

Three Ways to Know Truth

#0486

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—September 3, 1971

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” John 8:32.

I call your attention to this fact, friends: that freedom comes through knowing the truth. Everyone longs for freedom. The plan of the Creator is that everyone shall be free. Freedom comes from knowing the truth.

Now note also this fact: it is impossible to know a lie. A person may believe a lie. The scripture speaks of that in second Thessalonians chapter 2—all will be lost who believe a lie and believe not the truth. A person may think he knows something that isn't so. He doesn't know it; he just thinks he knows it. The only thing one can really know is a fact. All else is a deception, a hallucination, an illusion, a delusion. We want to study a little while together about truth which makes us free, how to know the truth.

My good friend, Brother Richard Byrd, has made for me this triangle, and truth is within the bounds of this triangle. As any triangle has, this one has three sides. And it's the three sides of this triangle that I would have you note because your conception of truth, your perception of truth is bounded by the three sides to this triangle. What are they, you say? That's what we're going to look at.

Now ideally, as the diagram suggests, this is an equilateral triangle; that is, the three sides are the same length. But in practice, I doubt if there is anybody here, including the speaker, who has a perfectly balanced triangle. You'll see why as we study. In other words, probably most of us here at least—I'll say most of us and that'll leave room for anybody who thinks he's perfectly balanced to include yourself in that small minority. But for most of us, our perception of truth is somewhat unbalanced. But we should seek to strengthen that which is weak, to lengthen that which is short, because you can imagine what would happen to that triangle there if any one of the three sides was quite a bit shorter than the other. You wouldn't have an equilateral triangle, would you? No. Impossible. And, so we are seeking to understand better at how to arrive at a balanced understanding of truth. And, all the truth you know lies within the triangle. That which is outside of the triangle is not truth to you.

Well, the first one we will take a look at is Psalm 107:43. This is one of the ways in which we perceive truth. One of the ways in which we get an understanding of truth.

“Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD”
Psalm 107:43.

We become acquainted with God's character, this verse tells us, through observation, through observing. Now, what does it mean to observe? What do you say it means to observe? To watch. Somebody else says to take notice. Now, somebody said practice or obey—that's one meaning of the word "observe" in the sense of observing His commandments. But that isn't what this is talking about. This is talking about those other meanings that some others suggested: watch, look for. A few more thoughts on observation. What does it mean? Study, examine, pay attention to, analyze. Seek. That's good, that's just the word I need. All these others will help us. But after all, most of the observation that you and I do is with our eyes. Is that right? Our ears help us some, and we get a little with feeling and still less with our taste and smell. Most of the observation we do in the world around us, in the universe around us, is with our eyes. Aren't we thankful for that blessing? And God wants us to observe these things. If you read the Psalm, you will see what the antecedent of these things is. He's talking about the works of the Lord.

In Psalm 19, David sings:

"The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament sheweth His handiwork.
Day unto day uttereth speech
And night unto night showeth knowledge.
There is no speech nor language,
Where their voice is not heard." Psalm 19:1–3

*The spacious firmament on high,
With all the blue ethereal sky,
And spangled heavens, a shining frame,
Their great Original proclaim.*

*What though in solemn silence all
Move round the dark terrestrial ball;
What though nor real voice nor sound
Amidst their radiant orbs be found?*

*In Reason's ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice;
For ever singing as they shine,
The Hand that made us is divine.*

Hymn by: Joseph Addison (1672–1719)

Yes, we perceive something of the character of God, of His wisdom, and of His power, and His love as we behold the great universe. Not only looking at the great worlds and suns on high but looking at the tiny things around us, the little flowers of the seeds. We listen to the bird's song. We rejoice in the goings forth of the morning and the sunset hour. All day long and, when we are awake at night, we may be hearing the insects with their orchestration, or we may be receiving other messages through ear or eye. Whoso is wise and will do what? Observe these things. Even they shall understand the loving-kindness of the Lord.

Now, let's go further. God in His providence, has given us many tools today for observation. Take the telescope through which the astronomer scans the heavens or the microscope through which the scientist looks at the blood cells, or examines the structure of a flower or some other object in nature. Think of chemical analysis, think of all the other tools of scientific research. All these are agencies through which you and I may become acquainted with the laws of the Great Creator. And I think you will agree with me that in that whole field of scientific study and research nothing is quite so important as the study of the human body.

Anatomy and physiology teach us the laws of hygiene, the laws of health, the laws of the Creator. And of all the things that we can observe, nothing is so important to God in this world as the beings made in His image. This is one of the great reasons why in the Wildwood Medical Missionary Institute, the study of physiology occupies such an important place. All of it that you learn here will not be under that name, but I trust that every day your mind will be open, your eyes will be open, your ears will be open to learn all possible about the world around us in nature, the birds, the flowers, the trees and the lessons that God is teaching us there. Especially the study of the human body, your own body, become acquainted with it. Become acquainted with the study of physiology in general so that you may help others. Because in these created works of God, we are becoming acquainted with God and the way He does things so that we can cooperate with Him.

Now, this first side of the triangle then is this activity, this experience of observation, of becoming acquainted with the Creator's work. This includes all science. You know that the laws of science are just as much the laws of God as the Ten Commandments, aren't they? The Creator is the One who spoke the Ten Commandments and the Creator is the One who wrote on the liver, the heart, the brain, the laws of physiology. He's the One that wrote the laws of astronomy in the heavens, and the laws of botany in the trees and flowers. So we are reading His handwriting as we look through the telescope and the microscope or use our ordinary eyesight to see the world around us.

Friends, I'm so glad that God has invited us to do this. The One who made the world came down and lived here in our humanity and said "*Behold* the fowls of the air, *consider* the lilies of the field, *how* they grow." Oh, that everyone here, whether you call yourself a student or not may indeed be a learner in the school of Christ, thinking God's thoughts after Him. More and more, day by day, learning what wonderful things can be opened to you by *observing* what God has done and is doing in the natural world. Whoso is wise and will observe these things, even they shall understand.

Now, let's go back to our opening text, and I want you to notice another channel through which we become acquainted with truth. And, by the way, on this matter of this green side of the triangle here—the side of science that we learn through observation... Remember friends: nothing that is false is scientific. The word "science" comes from the Latin word "I know." And, I already brought out to you the fact that nobody can know a lie. So it is utterly unscientific, for example, to speak of evolution as a part of science. Evolution is as unscientific as it is unbiblical. It is a misunderstanding—that's the most charitable way to express it. It's a misunderstanding. And while we should respect the men who in the name of science teach those theories, we need have no

respect at all for the false theories. And remember, and I repeat it, they are not scientific, they're outside the triangle.

Nobody has ever observed a lower form of life being transformed into a higher form of life. No one has ever observed link after link in the so-called chain of evolution. It simply has not happened, my friends, and it's not going to happen. Dogs are going to remain dogs, trees are going to remain trees, fish are going to remain fish, and men are going to remain men. This is the way God created things in the first week of creation; this is the way they are. True, there are changes in the forms of life. We all observe that. We see some short people, some taller, we see little dogs and big dogs, but we never saw a dog changed into a cat, did we? No, no. We never saw a pine tree become a dogwood or a dogwood a pine. That never happened, it never will.

So, this is what I mean when I say that all these theories which are contrary to truth, to fact, are outside the triangle. They're just ideas that people have, and whether they write them as so-called science fiction, or whether they are fictitious science, the end result is the same. *Real* science—don't miss this—real science comes from observing the laws of God in the natural world. Not in speculating about things that no human being has seen demonstrated.

All right, now we're ready for our second side of the triangle.

"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" John 8:31–32.

Christ, here, points to His *Word* as the source of the truth which makes men free. And this second side of the triangle then we shall call revelation.

"For *all* scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine..."

That is, for teaching.

"...for instruction in righteousness" 2 Timothy 3:16.

Now, what is the difference between science and revelation? This is the difference: In this first side of the triangle—or observation as we have labeled it—we are going out and seeing certain things that the Creator has done. But, this is, in a sense, a very *limited* field of observation—in a sense, it's an infinite field. But what I mean by that is the knowledge that man can learn merely by studying the world around him will never be sufficient to acquaint him with all he needs to know about truth. Even the lessons in nature's lesson book need an interpreter, and this we find in the *direct* revelation God has given of Himself in the Bible. And so it is written that *only* through the light that shines through Calvary can the teachings of nature be read aright. The written Word, the Bible, sheds light on the book of nature and the book of nature sheds light on the Bible. It is when we combine together that which

we can learn through observation and that we can learn from revelation that we advance rapidly in our understanding of truth.

He who depends alone on science is greatly limited. And, if a man studies only the Bible and refuses to study anything about the world around him—if he says, “I’ll just listen to the Bible,” and maybe, if he knows about it, the Spirit of Prophecy, “and let other people study physiology,” for example—that man is missing a great deal. The One who gave us the Bible is the Creator. And as we have already seen, He has told us: behold the birds, consider the lilies, whoso is wise and will observe these things even he shall understand. But, oh my friends, what a pity it is to get so busy studying the world around us that we have no time to listen to the God above us. He wants to be our Guide. He came from Heaven to earth and spoke the Ten Commandments on Sinai. Later, He came from Heaven to earth and in our human flesh lived that divine law. And, only as we study this Word will we know the truth that makes us free. That’s what He says here:

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” John 8:32

Again,

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

Oh yes, here is truth for us, friends. Here is truth. And listen, just as unscientific theories outside the triangle are not for the child of God, so unbiblical theories are not for the child of God. No matter how hoary with age some religious idea is if it cannot be proved from this Book, let’s discard it. It’s outside the triangle of truth. What do you say, friends? Isn’t the Bible the rule of life? Is not God speaking through this Book, our Director, our Captain, our Leader? Oh, let’s never try to get outside that triangle. What do you say? But I’ll tell you this friends, each individual triangle can grow. The wider your observation, the longer that side of the triangle can be. The more you study the Word of God, the longer that window of light, the wider it is.

Well, some of you are wondering now what that third one is. And, of course, that’s all it takes to complete the triangle, isn’t it? Ah, yes. We’ll turn to John 7, and we’ll find the third side of the triangle.

“Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine...”

My teaching of truth.

“...is not Mine, but His that sent Me. If any man will do
His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of
God, or whether I speak of Myself” John 7:16–17.

Here Christ introduces another dimension. It is the dimension of experience. It is not enough to observe, it is not enough to hear God speaking to us. This

introduces another phase of learning vital to the other two. If any man will, what? *Do*, what? His will he shall, *do*. Now, why doesn't it say it the other way? If he knows it, he can do it. Well obviously, we need to know.

"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them"
John 13:17.

But Christ here indicates that we will never know truth as we ought to know it, and it is our privilege to know it, unless and until we do it, practice it, sensing. This lifts Christian education far above all the concepts of training that the world knows anything about. To the Christian, it is not enough to learn a fact whether it be learned through science or the revelation of the Bible. We know it in the fullest sense only as we practice it, my friends. And, until we have practiced it we do not fully know it. And, may I suggest to you that with many of us this is the shortest side of the triangle. And, in world concepts of education, people are so busy amassing information through the window of observation—and even in religious education sometimes so busy getting facts through the window of revelation—that they have little time to put into practice that which they learn through these other two channels. But remember friends, what we have just read. Jesus said:

"If any man will do His will, he shall know..." John 7:17.

Then the man that doesn't do it does not yet fully know it, and this is exactly why—this is precisely why so many people are uncertain, why they're so easily moved, why they're tossed about like children.

Oh, friend, do you know that a triangle is one of the most stable, immovable things in engineering? And, when you have those three sides balanced and fitted together, and you stay inside the triangle, you are impregnable, invulnerable, immovable. You know something and, as someone quaintly said, it's better not to know so much than to know so many things that aren't so. That, of course, is just a play on words. The fact though that I'm saying for the third time, we never know a thing that isn't so. (We may think we know it.)

All truth is inside that triangle. How big is your triangle, and what shape is it? Those are my two questions. How big is your triangle? How much have you learned through observation? How much have you learned through revelation? How much have you put those things which you have learned through observation and revelation—how much have you put them into the laboratory of your daily life and found that they work?

In this wonderful little volume, *Counsels to Teachers, Parents, and Students*, on page 97, you'll find this little sentence. It'll bare a good deal of study in the light of the Bible texts we have looked at.

"If we ever know the truth, it will be because we practice it."
Counsels to Teachers, Parents, and Students page 97.

Again:

“If we ever know the truth, it will be because we practice it.”

Will you say that with me?

“If we ever know the truth, it will be because we practice it.”

Once again:

“If we ever know the truth, it will be because we practice it.”

Let me illustrate it: If we study the laws of health as brought to us through scientific research, we learn that sleep is a restorer that sleep helps to recharge the battery. If we turn to the revelations of the Bible, we read that God giveth His beloved sleep. And that the sleep of a laboring man is sweet. If we turn to the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy, we read that those who sleep give nature time to restore the weary waste of the organism. Now suppose that I burn the midnight oil learning those statements. Suppose that I take hours night after night studying what scientific research has brought out about the advantages of sleep, and with that, I compile all that the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy have to say about it, and I come weary and bleary-eyed morning by morning to work or to class. Do I know truth? Do I? You know my problem, I may have a big right-hand side of the triangle and a big left-hand side of the triangle, but the Lord's side is so tiny it's hardly there, and so there's really not much room in my triangle. I really don't know very much truth.

Do you see my problem? I need an experimental knowledge of the blessings that come through what? Yes, through doing. And in this case, the illustration we're using the doing is what? Quit doing and go to sleep. Is that right? Now, friend, how broad should your experimental knowledge of sleep be? It should be balanced, in balance with the rest. The answer is not to sleep 24-hours a day. Oh no, nobody here is going to do that, now that's dangerous. But, I'll tell you there are several people here—and if I should say that I was going to throw a stone at the one that needed sleep to see if any of you would duck...I won't! But there are several people here that need a wider experimental knowledge of the blessings that sleep brings. And, this is a part of education.

All right, let's take another illustration. Here's exercise. One of the great things we learn in our study of health and physiology at Wildwood is the blessings of exercise. Whole books are being written on that today. Dr. Wilhelm Raab of the University of New Hampshire Medical College and his colleague Dr. Hans Kraus have written a book this thick on hypokinetic diseases—that is, diseases caused by lack of exercise. All kinds of scientific research on this exist. And, you hear about people jogging. Why? Well, because scientific research has shown the advantages of it in preventing heart attacks and other things. All right, then we need to learn through observation on that.

Well, we turn to the Bible, we turn to the Spirit of Prophecy, and we find divine revelation giving us instructions to work. In fact, the Fourth Commandment says six days shalt thou do what? Labor and do all thy work. That's right. Work is a part of the divine law, and we can read in *Ministry of Healing* and the other inspired books on health, paragraph after paragraph, page after page on the wonderful blessings of

exercise. All right, now suppose I sit, and I study all day. Suppose I can memorize Dr. Raab's book on hypokinetic disease. Would that keep me from getting hypokinetic disease? Oh no, it might make me get it. Just sitting there studying it. I study, study, study. I could even get up and give lectures on the benefits of exercise but, if I don't exercise myself, that lower side of the triangle is mighty short, and the result is that the total area within the triangle is extremely small. Do you see it, friend? It's just crowded right together. It's stated in another way, you can make that right-hand side of the triangle as high as heaven and the second side just as high, and, until that is brought into the practical experience of the life, what have you got? You've got a towering flagpole. Not much room inside. May I read this again as we read a moment ago in *Counsels to Teachers, Parents, and Students*:

"If we ever know the truth, it will be because we practice it."
Ibid.

Now those two things of sleep and exercise are simply illustrations. There are a thousand things that you will learn while you are a student here at Wildwood. Some of you folks that don't live on the campus—if you keep coming here on Friday nights, you will learn a lot of them, too. Some of the things you will learn as you listen to what is given here will be brought to us through the window of observation and scientific research. Some will come through divine revelation. But friend, your trying can be made only by you and how much you expand in your own experience. Not merely your perception of truth but in your experimental knowledge of truth. That depends on who? You. And no matter if you would pay one thousand dollars a year tuition. And no matter if some institution of learning would give you a paper saying that you had been there a certain length of time. None of that can give you this third dimension. That depends on you.

All right. Will you turn again in John 13:17. First, we will go to John 15:11. I want you to see the purpose of all this, God's desire in all that He tells us.

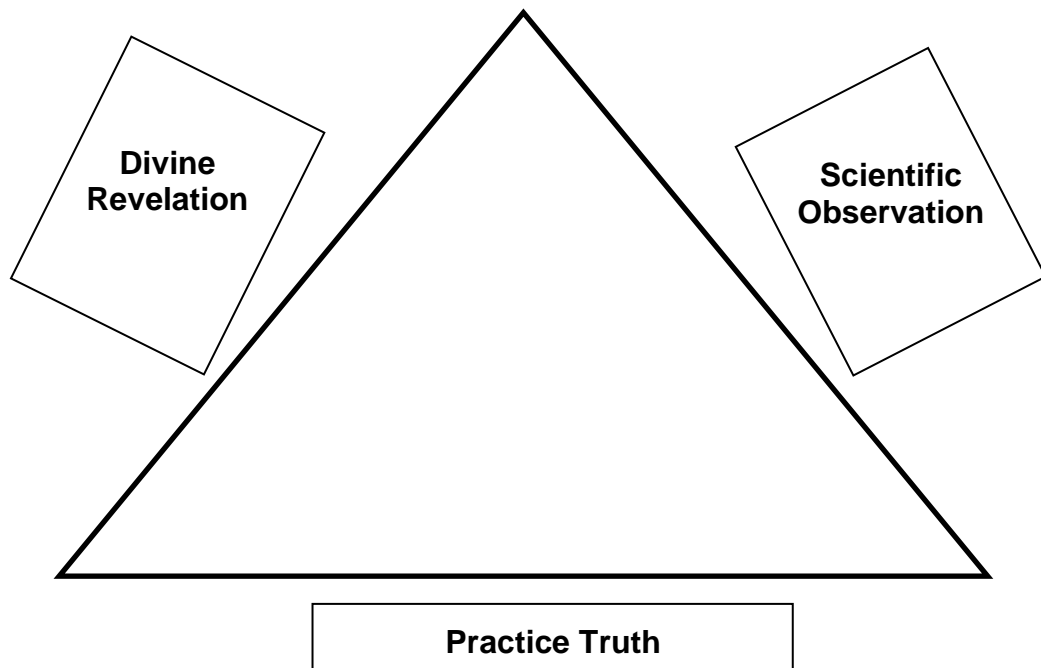
"These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" John 15:11.

Are the laws of nature all for our happiness? Oh, yes. Are the revelations given to us in this Bible all for our happiness? Oh, yes. But, now ask John 13:17. What does he say? "If ye know these things, happy are ye..." Is there another "if"? What is it?... "if ye do them."

"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them"
John 13:17.

So, whatever it is we learn, let us take hold of the power of Jesus to help us to do it. What do you say? Jesus came from Heaven to earth to show us how to do all this. He died upon the cross to make it possible to forgive our past transgressions, and He rose from the dead that by the power of His resurrection, He might help each one of us to walk in newness of life. This is the experimental knowledge.

Is there somebody here that can say I know that these three sides work because, small as my triangle is, I find that three sides fit together? Will you come forward and tell us just now as God moves upon your heart.



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