

Worship & Ministry Meeting

Fall 2024 Semester

The church in Madison

Our Attitude Toward the Bible

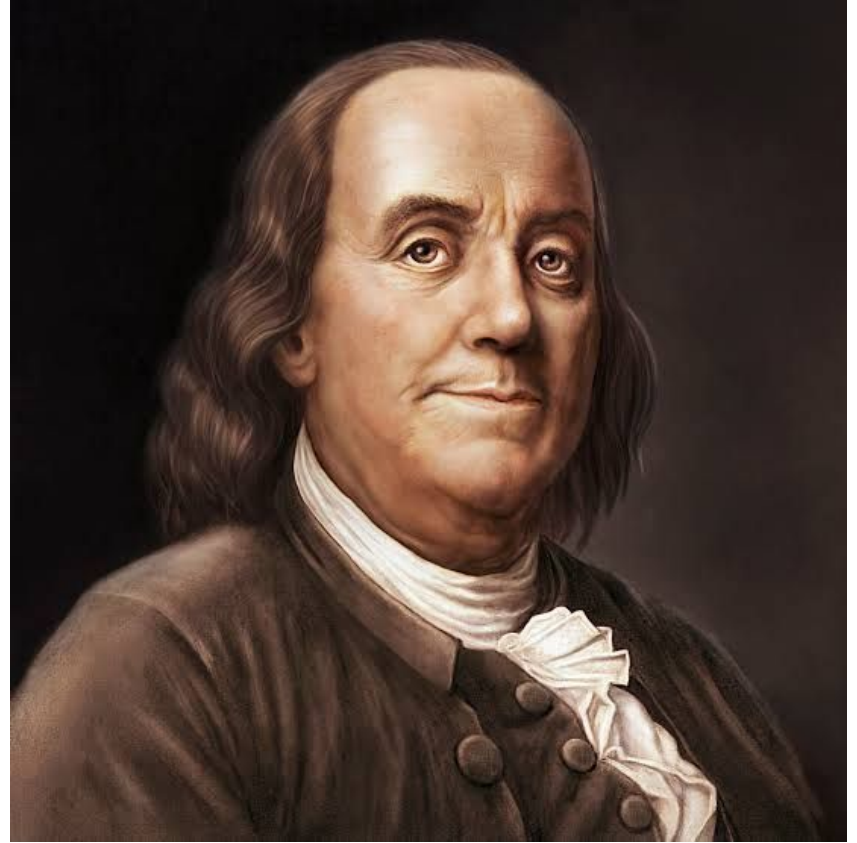
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“In the highest sense the Bible is to us the unique repository of eternal spiritual truths.”



Dwight D. Eisenhower
U.S. 34th President

“Young men, my advice to you is that you cultivate an acquaintance with, and a firm belief in, the Holy Scriptures.”



Benjamin Franklin
U.S. Founding Father

Three Items:

- 1) The need to believe the Bible
- 2) The need to know the truth in the Bible
- 3) The need to apply the truth in the Bible

The Need to Believe the Bible

Accepting the Word of God

Numbers 23:19 - “God is not a man, that He should lie, / Nor a son of man, that He should repent. / Has He said, and will He not do it? / Or has He spoken, and will He not establish it?”

Human words are not trustworthy because they are not eternal, and man’s feelings fluctuate.

However, the Word of God is trustworthy. God’s word is eternal. Not one word can be changed or annulled until it is fulfilled.

The Need to Believe the Bible

Agreeing with the Word of God

We should agree with the Word of God. When God says something, it is right; it is established.

The sooner we agree with the Word of God, the sooner we will receive the blessing from the Lord. When we agree, all the promises of God will become real to us.

2 Cor. 1:20 - “For as many promises of God as there are, in Him is the Yes; therefore also through Him is the Amen to God...”

The Need to Believe the Bible

Believing the Word of God

We must believe the Word of God. Whatever the Lord spoke in the Bible is for us to enjoy and experience.

The children of Israel fell in the wilderness because of their unbelief; only Joshua and Caleb entered into the good land.

Hebrews 3:12 - “Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God.”

The Need to Believe the Bible

Having Faith by Hearing the Word of God

Romans 10:17 - “So faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

We were born without faith. We cannot conjure up faith to believe. However, when we hear the word of God, faith is infused into our spirit. It creates an appreciation for what is spoken.

Example: Romans 10:12b - “For the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him.”

The Need to Know the Truth in the Bible

Knowing the Interpreted Truth

Believers throughout the last twenty centuries have been interpreting the Bible:

- The church fathers
- The dark ages (1000 years of darkness)
- The reformation starting 1517
- The Brethren and many others
- The Lord's present recovered truths

2 Peter 1:12 - "Therefore I will be ready always to remind you concerning these things, even though you know them and have been established in the present truth."

The Need to Know the Truth in the Bible

Knowing the Truth for Ourselves

John 8:32 - “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.”

We need to know the truth to be set free. At times, we may be bound by things of sin and the world, or we may be under unnecessary condemnation. This is due to the lack of the truth.

John 17:17 - “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

The word of God also sanctifies us.

The Need to Know the Truth in the Bible

Knowing the Truth for the Church

1 Timothy 3:15 - “But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.”

The pillar supports the building, and the base holds the pillar.

The church of God must be built and constituted with the truth. If the church is full of worldly activities, she cannot display the truth.

The Need to Know the Truth in the Bible

Knowing the Truth for the Gospel

Ephesians 1:13 - “In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise.”

A person who is full of the truth has much to preach. A person who is not full of the truth would not know what to say to help people to believe.

People are regenerated by the living and abiding word of God (1 Pet. 1:23), and they can grow by the milk of the word (1 Pet. 2:2).

The Need to Apply the Truth in the Bible

In Our Daily Christian Life

1 Timothy 2:3-4 - “Our Savior God... desires all men to be saved and to come to the full knowledge of the truth.”

“Full knowledge” means experience. We need to experience the truth so that it becomes our reality.

Many times our experience does not match the Word. We should never say, “It is not possible.” We should confess our shortcomings, pray to receive the supply from the Word, and let the truth uplift us to its standard.

The Need to Apply the Truth in the Bible

In the Church Life

We must not be loose with the Word of God. We should endeavor to practice the church life according to the truth in the Bible. Whatever the Lord says, we must do.

Example: Church meetings in mutuality with all members functioning.

1 Corinthians 14:26 - “What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.”

Questions for Group Discussion

1. Why do we need to know the truth in the Bible? (Hint: we need to know for at least three parties)
2. How do we apply the truth in the Bible to our daily Christian life and to the church life? Give an example from the Word.
3. Should we believe absolutely everything the Bible says? And should we endeavor to follow it absolutely?