

Sermon Title: The Wish of Truth and Love

Sermon Text: 2 John 12-13

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to fulfill the wish of Scripture, to learn and practice the truth in love.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 aspects of truth that is mandatory for learning and practice to be manifested.

I. Truth is found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. V.12

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 18:37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

A. Worship God in truth.

Psalms 145:18 The LORD *is* near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.

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

1 Corinthians 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.

B. Serve God in truth.

Joshua 24:14 " Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!

1 Samuel 12:24 "Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.

Hosea 4:1 Hear the word of the LORD, You children of Israel, For the LORD *brings* a charge against the inhabitants of the land: "There is no truth or mercy Or knowledge of God in the land.

C. Walk before God in truth.

1 Kings 2:4 "that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

2 Kings 20:3 "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done *what was* good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

D. Esteem truth as priceless.

Proverbs 23:23 Buy the truth, and do not sell *it*, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.

E. Rejoice in truth.

1 Corinthians 13:6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth;

F. Speak truth to one another.

Zechariah 8:16 These *are* the things you shall do: Speak each man the truth to his neighbor; Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and peace;

Proverbs 12:22 Lying lips *are* an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truthfully *are* His delight.

Ephesians 4:25 Therefore, putting away lying, "*Let each one of you* speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.

G. Meditate upon the truth.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy -- meditate on these things.

H. Write truth on your heart.

Proverbs 3:3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart,

Psalms 51:1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.

II. Truth should be preached, taught, and lived by the commissioned. V.12

2 Corinthians 12:6 For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me *to be* or hears from me.

Galatians 4:16 Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

1 Timothy 2:7 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle -- I am speaking the truth in Christ *and* not lying -- a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

2 Corinthians 4:2 But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

2 Corinthians 6:7 by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, **8** by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and *yet* true;

2 Corinthians 7:14 For if in anything I have boasted to him about you, I am not ashamed. But as we spoke all things to you in truth, even so our boasting to Titus was found true.

Exodus 18:21 "Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them *to be* rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

III. Truth should be manifested in the chosen. V.13

A. Truth reflects Godliness.

Titus 1:1 Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness,

B. Truth reflects sanctification.

John 17:17 "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. . . **19** "And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

C. Truth reflects purification.

1 Peter 1:22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

D. Truth is opposed by the wicked.

1 Timothy 6:5 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a *means of* gain. From such withdraw yourself.

2 Timothy 3:8 Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith;

2 Timothy 4:4 and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

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

E. Truth is the pillar and support of the church.

1 Timothy 3:15 but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

"In an age of relativism and skepticism, the church must remain firmly anchored to the solid foundation of divine truth. There is no place for insipid, shallow, theologically contentless preaching, for worship based on emotion devoid of truth, or for tolerating false teaching. There is no virtue in ignorance; no substitute for learning, loving and guarding the truth. Only by so doing will the church be able to fulfill its divine calling to be the 'pillar and support of the truth' (1 Tim. 3:15), shining the light of God's truth in the world of darkness."

–John MacArthur, The New Testament Commentary