

THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE

JOHN 8:30-32 • TV079B

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By
HENRY T. MAHAN

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John 8:30-32

“As he spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Well, my subject this morning, is: **“THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE.”**

And my text is **John 8:30-32**: *“And as He spake these words, many believed on Him. And then said Jesus to those who believed on Him, if you continue in my Word then are you my disciples indeed: and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”*

I read something years ago that impressed me tremendously and I want to pass it on to you. Now, I want you to think about this a little bit, as the old preacher said, “I’m going to learn you something if you will listen to me. We’ll find out something; I’m going to learn you something.”

Now, you listen to this carefully. A wise old man once said, “There are three parts to truth.” Now remember this; “there are three parts to truth.” *“The truth shall make you free.”* God does not set men free with error but with truth and there are three parts to truth:

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First of all: There's the search for truth!

Secondly: There is the knowledge of truth!

Thirdly: There is actually believing or receiving the truth!

Now; that's three parts to truth. Now, if you'll think about this a little bit it will help you. There are three parts to truth.

There's the search for truth, there is the knowledge of truth and after you search for it you find it. And then there's the crisis point, there's a point of testing, there's a committal time. There's a time to receive it. There's a time to pay the price. There's a time to believe it and there's a time to walk in it.

Now, what hinders us, in our search for truth? Do you know what hinders us in our search for truth?

Now, if we knew the truth, Christ said, "*Ye shall know the truth.*" And the end results of knowing the truth is to be free, free from the bondage of sin, the penalty of sin, the power of sin, and the practice of sin. Someday from the presence of sin and from the curse of the law.

Redeemed, that's what freedom is. It is deliverance; its redemption and it is being set free. "*The Son shall make you free. You shall be free indeed,*" free from tradition, bondage of tradition, and the bondage of religion, and the bondage of error, and free!

Now, if you knew the truth, it sets you free. The only reason you are not free today is because you don't know the truth. And what hinders our search for the truth? There are three parts to truth. To search for it, you've got to search for it and then you find it, the knowledge of it, and then you'll believe it.

Now, what hinders our search for the truth? Do you know the first thing, ignorance of God's Word? Our Lord said to the Pharisees, "*You do err not knowing the scriptures.*" That is why you are in error; you don't know the Scriptures.

There's only one guide to the truth about God. There's only one way to find out about God, the truth about God; it's going to the Word of God. There's only one way to find out the real truth about sin and about man and that's to go to the Word of God.

There's only one way to find out the truth about redemption, salvation, mercy, heaven, hell, and judgment; go to the Word of God. And our search for the truth is hindered by our ignorance of the Word of God. It's appalling how little men know about God's Word.

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They memorize the newspaper and fictional books and even have books of education but they neglect the Word of God. And that's why we err in spiritual truth; we don't know the Book: *"Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God."*

What's the second thing that hinders your search for the truth? It is tradition. Will you listen? What is tradition? Tradition is the handing down of beliefs, the handing down of doctrines, the handing down of customs, the handing down of religious information from family to family, from father to son, by means of speech, rather than by the Word of God.

My friend, it would be shocking to you if you would carefully examine what you believe about religion, about God, about sin, and about salvation. It would shock you to examine what you believe and find out how much of it is influenced by tradition and how much of it is influenced by the Word of God, how much of it you believe or you've accepted, or you've walked in, because somebody taught it or somebody said it, or you heard it through the years and you have no Scriptural foundation.

For example: You tell somebody you believe something and they say: "Would you mind giving me a chapter and verse for that? Would you mind giving me something in the Word of God and the reason why you believe that?" and you can't do it?

"Well, I've just always heard that; I've always just accepted it." That's standing in your way of searching for the truth because of tradition.

Then another thing; watch this, what hinders our search for the truth, ignorance of the Word of God and tradition? We believe something because, well, we've always believed it. We believe something because, well, our parents believed it and our grandparents believed it.

But the third thing that stands in the way of our search for the truth is nothing in the world but pride. You know, our Lord said, *"Except you be converted and become as little children, you shall in no wise enter the kingdom of God."*

"Our thoughts are not God's thoughts. And our ways are not God's ways." And a thing is not true because you think it or because I think it. I may think I'm pretty intelligent or pretty smart. You may think the same thing about yourself, but we're not, we're not.

We are going to have to come down off our high horse of pride and arrogance and a haughty spirit because *"it's pride that goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before the fall."* And a thing is not true because I think it is or I judge that it should be. It's true because God says it and for no other reason.

Now, if you are going to search for the truth, God says: *"You'll seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart."* But if you are going to launch out in this search for the truth, if you're going to go off on this quest for truth; I'll tell you the first thing that you are going to have to do is lay down.

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You are going to have to lay down your tradition. You're going to have to lay down your custom. You're going to have to lay down your proud thoughts and "*let God be true and every man a liar.*" Now that's true! Now that's what hinders our search for truth.

All right, I said that there's another part to truth; search the truth and don't be hindered by your ignorance of the Word. Buy you a Bible and get into the Book. Lay aside some of these other quarterlies and writings of men, and these famous books and all you've been passing around; just lay them aside and pick up the Bible and find out what God says in His Word.

Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to an understanding of God's Word. God wrote it and God can certainly reveal it. And lay aside your tradition. Lay aside your customs and come at the Word of God like a little child.

All right, what hinders our knowledge of the truth? We don't know all that we could know; that's right. And we don't know all could know. And I'll tell you what hinders our knowledge of the truth.

First of all: It's spiritual blindness!

Our Lord said: "*They've got eyes but they can't see. They have ears but they can't hear. Hearts they have but they do not understand.*"

Truth must be revealed. Now, if you are going to search for the truth and come to knowledge of the truth; you're going to have to realize that by nature men do not understand the mysteries of the Gospel.

By nature men do not understand the mysteries of the Word of God, the mysteries of God's infinite kingdom. "*Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard. Neither hath it entered the heart of man the things God's prepared for them that love Him: But he hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit for the Spirit searcheth the deep things of God.*"

"*What man knoweth the things that are in a man except the spirit of the man? Even so, the things of God knoweth no man but the Spirit of God. Now, we have received the Spirit of God and he hath revealed these things.*"

Spiritual blindness can only be cured by heaven's light. Spiritual blindness can only be dispelled; spiritual darkness can only be dispelled by a giving of light from heaven by God.

"*If our gospel be hid it's hid to them that are lost in whom the god of this world hath blinded their minds lest the glorious light of the Son of God, (the Spirit of God, the Gospel of God), should shine unto them;*" and they should be saved.

It takes light, light from heaven. You don't understand the Word in the light of human nature or human wisdom. You understand the Bible and interpret the Bible in the light of heaven's spirit, the light of heaven's light. Do you see that?

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Secondly: The thing that hinders our knowledge of the truth is not only spiritual blindness but spiritual prejudice!

You wouldn't be guilty of that would you, spiritual prejudice? And yet, the woman at the well would not listen to Jesus Christ because He was a Jew and she was a Samaritan. That's right!

You know, the Pharisees wouldn't listen to Him. She finally did but she didn't want to. She said, *"How come you are a Jew speaking to me a Samaritan?"*

She said: "Now, our father's worship in this mountain. Your denomination worships down there in Jerusalem. I'm not going to listen to you; you're a Jew and I am a Samaritan." "You're a Baptist and I'm a Methodist, or Presbyterian, or a Catholic. I'm not supposed to listen to you; therefore, I'm going to shut my ears up," that is spiritual prejudice.

And the Pharisees would not listen to Christ; they said: *"Do you teach us? You are going to teach us? Well, you don't have any learning. How does this man know letters having never learned?"*

"He's never been to school; we've been to school. You can't teach us because you've never been to school. We're not going to listen to anyone who hasn't been to school. We are not going to listen to anybody that's not of our denomination."

"We're not going to listen to anybody that doesn't pronounce "Shibboleth' like we do." We're not going to listen to anybody that doesn't do things like we do;" spiritual prejudice, and God passes them by, passes them by.

The Lord sent His servant, John the Baptist, and they ran out there and said, "Who are you? Are you somebody? Do you have any credentials? What are your credentials? By what authority are you doing what you're doing?"

Oh how pitiful we are. What hinders our knowledge of the truth, spiritual blindness, and spiritual prejudice?

And I will tell you something else that hinders your knowledge of the truth is spiritual indifference.

Our Lord came down here to a place one time and there was a man there who was insane. He was so insane that he lived out in the cemetery and they put chains on him and he had burst the chains asunder.

And he cut himself. He ran around naked, and he was a crazy person and nobody could tame him. And our Lord came in and He spoke peace to his heart and cast the demons out of him and the man was clothed and in his right mind.

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Now, you would think that a town that saw something like that happen; they saw a man brought from insanity to sanity, from the graveyard to a sensible man clothed in his right mind, you would think they would say; “Well Lord; I wish you would stay here; we’ve got some other folks around here that need help for this, that and the other.” No, they didn’t. They went to Him and they said, “*We want you to leave this town and never come back.*”

That’s right; you check it out. They said, “You leave our shores, and don’t come back. Depart from us and don’t come back.” People don’t want to be disturbed. They had rather sleep the sleep of death rather than being awakened.

“Don’t disturb me now. Don’t get me upset. I’m all right. I believe what I believe all these years and I don’t want to be bothered. I don’t want to be upset. I’m hiding; I’ve got a refuge to hide in. I’ve got a bed but of course it’s too short and the cover’s too narrow and my feet stick out and I’m not well protected but I don’t want to be bothered. Just leave me alone.” Christ left that place!

Well, if you insist we will but I’m going to insist on this! If you want to know the truth which will make you free, you’re going to have to ask God to give you some light. You are not going to understand it by nature. And you’re going to have to ask God to destroy your spiritual prejudice and you’re going to have to ask God to give you a little fire, to build a fire under you, and do away with your spiritual indifference.

Paul said, “*If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.*” If God will just give me a resurrection from the dead, I will be so thankful, whatever the means. I don’t care if God shakes me, disturbs me, upsets me, convicts me, and whittles me down.

I’ll tell you; Saul of Tarsus had to be blinded before he could see. He had to be humbled before he could be raised up. He had to have his mouth stopped before he could speak. Sometimes it’s a humiliating experience but it’s better than dying in your sins.

All right; I said there were three things or three parts to truth, there’s the search for it, and there’s the knowledge of it, and then believing it.

Thirdly: There’s the believing of it!

Now, men search for the truth and sometimes they run into it. Sometimes they encounter it. Sometimes, like I think right now, you are hearing some truth and now there’s got to be the receiving of it and there’s got to be the believing of it.

Paul said, “*For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*” There’s got to be a committal. There’s got to be a trusting. There’s got to be a receiving of the truth. You can’t just hear it; you’ve got to receive it.

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You can't just know it in your head; you've got to believe it in your heart. *"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus to be Lord and believe in thine heart God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth."* Somethings got to take place within.

Now, what hinders that, what hinders that? But now listen to this in **John 12:42 and 43**; *"Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."* But, because of the Pharisees, because of the religious leaders, they didn't confess Him.

They believed on Him and they heard Him. Like Nicodemus they said, *"You've got to be from God. No man could do what you're doing except God be with Him."* This has got to be so. They believed that but they didn't confess Him. They didn't trust Him and they didn't receive Him because they were afraid of the Pharisees and it says: *"Lest they should be put out of the synagogue for they love the praises of men; (isn't that sad), more than the praise of God."*

What about that? A man actually embarks on a search for truth and either for salvation or condemnation or whatever; he encounters it. He runs headlong into it. He has a meaning of truth by God's providence and he stares it in the face and he says; "I just can't walk that way because I'm afraid. I'm afraid of persecution. I'm afraid of losing my pulpit. I'm afraid of losing some of my deacons, some of my support. I'm afraid of not being able to get another church. I'm afraid of losing my retirement. I'm afraid of losing my friends. I'm afraid of losing my family."

"I'm afraid for fear of the Jews because they love the praise of men. I can't preach that because I'd lose my crowd. I'd lose my following. Men wouldn't understand and I just can't give up some of the things that I've worked so hard to build, can't do it." *"They love the praise of men more than the praise of God."*

Do you know what Paul said? He said: "Now, if any of you fellows think ye have whereof to glory in the flesh, I more. I had more than any of you've got. I was a Hebrew of Hebrew's. I was circumcised the eighth day of the tribe of Benjamin. I wasn't a proselyte or an Ishmaelite; I was a Hebrew of Hebrew's. I had a Hebrew momma and a Hebrew daddy. I was a Pharisee. I have been a member of the Sanhedrin."

The apostle Paul said, "You look at the law. You couldn't charge me with breaking the law; outwardly I was blameless. These things that were gain to me, these things that were so important to me; materialism, this popularity and religious fame, accomplishments, name, credentials, and high upper-most seats in the synagogue; these things that were gain to me, and they were at one time. I thought everything was in these things; but I count them but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I suffered the loss of all things, honor, reputation, and everything. My name has been spit out. I've become the butt of jokes. I've become the object of criticism and hatred."

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Christ said, *“A man’s enemy shall be they of his own household.” “But if any man love mother, father, brother, sister, husband, wife, yea, his own life more than me; he’s not worthy of me.”*

And Paul said, *“Yea doubtless; I count all things but loss. I count them but dung (rubbish) that I may win Christ and be found in Him.”*

Brother; let me tell you something. I’ll tell you this as plainly as I can. You talk about wanting to know the truth; you’ll have a problem when you meet it and when you learn it because it costs to walk in truth but it will set you free, it will set you free.

You know, the Scriptures tell the truth! I want to point out about four or five things now in winding up this message:

First of all: The Scriptures tell us the truth about God!

Paul, the apostle, (I preached on this a few weeks ago, a couple of weeks ago) the apostle Paul was down there in Athens. He had been in Thessalonica and they ran him out of there. He went down to Berea and that same outfit came and ran him out of Berea.

And he went down to Athens and he was waiting there on Timothy and Silas and he saw that the city was a city of idolatry, religious idolatry. There were 30,000 statues in the city of Athens alone.

And Paul was preaching on the streets and some of these Epicureans and stoics and other philosophers in Athens there heard him. And they said, “Come over; come with us.”

And they took him to Mars Hill, to the Areopagus and that was the place where the 12 judges sat and where the philosophers and the Athenians gathered to discuss these new doctrines and these new things, you know, and to discuss religion and the foolish things they believed.

And they said: “Let’s hear you, let’s hear you talk. We want to hear what you’ve got to say. This man has some strange doctrine; we want to listen to him.”

Paul stood up and he said, (this is **Acts 17:22**), “Now, ye men of Athens I perceive that you are a most religious people, more religious than most. I’ve passed by your devotions, your shrines, your religious altars. I saw many altars to many gods, I saw an altar to the unknown God. I want to preach that unknown God to you. You know all about your other gods because they originated in your mind. You know all about your other gods because you thought them up and you set them limitations, their boundaries, their characteristics, their, attributes, and their powers.”

They said: “You’ve got an altar down there that’s erected to an unknown God, just in case we have left out a god.” He said, “That’s the God of heaven and I’m going to tell you about Him” and he brought about five or six points. He said:

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First of all: *“He made the world and all, and all things therein.”*

You can't believe in evolution and believe in the God of the Bible. *“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God and all things were made by Him.”*

Genesis 1:1: *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* In **Colossians Chapter 1:16-18;** it says: *“All things were made by Him and through Him and for Him.”* He made the World.

Secondly: Paul said: *“He's the Lord of heaven and earth.”*

“Sweet little Jesus boy” is not the Lord of heaven and earth. The Christ of God is. And you can go around feeling sorry for Jesus all you want to but *“He is Lord of heaven and of earth.”* That's what Paul is saying: *“He's the Lord.”*

He does as He will, when He will, with whom He will. They said: *“David, where's your God? Our god's down here, yonder, and where's your God David?”* He said, *“He's in the heavens. He hath done whatsoever He pleased in the heavens and in the earth, in the seas, and in all deep places.”*

Christ said: *“All authority is given unto me over all flesh in heaven and in earth.”* He made the world and all therein. He's the Lord of heaven and of earth. *“The Lord reigneth among the armies of heaven and the inhabitants of this earth and He giveth it to whomsoever He will.”*

“And then He dwelleth not in temples made with hands,” Paul said. *Now, you can build a house for your god but not for the God of the Bible because the “heaven of heavens won't contain Him and the earth is His footstool.”*

“He doesn't dwell in houses made with hands. And He's not worshipped with man's hands as though He needed anything from you.” You don't give anything to God. God gives to you. You're the recipient. You're the empty-handed beggar.

**“In my hands no price I bring
Simply to the cross of Christ I cling.”**

You don't give to God. God gives to you. *“He giveth life and breath and all things.”* That's what it says there.

Then Paul went on; he said: *“He's made of all nations' one blood,”* enough of that spiritual brotherhood; he's talking about a fleshly brotherhood. We are all sons of Adam. We all fell in Adam. We all came from Adam. Where are our roots? The roots of every man, black or white, is the Garden of Eden, Adam; he's the daddy of us all.

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“And this God hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained, Jesus Christ, and He’s given full assurance and full proof of it in that He raised Him from the dead.”

Your dealing is with Christ. God’s going to judge you someday on the basis of your relationship with His Son Jesus Christ. If you’ve believed on Him, if you are robed in His righteousness, if you are redeemed by His blood, you will walk with God throughout eternity.

If you know not Christ, if you are resting in your church works, or your human merit, or your own righteousness without Christ, you perish. The truth will make you free.

The Bible tells the truth about men. *“Man was created in the image of God”* but he didn’t stay in that state. He continued not long. He rebelled and fell and we are born in sin. We are sinners by birth, by nature, and practice.

The Bible tells the truth about us, not what we think, but what God says. And the Bible tells the truth about Jesus Christ. Who is He? *“He’s very God of very God.”* The Father said: *“This is my Son.”*

Simeon held Him in his arms and he said: *“I’ve seen your salvation.”* *Even the Demons said: “We know who you are. You are the holy one of God.”* Simon Peter said: *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

What did He do? He came to this earth. *“He came into the world, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem those born under the law.”* Why did He do it? Every Christian ought to memorize **Romans 3:19:26**: *“That God may be just and justify the ungodly.”* Where is He now, *“at the right hand of God interceding for us?”*

The Bible tells the truth about salvation: *“It’s of the Lord.”* Salvation is not something we do for ourselves; it’s not something we do for each other, and it’s not something we do for God. It is something that God does for us.

Salvation is of the Lord in its planning, in its execution, in its application, in its sustaining power, and in its ultimate perfection: *“We have been saved and we are being saved. “Salvation is nearer right now than when we believed.”*

The Bible will tell you the truth about salvation. It will tell you the truth about God. It will tell you the truth about man. It will tell you the truth about sin. It will tell you the truth about death, judgment, and eternity.

The believer dies just like all men but he’s raised from the dead. And one day Christ will come and *“we’ll be perfectly conformed to His image and eternally dwell with Him. Ye shall know the truth and the truth will make you free.*

I’d set out if I were you in the Word of God to find it and to believe it!