So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the Word of the Lord And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried and said, yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown.' ... So because of the sin of that city, God was going to destroy it. But this was, as it always is from our loving Heavenly Father, a warning of mercy! And what happened?*

Jonah 3:5,10'So the people of Nineveh believed God and proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them unto the least of them. And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil ways, and God repented of the evil that He had said He would do unto to them, and He did it not.'

God was ready to destroy this city, but in His mercy He gave them a warning through Jonah and a chance to change their ways. Now the people could have just carried on "believing" in God, but continued to live worldly, sinful lives and what would have been the result? They would have been destroyed. But instead, they not only believed God, they did works of faith and repented and turned from their sins, which saved them from destruction.

Remember also what happened to the Jews who wouldn't receive the truth about what Jesus said would happen to Jerusalem? He gave them a warning regarding the <u>abomination of desolation</u> and what to do when they saw it. He told them to flee. That was present truth for

their time and what happened to those who didn't obey Jesus' Words? They were destroyed with the city.

Present Truth for Our Time

Just as there have been a number of generations that had an important present truth "unto salvation" for their time, we too have an important present truth for our generation, and in His loving mercies God is sounding the warning to the world through His Word and His people.

Joel 1:15'Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.'

Joel 2:1'Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain; let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand.'

Malachi 4:1'For behold the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and <u>all that do wickedly shall be stubble</u>; and the day that cometh shall burn them up saith the LORD of hosts.'

This generation is living in the very end times, and Christ Jesus is soon to return. This world is aching under the burden of sin, and just as the people of Nineveh had to turn away from their sins and keep the commandments of God, we as professing Christians need to turn away from our sins also and "keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (Revelation 14:12). We are living in the judgment time, and knowing that this world and the majority of people in it are soon to be destroyed at the second coming of Christ, we need to search our hearts, we need to examine ourselves and test our faith daily (2 Corinthians 13:5). We need to put aside all worldly pleasures and give ALL our heart, soul, mind and strength in service to Jesus.

Joel 2:12-13'Therefore also now, saith the LORD, <u>turn ye even to me with all your heart,</u> and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.'

"God will not, can not suffer this wicked world much longer. The great day is drawing near, in which the kingdom of abominations shall be overthrown". (Martin Luther)

Do you realise the importance of Revelation 14:12? Do you know who the saints are mentioned there? They are the saved one's. So if you are not one of these saints, then what will happen to you? You will be lost, and will not enter into the kingdom. ... Revelation 22:14'Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.' ... Now what is it that these saints (saved one's) do? They keep the commandments of God AND the faith of Jesus. What commandments are they keeping? The ten commandments, INCLUDING the 4th commandment concerning the Bible seventh day sabbath.

There are many professing Christians who believe the ten commandments were abolished. This is just not so, as Jesus came to "fulfil" (**BRING FULL MEANING TO**) the law, NOT abolish it. Please seek the Bible truth on this important issue.

So what is the present truth message? The present truth for this generation is that the "day of the Lord" is fast approaching and **we need to get ready now**. There is no time to lose. As the children of God, knowing that the end of all things is approaching, we shouldn't be spending any time on worldly pleasures, instead we should be putting all our efforts into living holy lives, walking with Jesus each day, studying and praying and reaching out to the billions of lost souls in the world. It's time to prepare your heart and mind to stand before a Holy God.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8'And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey NOT the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.'

Lets find an example for the above Bible verse. Do those who belong to the prosperity gospel movement OBEY the gospel of Jesus Christ? Take a look at what they teach and believe in, and you will quickly see that they don't. So what will happen if these people do not repent and turn away from this false gospel? Jesus will take vengeance on them when He returns at the second coming and destroy them. And they will be lost! Do you see how important it is to **obey** the gospel of Christ? I hope so. Just "believing" isn't enough as James confirmed, no, we need to be doers and obey'ers also. Please get ready and give your all for Christ Jesus.