

Beauty of Truth

#0100

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—February 6, 1976

The last hour of human history is to be characterized by the complete revelation of *God's* character on the one hand and *Satan's* character on the other. The book of Revelation makes it very clear that every plant will go to seed. There will be a full harvest of the golden grain on the one hand, and the grapes of wickedness on the other. The whole universe is to have the opportunity of seeing exactly what *God* is like and exactly what His *archenemy* is like.

Satan has one advantage over God. Suppose I had a column of figures: 8, 13, 16, 3, 520, and so on. I tell you to take a pencil and paper and add up those figures and tell me what the answer is. How many *right* answers are there? Just one. Isn't that narrow-minded?

How many *wrong* answers are there? Could there be 10? A hundred? A thousand? A million? Yes. Do you begin to see the advantage the Devil has?

When people are asking questions, and there is only one right answer, and the Devil can throw out, first from one direction and then another, 10 wrong answers, a hundred wrong answers, a thousand wrong answers, unless people are careful and discerning, they are likely to get the wrong answer.

I don't mean that anyone needs to be deceived. Not so. Our Heavenly Father loves us, and He has said that if any man wills to do His will, he shall know of the teaching.

But it is Satan's business to get us doubting and questioning and wondering concerning things that *aren't* clear and all the while miss what *is* clear and certain.

I want to study with you some very simple things. They are extremely simple, yet they are deep. They are worthy of an eternity's study. In fact, we shall study them throughout eternity—the principles of the character of God.

In John 17, we hear Jesus praying to His Father. He's asking for His church, His people, His disciples here in this world. He is pleading for a revelation of the Father's glory, through Christ, that that glory may also be revealed in His people.

"And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent" John 17:3.

To know God is life eternal. A *failure* to know Him can deprive us of life eternal. Not by some arbitrary act of God. But God is the fountain of life. And he who fails to understand God fails to understand life. This is why there are so many confused ideas, so many perplexing teachings in the world today concerning life and its meaning or lack of meaning.

Eternal life is to know God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. God has promised to show us the path of life. What is a path? A road, something to walk on, something to travel on. This is the path of life. It's a living way. And where is it revealed? God is revealing it.

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" Psalm 16:11.

Oh, what a shame for people to miss the path of life simply because there are a thousand wrong ways! But nobody needs to be deceived. Nobody needs to miss the good way, the straight and narrow way. It's plainly marked. "Thou wilt shew me the path of life."

If we watch for the signals, we will know which way to go. Aren't you thankful?

Let's take a look at this path, this way, this road:

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me" John 14:6.

This way is more than a mark on a map. It's more than a highway with signposts. It's a life. It's a new and living way. And Jesus says, "I am the Way." Christ came to show us how to live, not merely to *tell* us, but to *demonstrate* it.

So as we behold the life of Christ, we see this new and living way, and thus we are encouraged to follow His example and put our feet in the footprints He left.

"He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked" 1 John 2:6.

I'm so glad that Jesus came to show us exactly where to walk and how to live. Praise God for this wonderful revelation!

Jesus says, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." So let's study the truth as it is in Jesus.

Pilate, in the judgment hall, asked, "What is truth?" But he didn't stay to get the answer. He returned at the cry of the mob. He yielded his conscience and followed popular opinion and lost even the respect of those to whom he listened.

What is truth? Jesus says, "I am the Truth." When God says something, that *makes* it so. It isn't that God searches and studies and finds out the truth. You and I have to do that. But someone *made* what is true truth. That is God.

"By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. For He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast" Psalm 33:6, 9.

Notice the significance. "He spake and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast." See how that is illustrated in creation. "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made..." On the first day, having called into existence the matter to form this earth, all was dark and without form and void.

"And God said, Let there be light: and there was light"
Genesis 1:3.

What made the light? God's word. He *is* light. When He said, "Let there be light," it was there *instantly*. Not an hour later. Not a minute later. Instantly.

God cannot lie. When He speaks, even if He says something that wasn't so before, it's immediately so because that's the power of His Word. A world springs into existence. He formed it out of nothing. Oh, what a powerful God we have!

So God cannot lie. As soon as He says something, it's so. That ought to give heart to a lot of us poor sinners when we remember that Jesus says:

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" 1 John 1:9.

The poor man who had the palsy was so anxious to get to Jesus that he had his friends carry him on a litter. But the multitude was filling the place where Jesus was, and they couldn't get to Him. So the sick man told them to carry him up on the roof, make a hole in it, and let him down. That's what they did. And there he was, right in front of Jesus. Jesus wasn't irritated by the interruption; He was *pleased*. He was glad to help someone. But notice how Christ went right to the heart of that sick man's problem:

"And, behold, they brought to Him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee"
Matthew 9:2.

Thank God, the man needed that and wanted that more than he did physical healing. When were his sins forgiven? Right then.

The scribes and Pharisees were irritated. The idea that this person would claim to forgive sins! But to show that Jesus had the power to forgive sins, He told the sick man to get up, take his bed and walk, and go home.

That was evidence that the scribes and Pharisees couldn't gainsay. The power to heal the sick body demonstrated the power to forgive sins. Both came from the word of the Creator, who cannot lie. When He says to the sinner, "Your sins are forgiven," they are forgiven. Let's believe it. What do you say?

That's what faith is—believing what God says. Faith is knowing that anything God says is true. Anything contrary to what He says is a lie. Do you believe that? Then why listen to it?

Do you remember someone once who went to a broadcast that was designed to prove that there were ways of learning more than God had revealed? Her name was Eve. Where was the broadcast? In the Garden of Eden. Someone should have been there to keep that serpent out. Or did God allow it? Why would God allow a serpent to speak lies in the Garden of Eden? Did Eve have to listen? Had she been told to stay away?

And I care not where it is in this world, or even in the church, if the serpent is speaking, you do not have to listen and be deceived. You don't have to. But if God allowed it in Eden, don't think it strange if He allows it today even in the professed churches of Jesus Christ.

What is God's purpose in allowing it? To give every human being a choice to see whether they want the truth or whether they want something different. God will not make a man *do* right; neither will He make a man *think* right. He will not force the mind any more than He will force the muscles. He gives evidence. He invites us:

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD:
though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as
snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool"
Isaiah 1:18.

Thank God, the reasonable mind, investigating the evidence that God has given, will come to the conclusion that Christ was telling the truth when He said, "I am the truth." And once we get that settled, then anything He says we already know it's true. It doesn't have to be proved to us anymore. He is the faithful and true Witness. And when His characteristics, His capacities, as a witness have been established, from then on, we can listen to anything He says. It's already settled in our minds before He says it.

I hope the decision of David, as registered in this verse, is yours.

"I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid
before me" Psalm 119:30.

I have chosen. I have made a choice, and this is what I want. This is the way I want to go. I have chosen the way of truth.

“Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Thy law is the truth” Psalm 119:142.

Do you know why God's law is the truth? Because *He* is the truth. A true God cannot give a false or erroneous law or commandment; therefore, the law of the Lord is perfect. And when we choose God's way—the way of truth—we are choosing His *law*, the *total* law, every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Let us notice what power this truth has—this power of the Word, the power of the law, the power of Christ *in* the Word, the power of Christ *in* His law. Here is this prayer of Christ again, this last night just before Gethsemane:

“Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth” John 17:17.

What does Jesus say will sanctify us? God's Word will sanctify us. Do you want to be sanctified, separated from sin, made holy for His service? The power lies in God's Word. It's the word of truth. In His law, the law of truth. In Jesus is the living law. He is the Word made flesh. He is the way, the truth, and He is the sanctifier.

I want you to notice six short words:

“...No lie is of the truth” 1 John 2:21.

A lie is something contrary to truth. If it's truth, it isn't lie, and if it's a lie, it isn't truth. The Devil says, “That's all very well, as a theory.” But in practical life, we have a lot of mixtures in religion and just about everything else. One of the Devil's biggest lies is that you cannot hope to get pure truth. That is a lie. No lie is of the truth. If it's truth that has sanctifying power, believe me, lies will never sanctify us.

I would like to have us face some very practical implications and applications. I think everyone would agree so far with what we have studied. They should, we read it out of the Bible, didn't we? And I want you to think of some of the things that are the exact opposite of truth. One of them is a lie. It's a hard word. Nobody wants to be called a liar. But the Devil is a liar from the beginning. He abode not in the truth. He didn't find enough room in the truth, so he branched out into all these thousands of changes. But his way is the way of lies.

Error is another one. What is an error? It's something that isn't the truth. If you add up that column of figures and you miss even one, you don't get the right answer. You made an error. If you read the Ten Commandments and offend in one point, you are guilty of all (see James 2:10). You have made an error. “...Sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4). If you believe what the Devil says about God, even in some

apparently small matter, that's an error, and no lie is of the truth. We want "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

A lie is opposite to the truth. Error is opposite of the truth. What about fiction? What is the opposite of fiction? Truth. Truth and fiction are opposite.

Someone says, "Wait a minute, Brother Frazee. You'd better go slow."

I *am* going slow. I want to give everybody a chance to think this thing through.

Someone says, "Well, let's see. If by getting people to read fiction, we could get them to believe the truth, wouldn't that be a good thing?"

Get people to read fiction in order to believe the truth? If we use some of these other names, it wouldn't sound quite as reasonable. If we'd say, "If we could get people to listen to *lies* so they'll believe the truth," or "If we'll get people to listen to *errors* so they believe the truth." Get people to listen to "fiction."

Do you know the difference between pure grape juice, fresh from the press, and fermented wine? What is in the fermented wine? Alcohol. Where did it come from? Does the Devil have a factory somewhere that he makes alcohol and slips it into the grape juice? Do you know how the alcohol gets in the grape juice? It comes by changing the delicious grape sugar into alcohol. That's the fermentative process. That's the way the Devil does it.

Now let's see what the Devil does on a spiritual level:

"Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen" Romans 1:25.

Remember, this is the way the Devil makes alcohol. He changes the delicious grape sugar into ethyl alcohol. He takes what God gave us as a blessing and so changes it that it becomes a curse. But he uses the same atoms. He rearranges them in different combinations.

This is what the Devil is doing in the religious world, and in the scientific world and in most any phase of life you want to look into. He is taking truth and changing it, perverting it, twisting it. And fiction comes from a perverted imagination.

Do you know why God gave us imagination? So that we can read about things that we haven't seen and visualize them as God presents them to us. Nobody ever saw the Garden of Eden, but you can read about it, and you can visualize it in your imagination. Nobody ever saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, but you can read about it, and you can visualize it in your imagination.

The Devil says, “My! The imagination is a wonderful thing. We’ll really take that, and we’ll use it.” So he takes the imagination of man, which is a most precious gift, and he uses it to begin to think up and twist and pervert the revelations God has given and changes the truth of God into a lie.

This is where the false visions of false religions come from. This is where the religious novels come from. And even when men in sincerity seek to present *truth* in that way, they are merely borrowing the vehicles and the methods of Satan in order to carry on the work of God. And Satan knows how to turn against the truth those weapons that he has forged. Don't forget it.

Let me illustrate it. There are some churches where, at the table of the Lord, the communion service, fermented wine is used—grape juice that has been fermented and has alcohol in it. And the priest or the bishop or the minister pronounces a blessing upon that, and it's used to represent the blood of Christ.

Does that make it all right? Millions of people think so. Even some people who are against the consumption of alcoholic beverages in ordinary life think that because something is used in a religious service, it must be all right.

I say it's more devilish when used in the name of Jesus. What do you say? And of all times that we should have fresh, pure unfermented juice, it is when we represent the sacrifice of Christ by that emblem.

So my dear friends, when it comes to this matter of fiction or error or falsehood (call it what you will), if there is any time that we need the truth and nothing but the truth, it's when we are dealing with spiritual and religious subjects. I would rather a child of mine would read some Wild West, harrowing tale of fiction than to read the life of Christ in the form of a novel. Why? God does not want the vehicles of Satan borrowed in order to represent the truth of God.

Is there iron in fermented wine? Oh yes. Are there some nutriments there? Yes. The Devil didn't turn and twist *everything* in the grape juice when he made wine. And so a person can get some good out of fermented wine.

Someone says, “Brother Frazee, did I hear you right? A person can get some good out of fermented wine?”

Yes, you heard me right. That's the truth.

“Oh, give me some then!”

Oh, no. But if you insist, there are places where you can get it. Someone gave me a bottle once, but I didn't drink it. Do you know why? It wasn't because I wanted to miss the good. It was I wanted to miss the poison. And I knew how to get all the good that was in that wine without getting any of the alcohol.

So when anyone offers you the Gospel of Christ done up in a package of fiction, remember you can get all the good and all the truth that's in that package without getting any of the lies of Satan or any of his vehicles or any of his methods. Aren't you thankful?

We have agreed that truth is not a lie, truth is not falsehood, it's not fiction, it's not error. Truth is not pretense.

Suppose I were to come on the platform and tell you I was George Washington. This was the bicentennial year, and I have come back to take part in it. What would you call me? You might call me a liar. (That would be accurate too!) But if I would dress up like George Washington and have a right kind of hairdo, get me a hatchet perhaps, and some other emblem?

Someone says, "Well, that's just play-like. That's pretending."

It sure is.

Someone says, "Brother Frazee, are you suggesting that it's suspect?"

Think it through. And while you are thinking, I want to read you something:

"Satan's ruling passion is to pervert the intellect and cause men to long for shows and theatrical performances. The experience and character of all who engage in this work will be in accordance with the food given to the mind.

"The Lord has given evidence of His love for the world. There was no falsity, no acting, in what He did" *Evangelism*, pages 266–267.

How much falsity was there in the life and work and teachings of Jesus? How much acting was there? Well, if I'm following His example, how much will there be in my life?

Then if you see me coming onto this platform pretending to be anybody but myself, I'm an actor. Whenever I start being an actor, I'm departing from the path of the example of Jesus Christ. Nobody can point to one thing in the life of Christ in which He was an actor, a hypocrite. Never. He was always Himself. He wants me to be myself. He wants you to be yourself—purified, sanctified, consecrated, cleansed—but ourselves, each one different.

Someone says, "But if it's a religious show, and it's done with the idea of teaching the truth and bringing people to Christ, isn't that all right?"

What were we looking at just a few minutes ago? What kind of juice in the communion cup? Fermented. Does that make it all right because it's at the table of the Lord? No, that makes it worse.

It's bad enough when men will take time and money to go to watch Shakespeare on the stage, but when the blessed Christ and His apostles are masqueraded and caricatured by human beings dressing up and pretending to be the Lord of glory and His called messengers, my friends, that is blasphemy. And if it's done in the name of religion, God pity us, and God help us to get our eyes opened.

“The sunset burns across the sky,
Upon the air its warning cry
The curfew tolls from tower to tower;
Oh, children, 'tis the last, last hour.”

What is Heaven waiting for? Why is the sun that is about to set held back? That character may be developed; that the church may be purified of all these inventions and perversions of the enemy; that human minds may come to the place where they love the truth, God's truth, and nothing but the truth, where nothing of error enslaves them, where nothing of fiction excites them, where nothing of acting attracts them, where nothing of falsehood appeals to them, where they love “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.”

Here we have one of the most serious warnings in the Bible:

“And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” 2 Thessalonians 2:8–12.

Oh friends, what is it that you enjoy? Is it the truth or some doctored, spiked, human interpretation of the truth? Do you want to hear the plain truth unadorned by human logic or human acting or human ornamentation? If so, then you can be saved.

But if you don't *love* the truth, what is going to happen? God is going to allow you to receive some delusion that you think is all right but will lead you to destruction.

Why? Because God forces no man. He gives us all a chance to listen to Jesus, Who speaks from the tree of life or from the serpent who speaks from that tree of mixed knowledge. Is there good there? Yes, lots of it. But mixed with it is some error, some

fiction, some acting, some perversion, some falsehood, some pretense, some insincerity, some hypocrisy. God save us from all of it, what do you say?

We can chew on this with our mental teeth and give it the benefit of the Holy Spirit as He works upon our minds. The Bible calls Him the Spirit of truth. He testifies of truth. In our lives, from day to day, let us ask God to help us to be very practical in applying these principles.

What I have studied with you, rightly applied, is one of the greatest practical remedies for inferiority complex or superiority complex or any *kind* of a complex. It is one of the greatest cures for restlessness, worry, concern. It relieves you of trying to make an impression on people. It gives you the joy of resting in the assurance that all you are seeking to do is to please the Lord of Heaven. You are not trying to be someone else. You are not trying to impress people with your riches that you don't have or your wisdom which you lack. You are not trying to make people think you are beautiful when you are not. There is no falsehood and no acting in any part of your life. You are seeking to be Christ's witness and to let His glory, His beauty, His character shine out in your life.

Heavenly Father, as we have looked into the lovely face of Jesus, as we have heard Him say, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life," we are charmed with the beauty of His character, the glory of His truth, the joy of His life. We want to have done with the Devil's counterfeits, perversions, inventions. Too long have men listened to the serpent at the tree of knowledge and missed the angel at the tree of life.

Tonight, the best we know how, we are turning from the perversions of the enemy, and we're seeking to know Thy truth, whatever it may cost us. Oh Lord, give us such love for Thy truth that we would gladly exchange a thousand errors for one truth. Gladly would we sacrifice our lives rather than disappoint the One who gave His life that we may be redeemed.

We come giving Thee ourselves: our ears that we may hear Thy truth, our eyes that we may see Thy truth, our minds that we may understand it, our hearts that we may love it, our hands that we may share it with others. We thank Thee.

Dear Lord, you see every uplifted hand. May the dear hand of Jesus reach down to take our little hands and lead us along this blessed, lighted way home to glory. Keep us in the love of Thy truth, for Jesus' sake, amen.

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