

## IS THERE ABSOLUTE TRUTH?

In Jesus' High Priestly prayer to the Father, Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). When dealing with the authority of the Scriptures, a pertinent question is "Is there absolute truth?" If there is no absolute truth, then the Scriptures cannot be authoritative. However, if the Scriptures are absolute truth as Jesus stated in the above passage, then they carry the authority for all that is done in religion. To answer the question, consider the following.

**FIRST, IF THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD, THEN THE BIBLE IS TRUTH BECAUSE GOD CANNOT LIE.** To establish this, we must first show the Bible is God's word. Paul wrote, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..." (2 Timothy 3:16). In addition, if the Bible contains traits beyond the capabilities of men, then the Bible is not the product of men but of God. The Bible does contain traits such as predictive prophecy which is beyond the capabilities of men. Therefore, the Bible is God's word. Now that we have established the first part of our statement, then we must establish the fact that God cannot lie. Hebrews 6:18 is clear. In part it says it is "impossible for God to lie." In addition, Paul wrote in Titus 1:2, "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began." Finally, consider John's statement "that no lie is of the truth" (1 John 2:21). Since the Bible is God's word, it is truth, and no lie is of the truth. Therefore, the Scriptures are absolute truth.

**SECOND, IF THERE IS NO ABSOLUTE TRUTH, THEN THERE IS NO WAY UNTO SALVATION SINCE A PERSON MUST KNOW THE GOSPEL IN ORDER TO BE SAVED.** Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Thus, an understanding of the truth is necessary for salvation. This is reinforced by Peter in 1 Peter 1:22 which says, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth..." In 1 Timothy 2:4, Paul wrote about Christ Jesus'

desire: "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." Finally, the writer of Hebrews equated the knowledge of the truth with salvation. He wrote, "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins" (10:26). (See also 2 Thessalonians 2:10.)

**THIRD, IF THERE IS NO ABSOLUTE TRUTH, THEN THERE ARE NO FALSE TEACHERS AND THE WORDS OF JESUS AND HIS APOSTLES ARE VAIN.** How could there be false teachers if there is no standard of truth? So in order to establish this premise, all one must do is show that Jesus and His apostles said there were false teachers. Such statements would clearly imply a rightful standard of truth, and false teachers are either not teaching the truth or going beyond what the truth teaches. With this in mind, consider Jesus' statement in Matthew 7:15, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." Further, Jesus warned, "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many" (Matthew 24:11). These clear statements of Jesus cannot be ignored! Peter, an apostle of Jesus, spoke of false teachers who sneak around and introduce to God's people "damnable heresies" (2 Peter 2:1). Finally, because there are false teachers, John exhorted Christians to "believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God" (1 John 4:1).

**FOURTH, IF THERE IS NO ABSOLUTE TRUTH, THEN THERE ARE NO "TRUE WORSHIPPERS."** To the woman at Jacob's well in Samaria, Jesus said, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23-24). "In spirit" means the spirit of man of the inner person. "In truth" means according to truth — God's word. Since true worshippers worship God "in truth," then truth must be understood for true worship to be accomplished.

**FIFTH, IF THERE IS NO ABSOLUTE TRUTH, THEN THERE CANNOT BE A FAIR AND RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT AT THE END OF TIME.** Jesus said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). Jesus was clear! The standard of judgment on that great and notable day will be His word, but how can that judgment be fair and righteous if He has not revealed His will or if His will cannot be understood alike by all men or if it changes from person to person? Paul reinforced this fact that judgment will be according to God's word in Romans 2:2 which says "But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things." In Revelation, John recorded that the dead both small and great will stand before God in judgment, and the books will be opened (Revelation 20:12). No doubt, among the books will be the book of books — the Bible.

Is there absolute truth? Of course! Because without absolute truth, there is no word of God, no salvation, no false teachers, no true worshippers, and no fair judgment.

**Chuck Northrop** *from West End Watchman*

*Plan to attend each night this week!*

## **Family Bible Studies**

***"King of Kings"***

**July 24-28, 2006**

**7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Monday - Friday**

**Adult class teacher: Jim O'Connor**

## **BIRTHDAY**

Chelsea Nelson, 07-23.

## **ILL**

**Sunday:** Millie Robertson (PM). **Wednesday:** Janice Carter, Millie Robertson. Lynda Cole will have surgery to replace a heart valve in the near future. She is consulting with another doctor for a second opinion at this time.

**Those battling cancer:** Diane Cannon, Ledgia Campbell and Ron Wood. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Janice Carter, Lynda Cole, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

## **HOME BOUND**

Bob Adams is in Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## **OUT OF TOWN**

The Brown family was in Texas last week. Robin will be in San Diego this weekend. Debra Gragg was out of town last weekend. Jeremy Keifer was out of town last week. The Nelson's were in Newton, KS last Sunday AM.

## **FAMILY BIBLE STUDIES**

Remember our Family Bible Studies start this week with classes for all ages! Jim O'Connor will be teaching the adult class and it will be broadcast via OABS.ORG. There are flyers in the foyer to invite others to come. The cookie sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Please bring your cookies as soon as possible.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Sunday AM, 54; Sunday PM, 47; Wednesday PM, 45.

## **Thought To Ponder...**

A genuine Christian is like a good watch: He or she has an open face, busy hands, is made of pure gold, is full of good works, and is well-regulated.

## **Those To Serve**

July 23, 2006

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Tullis**

### **MORNING WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas**  
**SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... John Dodson**  
**PRESIDE..... Ken Greer**  
**ASSIST..... John James**  
**ASSIST..... David Parish**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Myron Nebergall**

### **EVENING WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER ..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... Trent Thrasher**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... Ken Greer**

**WEDNESDAY July 26th**

**SONG LEADER..... Family Bible Studies**  
**INVITATION ..... Family Bible Studies**

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday**

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### **Wednesday**

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**  
**Phone: (913) 764-2325**  
**E-mail: olathecoc@sbcglobal.net**

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**515 WEST PARK**

**P.O. BOX 482**

**OLATHE, KANSAS 66051**

**[www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm](http://www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm)**

**[www.oabs.org/olathe.asp](http://www.oabs.org/olathe.asp)**