



## SESSION 2 — *Worshipping in Truth*

- Dr. Suiter -

Why is it important that we consider the relationship of truth and worship?

Believers are positively impacted when they expose themselves to God's truth through the regular practice of private worship. God's truth stands in opposition to the postmodern world in which we live. The Bible teaches that we can know truth, and it comes by getting to know through His Word.

### GOD IS TRUTH

#### 1. The Definition of God's Attribute of Truth

By God's attribute of truth we understand that "all that God is and does and all that God represents to others is consistent with Himself. God's knowledge, declarations, and representations conform to each other and to reality" (Joseph Pinter, Bible Theology Class notes, TH 203, Theology Proper, 20).

*In the formal study of the attributes of God, we usually spend minimal time on God's attribute of truth. Other moral attributes need greater explanation or appear more intriguing. God's holiness, righteousness, justice, love, grace, mercy, and goodness were impressed upon us in some fashion at that crucial initial experience of regeneration. They continue to intrude into our growing Christian experience. We take the attribute of truth for granted, seldom reflecting upon it. Truth appears so simple and readily understood. As children we developed and began to understand moral issues. We crossed the threshold of moral accountability. We arrived at a basic understanding of right and wrong, and a sense of fairness. We learned about truth, truthfulness, and falsehood; what was fair and unfair. Hence, it is easy for us to think that we know all we need to know about truth . . . But there's so much more to the concept of truth than we realize.*

#### 2. The Significance of God's Attribute of Truth

Because God is truth, we can be assured of the following:

- God's truth is the \_\_\_\_\_ for all truth.
- God's truth is the foundation and guarantee of all \_\_\_\_\_, both general (what we see in nature) and specific (revealed in scripture). What He has revealed is in accord with reality. See Psalm 19.
- God's truth expressed in His dealings with His moral creatures is viewed as His \_\_\_\_\_.
- God expresses His truth in the way He deals with His redeemed ones. In this, we see His \_\_\_\_\_: God will keep His promises. See 2 Timothy 2:13.
- Both the expressions of truth as **veracity** and **faithfulness** are closely linked to \_\_\_\_\_. God is real and He is reliable. He has given His word and He keeps His word. He cannot lie. (Numbers 23:19; Psalm 119:89, 138; 1 Thessalonians 5:24; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 10:23)
- God is \_\_\_\_\_. Meaningful faith would be impossible apart from God's attribute of truth. We can place our faith in God, because He is truth!

### GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH

Note the two most important passages on how God gave us his Word: 2 Peter 1:20-21 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Because God's Word is Truth, it is also \_\_\_\_\_.

### JESUS CHRIST IS TRUTH

Jesus is the Word (Truth) made flesh. See John 1:14; John 14:6.

## INCORPORATING GOD'S TRUTH IN PRIVATE WORSHIP (JOHN 4:24)

### Key Principles

- True worship is a \_\_\_\_\_ based on the truth He has revealed to us in His Word. Our worship must be based on an understanding of the Word of God (MacArthur).
- If worship is focusing on and responding to God, then the Bible is the \_\_\_\_\_ for all true worship.
- “The better we know the Word of God, the better we know the God of the Word” (Warren Wiersbe, *Real Worship*).
- 1 Timothy 4:13; Matthew 4:4

### Practical Applications (Donald Whitney)

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- \_\_\_\_\_ on God's Word.
  - Look intently. See James 1:25.
  - The *absorption* of Scripture is the remedy to “I can't remember a thing I read.”
  - Mark 12:30; Psalm 63
- Private worship is essential if we are to consistently draw near to God and live with an awareness of His presence and power on a day-to-day basis.

### ENGAGING THE MIND IN PRIVATE WORSHIP

Deuteronomy 6:5 — “And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

NOTE: Why does Jesus insert the word “mind” when this verse occurs in the Gospel accounts?

Mark 12:30 — And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

- Wiersbe — The believer's response of all that they are – **mind**, emotions, will, and body – to what God is and says and does.
- It is essential to feed the **mind** on the absolute truth of the Word of God. Consider all the “untruth” that we feed on through the course of a day.
- Romans 12:1-2 – “renewing of the mind . . . spiritual worship”
- Donald Whitney – “Meeting God in personal worship keeps us close to the heart and **mind** of God. The imprint of His words on our minds stokes the fires of our affection for God so that they burn long after our meeting with Him in the morning.”

### THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WORSHIP & ACTS OF WORSHIP

- See Matthew 15:8-9; Isaiah 58; Malachi
- Principle – “Knowing and practicing the activities of worship that God has ordained is indispensable, but there is more to worship than just doing right things” (Whitney). See Isaiah 58; Matthew 15:8-9.
- Application – Even though the Pharisees demonstrated correct speech and actions in their form of worship, Jesus condemned them. What causes God to condemn our worship? (Whitney)
  - God turns away from worship when the worshipper's “heart is far away” from Him.
  - He refuses our worship when the teaching or doctrines about worship are “the precepts of men,” not the precepts of God.