

What is Truth?

Val Brinkerhoff, 2/20/2020 – 1 page

What is truth? Because lies and deception dominate our world, I list what God has to say about truth in a number of insightful scriptures hereafter. We can receive **TRUTH** from **the SOURCE** of it. God and the Holy Spirit are the source of Truth. It is available as we turn to God, placing our faith and trust in Him. All else is idolatry. As we consult His precious written word in scripture, and pure revelation from Him in heartfelt prayer, we put ourselves in a situation where truth can be given, accepted, and implemented into our lives.

It is a blessing to have light and truth from God, along with the wisdom to receive it, and the strength to implement it. The way to **TRUTH** involves three simple steps; (1) Those who **love truth** want it – no matter how difficult it may be to accept; (2); Turning to God as a trustworthy source is the only way to receive truth; And (3) It can only be given and received with humility in a broken heart and contrite spirit. When it is obtained in our lives, we become free of the lies and deception that have become binding chains.

1. What Truth Is? Three scriptures define **TRUTH**. Two of them state that truth is “things as they **REALLY ARE**” past, present, and future: Jacob 4:12-18 & D&C 93:23-25.

2. Where is Truth Found? A third scripture states **WHO TRUTH** is. Jesus said, “I am the way, **the truth**, and the life” (John 14:6). **Jesus** taught that He was and **is the True Vine** (John 15), our source light, truth, hope, and deliverance. He is the rock, the door, and the very “fountain of living waters” (Jer. 2:13). These waters are a type for revelation. Those who do not love **TRUTH** are given lies instead to embrace, even “strong delusion” (see **2 Thess. 2:1-12**). Their idolatry has led them to embrace poor substitutes for the living God and His pure light. Too often the falsehoods come from men and their teachings. Related scriptures include **Jacob 4:13-16** and **Ezek. 14:1-11**.

3. Lies and idolatry are embraced because of pride. Too many believe they already have the truth about various matters and thus they don’t seek it or more of it from **God**. This is the natural result of “**trusting in the arm of flesh**”. It leads to **curses** just as God has said repeatedly (read 2 Ne. 4:34; Jer. 17:5; Psalm 118:8). Wise virgins place their trust in God and are blessed with truth. Another word for “faith” in Hebrew tradition is “trust”. Because too many of us trust in the wrong sources for truth, and hold tightly onto them, God is replaced with “**idols in our hearts**”. Again, it leads to “strong delusion” (**2 Thess. 2:1-12**). The resulting “idols” are the foundation of our false beliefs and traditions, passed down to us from “fathers, priests, and kings” (leaders at home, church, governments). Many lies are purposefully given, for the sake of their “gain” (1 Ne. 22:23), as in media, schools, and churches.

Scripture provides us a number of insightful “idols in the heart” scriptures; **Thes. 2:1-12; Ezek. 14:1-11; Jacob 4:13-16; James 4:3; Prov. 23:7; Isa. 66:2-42; Alma 29:4 & Morm. 9:27-29**. The private interpretation of them and all of God’s word in scripture has led to different Christian churches and beliefs. Pure confirming revelation from God requires us conform to **His will** (in humility and submission), rather than our own will or that of others. To have God and truth we must remove all “the idols” held in our “heart”, otherwise false revelation can come from our own mind or from deceiving spirits. When we **repent and come to God on His terms**, we make a covenant with Him to seek and live His **will** and His commandments, some given in pure revelation (see Mosiah 5:5; 2 Ne. 32:3-6).

Jesus told the Pharisees in His day that they **THINK** they have **ETERNAL LIFE** in the scriptures via their own doctrinal interpretation of the law and scripture (see John 5:30, 37-40), yet they rejected Him - **the giver of the law, their Messiah**, the great **I AM** of the Old Testament (John 8:58). The Pharisees devoted themselves to the **LAW** and its interpretation, seeking wisdom from leaders (the Rabbis today). It didn’t save them then and won’t now. The person of Jesus does and is our only hope! They rejected and crucified God among them. He said, “I am **the way, the truth, and the life**” (John 14:6). We must turn to He who died for our us. He said, “**repent and come unto me**” (see D&C 10:67-68; 1 Ne. 10:18-19; 2 Ne. 9:23-24; 28:31-32; Jacob 1:7; Alma 5:33-34; Ether 4:7-19; Mor. 7:34; D&C 93:1; 3 Ne. 9:14, 22, 51; 11:14; 12:19-20, 23-24; 27:5-21; 30:1-2). There is **no other way** (Mosiah 3:17).

We are all invited to get on the pathway to **know** the **LORD** personally, and with this relationship receive truth from Him directly in pure revelation. It is the oil in the lamps of wise virgins (JST Matt. 7:33; JST Matt. 25:11). Real blessings flow from this relationship, including His greatest gift, the promise of eternal life - the fruit of the Tree of Life. Christ the **LORD** is our Savior. He is the **True Vine**. We are invited to abide in Him (John 15). **HE** is **the way**.