

The Christian Walk: “Walking in the Truth”

(2 John 1:4)

Introduction

➤ Each summer, we take a break from preaching through a book in the Bible and focus on a specific theme. This year’s Summer Sermon Series is on the theme of “The Christian Walk.” We are looking at specific verses/passages in the Bible that describe an aspect of what it means to live as a Christian – to “walk” (*peripateō*) the Christian walk. This word is used figuratively in the Bible to describe the Christian’s daily life – the moment by moment, step by step – living like, and living for, Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:6 ~ “whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.”

➤ So far, this summer, we have looked at what it means to walk the Christian walk (“Walking the Christian Walk”; Eph.2:1-10), to walk in love (“Walking in Love”; Eph.5:2), and to walk in light of eternity (“Walking in Light of Eternity”; Phil.3:17-21). This morning, we are going to look at what it means to walk in the truth. The exact phrase “*walking in the truth*” appears only a few times in Scripture (2Jn.1:4; 3Jn.1:3, 4), but the concept of walking in truth is all throughout Scripture.

✓ Illust: “The Bible, the Word of truth (Ps.119:160; Jn.17:17; 2Cor. 6:7; 2Tim.2:15; Jms.1:18), majors on the theme of truth. God is the “God of truth” (Ps.31:5; Is.65:16), who abounds in truth (Ex.34:6) and always speaks the truth (2Sam.7:28; cf. Num.23:19; Tit.1:2); Christ is the truth (Jn.14:6; Eph.4:21), is full of truth (Jn.1:14), revealed the truth (Jn.1:17), spoke the truth (Jn.8:45-46), and testified to the truth (Jn.18:37); the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth (Jn.14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1Jn.5:6). God’s truth is eternal (Ps.117:2), infinite (Ps.57:10; 86:15; 108:4), and saving (Ps.69:13). Salvation comes from faith in the truth (2Thess.2:13; cf. 1Tim.2:4; 2Tim.2:25); believers are sanctified by the truth (Jn.17:17), love the truth (cf. 2Thess.2:10), are set free by the truth (Jn.8:32), worship in the truth (Jn.4:23-24), rejoice in the truth (1Cor.13:6), speak the truth (Eph.4:15, 25), meditate on the truth (Phil.4:8), manifest the truth (2Cor.4:2), obey the truth (1Pet.1:22), are guided by the truth (Ps.25:5; 43:3) and, most comprehensively, walk in the truth (1Kngs.2:4; 3:6; 2 Kngs.20:3; Ps.26:3; 86:11)” (John MacArthur; *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: 1-3 John*; 2Jn.1-4).

➤ This can be particularly difficult for us today, because in our culture “truth” is often viewed as subjective and/or relative. The very idea of truth – the definition and origin of truth – is hotly debated and contested. Our contemporary American culture has been described as “postmodern”, and “post-Christian”, and even “post-theism.” Today, many people refer “my truth” or “your truth.” People think of truth as personal and not universal, situational and not absolute.

This, of course, is nothing new. One of the most egregious examples of this in the Bible is when Jesus was on trial before Pilate (the Roman governor of Judea).

John 18:33-38 ~ “So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ ³⁴Jesus answered, ‘Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?’ ³⁵Pilate answered, ‘Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?’ ³⁶Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.’ ³⁷Then Pilate said to him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world – to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.’ ³⁸Pilate said to him, ‘What is truth?’ ...”

We cannot know for certain whether Pilate was being facetious or serious, sarcastic or cynical. We do know, however, that Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent of all charges and that He was being unjustly condemned (Jn.18:38; 19:4, 6; see Matt.27:18-19, 24; Lk.23:14-16). Historically, Pilate was known as a fickle leader. It is likely that his rhetorical question, “*What is truth?*” (Jn.18:38), reflected his lack of

a moral compass. Whether it was because he was too prideful, too fearful, or too politically minded, Pilate ordered Jesus to be crucified even though he knew Him to be innocent.

Pilate literally had the incarnate Son of God – the living Word and Truth of God – right in front of him when he exclaimed, “*What is truth?*” This is not too unlike our contemporary culture, as we have God’s holy and living Word before us, in the Scriptures, any many ignorantly or defiantly declare, “What is truth?”

✓Illust: “Like skeptics of all ages, including contemporary postmodernists, Pilate despaired of finding universal truth. This is the tragedy of fallen man’s rejection of God. Without God, there cannot be any absolutes; without absolutes, there can be no objective, universal, normative truths. Truth becomes subjective, relative, pragmatic; objectivity gives way to subjectivity; timeless universal principles become mere personal or cultural preferences.” (John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*; John 18:33-38a)

- The sentiment that “all truth is relative” is the water in which our society swims, the air in which we breath. Today, secular humanist and moral relativists adamantly insist that there is no absolute truth – this they hold as an absolute truth (amazingly they say is with a straight face!).
- The truth is, God’s truth – true truth – has been under attack since just before the Fall of mankind.

Gen 3:1-4 ~ “Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”

²And the woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die.’”

Gen 2:15-17 ~ “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”

- Satan questioned the authority and veracity of God. In fact, Satan loves to counterfeit God’s truth (2Cor.11:3, 14). The devil tempted Eve to doubt God’s Word and His lovingkindness. Satan implicitly presented God as mean and oppressive (suggesting God restricted them from every tree, when instead God gave them the entire Garden except for one tree). And she, with Adam, fell to this great deception. Perhaps unknowingly, Eve was influenced by Satan’s trickery and added that God said, “neither shall you touch it” – which God never said. Once Satan recognized that Eve did not truly know God’s Word, nor trust in God’s character, he moved into for the kill-shot directly opposing God’s Word and effectively calling God an outright liar – “*You will not surely die*” (Gen.3:4).
- The (absolute and universal) truth is that all truth is God’s truth. To live in deception and immorality is to walk contrary to the truth, and to live under the dominion of Satan. The devil loves to counterfeit God’s truth, and he longs to lie and deceive. Those who oppose God’s truth live in/under Satan’s lies.

John 8:44-47 ~ “You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. ⁴⁵But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. ⁴⁶Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? ⁴⁷Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

2 Cor 4:3-4 ~ “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” (see 2Cor.11:14; Eph.2:1-3)

- There are at least seven words that can help us understand the essence and origin of truth. These seven truths about truth are all connected and overlapping – distinct but inseparable.

- 1) **Truth is divine (theological)** ~ Truth is not merely a set of ideas or a moral code. Truth originates with God, and not man. And truth is revealed to man by God. Scripture reveals God as “*the God of truth*” (Is.65:16; cf. Ps.31:5; 1Jn.4:6). God is both the ultimate source and subject of all truth.

John 14:6 ~ “Jesus said to [Thomas], ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” (see Jn.1:14, 17; Rev.3:7)

1 John 5:20 ~ “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.”

- 2) **Truth is objective** ~ Since all truth comes from God, it cannot be subjective or relative. Truth is not altered by anything in all creation, nor can it sway in the winds of secular psychology, worldly philosophy, or political correctness. Humans can learn and embrace truth, or ignore and reject truth, but they cannot invent or change truth. Since God cannot lie (Heb.6:18, Tit.1:2), nor change (Mal.3:6), everything He does and declares is objectively true.

2 Tim 3:16-17 ~ “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

2 Peter 1:20-21 ~ “knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

- 3) **Truth is authoritative (absolute)** ~ Since all truth is God’s truth, and God is the “*God of truth*” (Is.65:16), all truth carries the authority of God. Mankind is neither the creator nor arbiter of truth. Truth must not be regarded as opinions, suggestions, feelings, or whims. Everything God is, and everything God does, is grounded in the divine authority of truth. As the old saying goes, “The Bible is like an anvil and around it lay many broken hammers.”

Isa 46:8-11 ~ “Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, ⁹remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, ¹⁰declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’ ¹¹calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.”

John 17:17 ~ “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”

- 4) **Truth is eternal** ~ As God is eternal, His truth is eternal. God is omniscient (all-knowing), which means He knows everything perfectly and completely. God is never guessing and He is never wrong. Therefore, His truth is always and forever true.

Luke 21:25 ~ “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

1 Peter 1:25 ~ “‘but the word of the Lord remains forever.’ ...” (Is.40:8; 1Pet.1:23-25; Ps.119:160)

Heb 13:8 ~ “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Jn.14:6)

- 5) **Truth is universal** ~ God’s truth is universal in that it does not vary from generation to generation, nor from culture to culture. Truth knows no ethnical, national, or societal bounds. For example, different cultures and generations do not need “their own” Bible, and the Bible does not need revisions or alterations (i.e., we do not need a “new” New Testament – the New Testament is the explanation and fulfillment of the Old).

Rom 1:18-20 ~ “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”

Rom 2:15 ~ “They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them”

- 6) **Truth is unchanging** ~ Since God is immutable (unchanging), omniscient (all-knowing), and absolutely perfect His truth is unchanging. God is never wrong, never surprised, never ignorant. God never changes, either “for better” or “for worse”, and therefore His truth is constant and unwavering.

Num 23:19 ~ “God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?” (Mal.3:6)

James 1:17 ~ “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

Ps 119:160 ~ “The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.”

- 7) **Truth is true** ~ Lastly, as God is absolutely and perfectly true, God’s truth is absolutely and perfectly true.

1 John 2:21 ~ “I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.”

Rom 3:3-4 ~ “What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? ⁴By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar ...”

Titus 1:1-3 ~ “Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God’s elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, ²in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began ³and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior”

John 17:17 ~ “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”

- For truth to be truly understood, we must start with God and His Word. Since God is the ultimate source and subject of truth, it needs to be defined based on the nature and attributes of God.

***Truth is God’s revelation and His being;
that which is consistent with His nature, character, mind, will, and glory.***

- The church is to be “*a pillar and buttress of truth*” (1Tim.3:15; see Eph.3:10). More specifically, Christians are to be “*walking in the truth*” (2Jn.1:4; 3Jn.1:3, 4). To walk in truth means that we do not walk in error (false teaching), lies (deception), insincerity (hypocrisy), or sin (immorality). To walk in the truth is to walk according to God’s will and God’s Word.
- This brings us to the main passage of Scripture for the sermon this morning: 2 John 1:1-4. In this passage, in just four verses, the word “*truth*” (*alētheia*) is used five times:

2 John 1:1-4 ~ “The elder to the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth, ²because of the truth that abides in us and will be with us forever: ³Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father’s Son, in truth and love. ⁴I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father.”

➤ While the human author of the book called “2 John” is anonymous, most biblical scholars believe it to be written by the apostle John (who wrote the Gospel of John, as well as 1, 2, 3 John, and Revelation). It is also believed that John wrote the book of “2 John” near the end of the first century (c. 90-95 A.D.). In this letter (commonly called “an epistle”), John is writing to Christians who are facing an onslaught of false teaching (much like we are today). He exhorts them to love one another, and He warns them of their need to know the truth, obey the truth, and live the truth. God’s truth and God’s love are indelibly tied together.

✓ Illust: “The double imperative of love and truth is introduced in verses 2-3, reminding us that if we abandon love, we do not know the truth, and if we do not stand for the truth, we are not exercising love” (R.C. Sproul; “Truth and Love”; 2Jn.1:1-3).

2 John 1:6 ~ “And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.”

2 John 1:9 ~ “Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.”

Eph 4:15 ~ “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ”

➤ As we consider the biblical theme of “The Christian Walk”, I want to identify four truths concerning what it means to be “walking in the truth.”

1. True Christians are united in truth (vs.1)

➤ First, we note that John referred to himself as “*the elder*” (vs.1; *presbyteros*) which can simply refer to an older man (which John certainly was at the time of writing this letter), or it can refer the spiritual office of an elder (or leader) in the church (Acts 14:23; 1Pet.5:1). Personally, I do not think that John was simply calling himself an old man. I think he was identifying his pastoral (apostolic) role over the church.

Much more debated is the meaning of “*to the elect lady and her children*” (vs.1; *eklektos kyria*). The discussion is usually centered upon the question, “Is ‘*lady*’ to be interpreted literally or figuratively?” That is, did John have a specific woman [“*and her children*” (vs.1), and her sister’s “*children*” (vs.13)] in mind, or is this a personification of a specific church or the church as a whole. This is certainly not “a hill to die on”, and there are conservative Bible scholars and theologians with compelling arguments on both sides. Personally, I vacillate between the two.

➤ For our purposes this morning, I want us to notice how John described his affection for this “*lady and her children*”: “*whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth*” (vs.1). The “*love*” (*agapaō*) that John has for these people, for the church in general, is a godly love – a love that is selfless, sacrificial, and sacred. This love fills and compels every true Christian.

1 John 4:7-8 ~ “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

John 13:34-35 ~ “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

➤ This *“love”* is not romantic, selfish, or aimless. It is grounded in the love of God and in the truth of God: *“whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all who know the truth”* (vs.1). This is what unites Christians together. We are united in truth – the truth of who Christ is and who we are in Christ. Ultimately, what binds us together is not our worldly or political perspectives, not our personalities or specific demographic, not our common hobbies or interests. What unites us is infinitely more important, and incredibly more secure.

1 Cor 1:10 ~ “I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.”

Eph 4:11-16 ~ “And [God] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

➤ To abandon the truth of God is to cripple our Christian unity. The greatest bond that Christians share is their belief in and love for Jesus Christ – this transcends our personalities, ethnicities, and age. God is glorified by our unity in the midst of our diversity (Rom.10:12; 1Cor.12:4-27; Gal.3:26-29; Col.3:11).

2. True Christians are indwelt with truth (vs.2)

➤ This truth is not merely an intellectual assent toward right doctrine. Being a Christian is not merely a mental exercise or paradigm. It is being indwelt with the truth of God because of the Son of God and by the Spirit of God. To be truly spiritual, we must abide in God’s truth and have God’s truth abiding in us (be very wary of any “Christian” preacher or ministry that encourages you to pursue the Spirit without engaging your mind; Jn.4:22-23).

John 4:23-24 ~ “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

➤ As Christians, the truth of God *“abides in us and will be with us forever”* (vs.2). This is one of the greatest – most indescribable – gifts of salvation: Christians have God’s Spirit abiding in them!

John 14:15-17 ~ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

John 15:26 ~ “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.”

John 16:13-15 ~ “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

Eph 1:13-14 ~ “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.” (see 2Cor.1:22; 5:5)

- The Holy Spirit of God – “*the Spirit of truth*” – indwells all true believers (and only true believers). From the first moment of genuine conversion, through the Spirit of God, God’s truth “*abides*” (*menō*) in us and remains “*with us forever*” (vs.2).

1 Peter 1:22-23 ~ “Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God”

- This glorious truth does not mean that we can ignore or forsake God’s truth. All throughout Scripture we are commanded to obtain and grow in knowledge and wisdom (Prov.4:5-7; Eph.4:15; 1Pet.2:2; 2Pet.3:18; Heb.5:11-6:1). We must not be lax or complacent in our pursuit of truth. We are commanded to know God’s truth, and to increase our knowledge of God’s truth. The indwelling Spirit of God – “*the Spirit of truth*” – will never operate contrary to God’s truth.

Prov 23:23 ~ “Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.”

Col 3:16 ~ “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

John 8:31-32 ~ “So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’”

1 John 2:24 ~ “Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.”

3. True Christians are grounded in truth (vs.3)

- True Christians are not only united in truth and indwelt with truth, but they are also grounded in truth. In verse three, John summarized the Gospel: “*Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father’s Son, in truth and love*” (vs.3). This verse begins with a three-word outline of the Gospel: “*grace, mercy, and peace*” (vs.3). By simple definitions, “*grace*” (*charis*) is getting what we do not deserve (Eph.2:8-9), “*mercy*” (*eleos*) is not getting what we do deserve (Ps.51:1-2), and “*peace*” (*eirēnē*) is not just having the peace of God (Phil.4:7) but being at peace with God (i.e., reconciliation; Rom.5:1, 10-11).

✓Illust: “The three terms summarize the progression of the plan of salvation: God’s grace caused Him to grant mercy, which results in peace” (John MacArthur; *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: 1, 2, 3 John*; 2Jn.1:3).

- To be sure, salvation is “*from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father’s Son*” (vs.3). A person is only saved by God’s grace through faith in Christ alone (Gal.2:16; Eph.2:5; 8-10; Tit.3:5). God’s salvation was not initiated by man, nor can it be changed by man.

John 3:16-18 ~ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ... ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” (Jn.3:36; Acts 4:12; 1Jn.5:11-12)

John 14:6 ~ “Jesus said to [Thomas], ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

- Notice that God’s salvation is grounded “*in truth and love*” (vs.3). As we have already seen, God’s truth and God’s love go hand-in-hand. A Christian cannot truly possess God’s love and not have His truth, and a Christian cannot truly have God’s truth and not possess His love.

1 John 3:18 ~ “Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” (1Jn.4:20-21)

1 Peter 1:22 ~ “Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart” (Eph.4:15).

- God has not only saved you *from* something, but He has also saved you *for* something! God does not merely save a person *from* hell, He saves them *for* His glorious purpose here on earth. God's saving grace is not a "get out of hell free" card. We are saved and sanctified to be God's "... *workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*" (Eph.2:10; Rom.6:13).

4. True Christians are guided by truth (vs.4)

- Since Christians are united in truth, indwelt with truth, and grounded in truth, they are certainly guided (controlled) by truth. That is, those who truly know the truth of God and believe the truth of God – and are indwelt with the truth of God – will naturally/supernaturally be led by the truth of God. This is one of the greatest evidences of one's salvation.
- This is why the apostle John "*rejoiced greatly*" (vs.4; *chairō lian*). He saw the fruit from these Christians' lives: "*I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father*" (vs.4). They were not just "talking the talk", but they were "walking the walk."

3 John 1:1-4 ~ "The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. ²Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. ³For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. ⁴I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."

- No one is saved by good works, but everyone who is truly saved is saved unto good works. True Christians strive to walk in the truth of God. They do not merely profess to know the truth of God, but they truly possess the truth of God. Consequently, as Christians, we walk in the truth of God "*just as we were commanded by the Father*" (vs.4).

Eph 2:8-10 ~ "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Luke 6:46-49 ~ "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? ⁴⁷Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: ⁴⁸he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. ⁴⁹But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."

- It is a false believer who claims to know the truth of God but does not (seek to) walk in the truth of God.

Conclusion

- Ironically, and tragically, Pilate asked "*What is truth?*" (Jn.18:38) with the Truth right in front of Him. This same tragic irony is true of so many people today – even among those who are professing Christians. They have heard of the truth of Jesus Christ, and even profess to believe in the truth of Jesus Christ, but they refuse to walk in (obey) the truth of Jesus Christ. They may be religious, and even call themselves Christians, but a true saving faith in Jesus Christ will lead a person to walk in the truth of Jesus Christ.

John 14:6 ~ "Jesus said to [Thomas], 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

1 John 2:22-23 ~ “Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. ²³No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.”

1 John 5:20 ~ “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.”

Rev 19:11 ~ “Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.”

➤ As Christians, this should be our daily prayer:

Ps 86:11 ~ “Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.”

Ps 86:11 ~ “Teach me Your way, Lord, and I will live by Your truth. Give me an undivided mind to fear Your name.” (HCSB)