

Message Three

**Holding the Present Truth
and Taking the Way of the Truth**

Scripture Reading: 2 Pet. 1:12; 2:2, 15, 21; 1 Pet. 1:22

- I. Truth is the Triune God with His word—John 1:1, 14-17; 14:6, 16-17; 15:26; 16:13; 17:17; 18:37b.**
- II. The divine truth is absolute, and we must be absolute for the truth and uphold the absoluteness of the truth—John 14:6; 18:37; 3 John 3-4, 8:**
 - A. To be absolute for the truth means to set aside feelings, to ignore personal relationships, and to not stand for the self—Matt. 16:24-25; 1 Pet. 1:22.
 - B. The truth is the unique standard, and we must stand on the side of the truth to oppose ourselves; upholding the absoluteness of the truth is possible only when we are delivered from ourselves—John 8:32; 2 John 2; 3 John 3-4.
 - C. If the truth is not something absolute for us, we do not know God and we do not know God's word—2 Thes. 2:10; 1 John 5:20.
 - D. If we are not absolute for the truth, we will sacrifice God's truth for ourselves or our own desires—Prov. 23:23.
 - E. We should honor God's truth, take the way of the truth, and not compromise the truth in any way—2 Pet. 2:2.
 - F. We need to have the truth wrought into us and constituted into our being—1 John 1:8; 2:4; 2 John 1-2; 3 John 3-4.
 - G. We must learn to teach and preach things which are higher than we are, things which are higher than ourselves.
- III. The present truth is the truth that is present with the believers, which they have already received and now possess—2 Pet. 1:12:**
 - A. We need to know the present, up-to-date truth and to uphold the absoluteness of the truth—John 18:37.
 - B. Because many basic truths have been given up, even by those who apparently are fundamental believers, there is the need for us in the Lord's recovery to fight the battle for the truth—1 Tim. 6:12, 20-21.
 - C. Today, in a time of apostasy, we need to testify the full revelation of the pure Word of God and to fight for the deeper truths revealed in the Word of God, including:
 1. The revelation concerning the eternal economy of God—Eph. 1:10; 3:9.
 2. The revelation concerning the Divine Trinity—2 Cor. 13:14; Rev. 1:4-5.
 3. The revelation concerning the person and work of the all-inclusive Christ—Col. 2:9, 16-17; 3:11.
 4. The revelation concerning the consummated life-giving Spirit—John 7:39; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rev. 22:17.
 5. The revelation concerning the eternal life of God—John 3:15-16.
 6. The revelation concerning the Body of Christ, which is the church of God—Eph. 1:22-23; 1 Cor. 12:12-13, 27; 10:32.

- D. We need to know and testify the highest truth: In Christ God became man to make man God in life, nature, constitution, and expression but not in the Godhead so that the redeeming God and the redeemed man can be united, mingled, and incorporated together to become one entity—the New Jerusalem—John 1:12-14; 14:20; Rev. 21:2, 10-11.

IV. The way of the truth is the path of the Christian life according to the truth, which is the reality of the contents of the New Testament—2 Pet. 2:2:

- A. The way of the truth is the straight way; to take the straight way is to live an upright life without crookedness and bias—v. 15.
- B. The way of the truth is the way of righteousness; to take the way of righteousness is to live a life that is right with both God and man, a life which, according to God's righteousness, can receive God's governmental judgment for His kingdom of righteousness—vv. 21, 9; Matt. 5:20; Rom. 14:17.
- C. The way of the truth is "the Way," denoting the Lord's full salvation in God's New Testament economy—Acts 9:2:
 - 1. It is the way God dispenses Himself into the believers through Christ's redemption and the Spirit's anointing—Eph. 1:7; 1 John 2:27.
 - 2. It is the way the believers partake of God and enjoy God—2 Pet. 1:4.
 - 3. It is the way the believers worship God in their spirit by enjoying Him and follow the persecuted Jesus by being one with Him—John 4:24; Heb. 13:12-13.
 - 4. It is the way the believers are brought into the church and built up into the Body of Christ to bear the testimony of Jesus—1 Cor. 1:2; 12:27; Rev. 1:2.
- D. To take the way of the truth is to purify our souls by obedience to the truth; this is the sanctifying truth, which is God's word of reality—1 Pet. 1:22; John 17:17:
 - 1. The purifying of our souls by obedience to the truth causes our entire being to be concentrated on God that we may love Him with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind—Mark 12:30.
 - 2. Such a purifying of our souls issues in unfeigned brotherly love, that is, in our loving from the heart fervently those whom God loves—1 John 5:1.