

TRUTH

A sermon prepared at request
 [Text with supporting citations incorporated]
 by
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PART ONE: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND TRUTH

It is a sad commentary on human beings that we individually and collectively have a more intimate knowledge of the philosophy and practice of untruth than truth. We even have specific professions, such as intelligence, diplomacy, and advertising dedicated to creating effective untruths for the express purpose of deceiving other human beings into acting contrary to their own best interests.

It is certainly true for me having focused on research into the social consequences of intelligence operations and organized crime in government agencies and programs since 1978. I know a great deal about the role of untruths in past and current events of government and history, but discovered I knew very little about the vital spiritual consequences of truth. I suspect almost no one does, because truth has never been fully implemented as the Bible in general and Christ in particular speak of its intended use and purpose.

I realized this when doing the Biblical research for scriptural references regarding truth, lies, and deception to construct this sermon. After several decades of qualitative research experience I notice patterns in large documents. When all the relevant references were assembled and I saw what the implications were, it became clear to me that I had neither heard a single sermon nor read a single article my entire life about the complete and true role truth was supposed to play in the lives of Christians.

How I came to be preparing a sermon about "TRUTH" requires some explanation so listeners and readers will not misconstrue the content as the product of random drive-by arrogance.

A minister friend of mine called a few days ago and asked me to fill in for him on a Sunday when he had to be out of town. This is only the second time I have been asked to do a sermon as a speaking engagement.

What happened during the conversation was one of the stranger experiences in my life. While he was still asking me the question, the full structure of what I should talk about was suddenly in my mind. I had to talk about the relationship of Christians to TRUTH. While doing the research to pull everything I would need together, I realized it was something I would also have to share with a larger audience than his Congregation. This work is probably another demonstration of Richard Bach's great insight, "You teach best what you most need to learn."

First, let us remind ourselves of the reasons we can be separated from truth.
Deception and self-deception

First, we have deception, including self-deception.

There are two types of deception, inadvertent or accidental and intentional. Normally honest people can possess, rely upon, and disseminate incorrect or inaccurate information believing it to be true, thereby engaging in inadvertent or accidental deception. This happens a lot in politics, government operations, and religion.

Intentional deceit we already know is lying

Self-deception is the result of desiring the consequences of untruth over the consequences of truth to the point we accept telling ourselves lies. Sometimes this takes the form of intentionally NOT attempting to determine what the truth is.

The major individual motivators for deception are probably fear, love, greed, addiction to power, and succumbing to peer pressure at all ages.

Having free will, human beings can engage in falsification, distortion, and concealment.

Falsification is the intentional use of information that is untruth.

Distortion is the intentional use of omission or other techniques to communicate incomplete or inaccurate information.

Concealment is the intentional failure to provide information. Politicians and corporate executives engage in this frequently with statements such as, "I have no recollection," "I do not know," "That is classified," or "I have not been informed" when asked potentially embarrassing questions or when questioned in criminal investigations.

Error

There is also error. We can be absolutely wrong, even with the best of human efforts and knowledge at any point in time.

In Western Culture, we have accorded responsibility for identifying objective truth to scientists. Scientists recognize two fundamental types of error. They have even named them. In *Type One Error* we can wrongly conclude that something is *false* when it is, in fact, *true*. In *Type Two Error* we can wrongly conclude something is *true* when it is *false*.

Another type of error is the recall or dissemination of incorrect information.

Ignorance

There are also several varieties of ignorance that can separate us from truth. Philosophers have distinguished and defined *natural or physiological ignorance*, *cultural ignorance*, *vested ignorance*, *acquired or learned ignorance*, and *polarized ignorance*.

Natural or physiological ignorance is imposed upon us by our biology. It could also be called sensory ignorance. It occurs because of the limits of our sensory systems. Our sense of hearing only processes certain frequencies of sound. Our eyes only process certain frequencies of light. Without special instruments and machines, we are ignorant of any information conveyed outside the sensitivity ranges of our physical sensory systems.

Cultural ignorance exists because our concept of reality is limited by the

vocabulary of our language, how our culture attributes meaning, and what our cultural beliefs tell us. We are ignorant of how other cultures experience the world unless we know their language, know how meaning is attributed, and know their cultural beliefs. Members of different cultures can spend an hour in the same room observing the same events and all emerge with an entirely different experience of what happened and how they should react.

Cultural ignorance is causing us some very serious problems in Iraq and the Middle East right now. Cultural ignorance can get you killed.

Vested ignorance occurs when we refuse to seek a truth we know exists because admitting it exists would cause us inconvenience. Individually or collectively we can choose not to seek to know truth. This is “don’t rock the boat” ignorance. “Let us pretend this does not exist so we can continue doing what we are doing.” A lot of government environmental and economic information are examples of vested ignorance.

People develop vested interests in ignorance regarding truth because of emotional or economic attachments. “We have always done it this way so we do not even want to go there.” I will bet that sounds familiar.

Vested ignorance is not harmless. It can be very detrimental to our nation and to our individual lives. Corporations that have purchased new technology and locked it up in their vaults so no one can use it are engaging in vested ignorance. Members of law enforcement, prosecutors, attorneys, and judges who conceal or destroy evidence to obtain or sustain a wrongful conviction engage in vested ignorance.

Acquired or learned ignorance is the result of being taught NOT to find truth. Examples range from reeducation camps in communist countries to the current dumbing-down of the United States education system where students are not taught how to reason, not taught to effectively use language, and taught political correctness as a substitute for actual history. In some cultures, segments of the population are taught that some truth is off limit to them because they are unfit to know it, it is sacred, or a matter of national security.

Belief structures can be the strongest form of acquired ignorance. One example is the belief that there is no objective truth, that all truth is relative. Living under the belief there is no objective truth transforms the concept of ignorance into a social fiction. Under this reality model, seeking truth becomes a waste of time and creates unnecessary conflict with other individuals and groups who have their own equally valid subjective truths.

Polarized ignorance occurs in the context of economic, military, personal, political, or religious conflict. We choose not to know selective truth about our enemy that would contradict perceptions or beliefs necessary to participate in or sustain conflict.

Emotions can be strong factors in ignorance. Sometimes fear can dissuade individuals or groups from truth seeking. Political, religious, economic, or cultural factions may dictate that those who seek certain information should be punished or killed to maintain a state of ignorance to better exercise control over others. Individuals

with authority over others may keep them in ignorance for sexual or economic exploitation.

Individuals or groups may avoid truth because they want to avoid responsibility that comes with knowing truth.

Truth as a state of consciousness

I will be relying heavily on scriptural citations to demonstrate how Biblical references to truth, lies, and deception interlink. What we need to examine is too important to risk distortion.

TRUTH referred to by Jesus Christ and the Disciples in the Bible is not simply the presence or absence of true information. TRUTH is a state of consciousness in which God is known. If you are in a state of truth you know God. If you are not in a state of truth you do not know God.

JESUS AND TRUTH

First, let us examine the relationship between Jesus Christ and TRUTH reported in the Scriptures.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and **truth**.

John 1:17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and **truth** were realized through Jesus Christ.

JOHN 8:31-32

8:31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;

8:32 and you will know the **truth**, and the **truth** will make you free."

JOHN 8:38-47

8:38 "I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father."

8:39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham.

8:40 "But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do.

8:41 "You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God."

8:42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.

8:43 "Why do you not understand what I am saying ? It is because you cannot

hear My word.

8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the **truth** because there is no **truth** in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a **liar** and the father of **lies**."

8:45 "But because I speak the **truth**, you do not believe Me."

8:46 "Which one of you convicts Me of sin ? If I speak **truth**, why do you not believe Me?"

8:47 "He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God."

We know this is about something more significant than true or false here, because people knew the difference between truth and lies long before Jesus came to Earth.

John 14:6

14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the **truth**, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

JOHN 18:37-38

18:37 Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king ?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the **truth**. Everyone who is of the **truth** hears My voice."

[Proving the point Jesus just made in 18:37, we have in 18:38:]

John 18:38 Pilate said to Him, "What is **truth**?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, "I find no guilt in Him."

As with one modern politician, perhaps Pilot did not know the meaning of "is." There were "truth is relative" practitioners long before the current crop of self-appointed geniuses who have concluded that there is no such thing as objective truth.

Colossians 2:8-12

2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty **deception**, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

2:10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

2:11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without

hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;
2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

I think the imagery here is a little strained because the issue of circumcision was such a major one for Jews struggling with living under the old Law their entire lives and now hearing that Jesus had replaced it with a New Covenant. The analogy communicates that Christ replaced our physical body as the controller of life on earth with the Spirit body as the controller if we stay connected to the Spirit which came into the world in Him.

Now I am going to make the transition from the relationship between Christ and the truth to the relationship between human beings and truth. To make that transition we must note that 1 Peter 2 ties together Christ, truth, and Spirit and human beings, truth, and Spirit just as Colossians 2 did.

1 PETER 2:1-5

2:1 Therefore, putting aside all malice and all **deceit** and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,

2:2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

2:3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

2:4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,

2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a **spiritual** house for a holy priesthood, to offer up **spiritual** sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:13-25

2:13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority,

2:14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

2:15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the **ignorance** of foolish men.

2:16 Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.

2:17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.

2:18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and gentle, but also to those who are unreasonable.

2:19 For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

2:20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure

it with patience ? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

2:22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY **DECEIT** FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;

2:23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;

2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

2:25 For you were continually straying like sheep , but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.

CHRISTIANS AND TRUTH

On to relationship of Christians and truth:

JOHN 3:1-21

3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews;

3:2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

3:4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old ? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

3:5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the **Spirit** he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

3:6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the **Spirit** is **spirit**.

3:7 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'

3:8 "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the **Spirit**."

3:9 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?"

3:10 Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things ?

[There are ministers, preachers, and theologians alive today, just like Nicodemus in his day, who do not have a clue about the Spiritual World despite teaching and preaching about it all their lives. Continuing with John 3:1-21 at verse 11. . .]

JOHN 3:11 "Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony.

3:12 "If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things ?

3:13 "No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.

3:14 "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;

3:15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.

3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

3:17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

3:18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

[Those of you who are waiting for judgment to come at some time way off in the future do not get it. All those who came before us have already been judged as a CONSEQUENCE of their own choice to join in what Christ brought into the World or not join. Judgement occurs the instant you die. Judgement can be pretty harsh. If you do not believe this and want to understand what judgement is about, read the accounts of near death experiences. These resuscitate people will tell you if you listen.

They report feeling ALL the pain and suffering they have caused other people over the course of their entire life. If you are a mass murderer, you get to experience what you did to all of your victims. I do not know about you, but I think that is about as perfect as justice can get. Does this give you a new perspective on **LUKE 6:31** "Treat others the same way you want them to treat you."?

God brings information into the World when it is time for human beings to deal with it. Again, continuing with John 3 at verse 19. . .]

JOHN 3:19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

3:20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

3:21 "But he who practices the **truth** comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

[If you read the near death experiences, many report the Light becoming visible to them and moving into it as they review the good and bad of their life. Other near death experiencers report much darker events until some ask for the help of Jesus or God and the Light comes to them and takes them in.]

JOHN 4:23-24

4:23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in **spirit** and **truth**; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

4:24 "God is **spirit**, and those who worship Him must worship in **spirit** and **truth**."

JOHN 15:24-27

15:24 "If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well.

15:25 "But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, 'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.'

15:26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the **Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, **15:27** and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

JOHN 16:12-13

16:12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

16:13 "But when He, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, He will guide you into all the **truth**; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

ROMANS 1:15-32

1:15 So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the **truth** in unrighteousness,

1:19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

[There is an important clue here in verse 20, which I just read, that we will take up again in Hebrews 8. There is a **correspondence** between things in this world and the world of the Spirit. Continuing at Romans 1:21]

ROMANS 1:21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

1:23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

1:24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

1:25 For they exchanged the **truth** of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

1:26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,

1:27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

1:28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,

1:29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, **deceit**, malice; they are gossips,

1:30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,

1:31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

1:32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

[Beware! God conducts Spiritual sting operations so that those with evil in their hearts will set themselves up for judgement by doing the evil deeds that will condemn them when they face the consequences of their life choices at their death. Perfect justice. The punishment fits the crime and the perpetrator judges himself guilty.]

Ephesians 4:17-24

4:17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,

4:18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the **ignorance** that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

4:19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

4:20 But you did not learn Christ in this way,

4:21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as **truth** is in Jesus,

4:22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of **deceit**, **4:23** and that you be renewed in the **spirit** of your mind,

4:24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the **truth**.

4:25 Therefore, laying aside falsehood, **SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE** of you **WITH HIS NEIGHBOR**, for we are members of one another.

4:26 **BE ANGRY**, AND yet **DO NOT SIN**; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

4:27 and do not give the devil an opportunity.

4:28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.

4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

4:30 Do not grieve the Holy **Spirit** of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

4:32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Ephesians 5:6

5:6 Let no one **deceive** you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

5:7 Therefore do not be partakers with them;

5:8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light

5:9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and **truth**),

5:10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

5:11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

5:12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret .

5:13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

[That last statement is a truth straight from physics 101.]

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12

2:8 Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;

2:9 that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders,

2:10 and with all the **deception** of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the **truth** so as to be saved.

2:11 For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,

2:12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the **truth**, but took pleasure in wickedness.

1 TIMOTHY 4:1-5

4:1 But the **Spirit** explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to **deceitful spirits** and doctrines of demons,

4:2 by means of the hypocrisy of **liars** seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,

4:3 men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the **truth**.

4:4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude;

4:5 for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.

2 TIMOTHY 4:3-4

4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,

4:4 and will turn away their ears from the **truth** and will turn aside to myths.

HEBREWS 10:26-27

10:26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the **truth**, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

10:27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.

1 JOHN 3:18-20

3:18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and **truth**.

3:19 We will know by this that we are of the **truth**, and will assure our heart before Him

3:20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

1 JOHN 5:4-6

5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world --our faith.

5:5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God ?

5:6 This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the **Spirit** who testifies, because the **Spirit** is the **truth**.

2 John 1:1-4

1:1 The elder to the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in **truth**; and not only I, but also all who know the **truth**,

1:2 for the sake of the **truth** which abides in us and will be with us forever:

1:3 Grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in **truth** and love.

1:4 I was very glad to find some of your children walking in **truth**, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father.

1 Peter 3:8-14

3:8 To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in **spirit**;

3:9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

3:10 For, "THE ONE WHO DESIRES LIFE, TO LOVE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, MUST KEEP HIS TONGUE FROM EVIL AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING **DECEIT**."

3:11 "HE MUST TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; HE MUST SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT."

3:12 "FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO EVIL."

3:13 Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good ?

3:14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

What all this means is that when you enter a state of truth, a specific state of awareness or consciousness that you can achieve, truth will be in your mind and on your heart because that awareness is God's , in both senses. You will not be separated from God in untruth. You will not be distorting scriptures to support any form of

ignorance. You will not be distorting scriptures to engage in any form of deception. You will not be distorting scriptures to support your hatreds. You will not be distorting scriptures to support your political biases. You will not be distorting scriptures to manipulate other people for your own aggrandizement or selfish reasons. You will ONLY be comfortable with the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God! You will be uncomfortable speaking anything but the truth.

These scriptures are not just words that will work some kind of magic on you by hearing them. For generations some have been acting like the Bible was a book of magic. Read these words and it will accomplish this. Read those words and it will accomplish that.

The words in this Bible have been used to enslave people. The words in this Bible have been used to justify torturing people. The words in this Bible have been used to put liars, thieves, and mass murders into public office and to keep them in office.

All of these things happened because the men and women who read the words and used them to commit or justify evil in the name of God just did not get it. If the words printed on the pages of this Bible were pieces of God, no one would be able to use them to commit or justify evil. The ink printed on these pages is of this world. The MEANING behind these words is from God and Spirit.

It is the MEANING you have to grasp and use, not just the words so you can use them like a parrot. No one can talk you into a state of truth that connects you to God. I cannot do it. None of my words today or the scriptures I read will magically put you in a state of truth that connects you to God. Communication has to take place. You have to take in the MEANING. You have to do something INSIDE YOURSELF to place your spirit in a state of truth and connect to God. It is your free will choice to act that must be made.

If you doubt that is truth, then listen to this:

Hebrews 8:1-13

8:1 Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

8:2 a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.

8:3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer.

8:4 Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law;

8:5 who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "SEE," He says, "THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN."

[There are some important things to note about Hebrews 8 so far. As I pointed out when I read ROMANS 1:15-32 things on Earth CORRESPOND to things in the Spirit realm. You have a physical body that corresponds to your spiritual body.

It is pop quiz time! How many of you have read every verse in the Bible about the Spirit? How many of you have had the courage to actually try to do anything with your Spirit body?

The Disciples of Christ learned to use their Spirit bodies. Jesus taught them. Where can you go to learn how to use your Spirit bodies today? Where is your neighborhood Nautalus Spirit Fitness Center? Where is Gold's Spirit Gym located in your City? Continuing at Hebrews 8:6. . .]

HEBREWS 8:6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a **better covenant**, which has been enacted on **better promises**.

8:7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.

8:8 For finding fault with them, He says, "BEHOLD, DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD, WHEN I WILL EFFECT A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH;

8:9 NOT LIKE THE COVENANT WHICH I MADE WITH THEIR FATHERS ON THE DAY WHEN I TOOK THEM BY THE HAND TO LEAD THEM OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT; FOR THEY DID NOT CONTINUE IN MY COVENANT, AND I DID NOT CARE FOR THEM, SAYS THE LORD.

8:10 "FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: **I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS.** AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

8:11 "AND THEY SHALL NOT TEACH EVERYONE HIS FELLOW CITIZEN, AND EVERYONE HIS BROTHER, SAYING, 'KNOW THE LORD,' FOR ALL WILL KNOW ME, FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST OF THEM. **8:12** "FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE."

8:13 When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

We no longer live under the old Jewish Law that had to be taken in from the outside through learning. We are children of the New Covenant which can only be accessed by the Spirit inside our hearts and minds where they interface with God.

There are people who claim to be Christians that are trying to live simultaneously under the Old Covenant Law **that is no longer in effect** and the New Covenant that is Spirit based. Those alleged Christians who trot out provisions of the Old Covenant and New Covenant as needed to justify their own corrupt agendas are among the worst of

the purveyors of untruth. These people are the ultimate schizophrenics, simultaneously trying to root their heart and mind in the physical world and the Spirit world.

Remember the consequences of trying to serve two masters. Those with hearts and minds rooted in this world can only treat those who claim to be seeking and having spiritual experiences as insane persons.

We have the OPPORTUNITY UNDER THE NEW COVENANT to use our Spirit inside us to act and enter into a state of truth that will connect us to God in our mind and heart. Jesus Christ came to earth to create this opportunity for every individual. He revealed the existence of the Spirit connection inside each one of us. Each one of you is the only person on the entire planet who can respond for you and activate that Spirit connection.

Jesus came to give you this opportunity. What are you going to do about it? Are you going to choose to connect to the Spirit in truth or try to live under an Old Covenant Law no longer in effect.

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