

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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What We Must Do with the Truth?

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Pilate once asked, "What is truth?" (John 18:38). The Bible echoes back the answer, "thy word is truth" (John 17:17). There is nothing more important than truth! It's been said, "Truth pressed to the earth shall rise again." Let's notice what we must do with truth.

1. We must buy the truth. The wise man exclaimed, "Buy the truth, and sell it not" (Prov. 23:23). The Lord taught, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field" (Matt. 13:44). The Bible is a gold mine just waiting to be discovered. If you don't have a Bible, you need to buy one!

2. We must know the truth. God expects men to know His will! Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Paul revealed, "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:3-4). Folks come to know the truth as they read and study the Word of God (Eph. 3:4).

3. We must believe the truth. 2 Thessalonians 2:12 records, "That they all might be damned who believe not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." This is why the Bible often speaks of the necessity of faith (Mark 16:16; John 8:24; Heb. 11:6).

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As we read the truth and hear the truth preached, we need to believe it!

4. We must love the truth. There will be a lot of people lost because of not loving the truth. Paul told the Thessalonians, "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved" (2 Thess. 2:10). The Psalmist uttered, "Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold" (Psa. 119:127). Do you love the truth?

5. We must obey the truth. The truth is of little value unless you obey it! It is one's obedience to the truth that purifies his soul, as Peter declared, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth" (1 Pet. 1:22). Those who are ". . . contentious, and do not obey the truth. . ." will suffer tribulation and anguish (Rom. 2:8). Only those who obey the truth "may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" of Heaven (Rev. 22:14). Have you obeyed the truth?

6. We must speak the truth. It is written, "He that speaketh truth showeth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit" (Prov. 12:17). The Ephesians were admonished, "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth" (Eph. 4:15). We must speak the truth no matter what the cost!

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

From The Gospel Sunlight

The Bible says "all have sinned" (Rom. 3:23). Thus, all need the saving power of the gospel (Rom. 1:16). In Acts 2:37 the Jews on the day of Pentecost asked the question, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Since these men were unsaved at the time they asked this question we know that man must do something in order to be saved. What is it that we must do?

1) **Hear Christ.** Since God has spoken unto us in these last days by his son (Heb. 1:1-2) it is Him we must hear (Matt. 17:5). According to Paul in Romans 10:17, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Since one cannot please God without faith (Heb. 11:6) we must first hear the gospel of Christ.

2) **Believe in Christ.** Jesus said in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." We must believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (Jn. 8:24; 20:31).

3) **Repent.** In Acts 17:30 we learn God commands all men everywhere to repent. True repentance involves confessing one's sins to God (Acts 8:22, 1 Jn. 1:9) and turning away from them (Matt. 21:28-30).

4) **Confess Christ.** A good example of this confession is when the Ethiopian confessed, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:37). Timothy made this confession in the presence of many witnesses (1 Tim. 6:12). Confession is made unto (in order to) salvation (Rom. 10:10); one cannot be saved without it.

5) **Be Baptized.** Jesus said in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." Jesus placed baptism between the sinner and salvation. That is why every example of conversion in the New Testament involved folks being baptized (Acts 2-19). Baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), is immersion in water (Acts 8:38-39, Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12), puts one into Christ (Gal. 3:27), and into the one body (1 Cor. 12:13), which is the church (Col. 1:24) that Jesus purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28). Have you submitted to this baptism?

6) **Live Faithfully.** We are taught to "live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:12). The crown of life is promised only to those remaining steadfast and faithful (Col. 1:22-23; Rev. 2:10).

Why not submit to God's plan of salvation today? "Behold; now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).

"Could It Be....."

From "Walking in the Light"

- That people reject the Bible- not because it contradicts itself, (*which it doesn't do*), but because it contradicts them?

- That some brethren do not attend various worship periods and Bible study classes because Christ is not really their "first love?"
- That Satan has lulled us into thinking that we are really standing, when indeed, we are ready to fall?
- We utterly abhor the violence going on in the world, yet do not think twice about what our families entertain themselves with on television and at the movies?
- That some brethren honestly see no connection between commitment, attendance, and involvement?