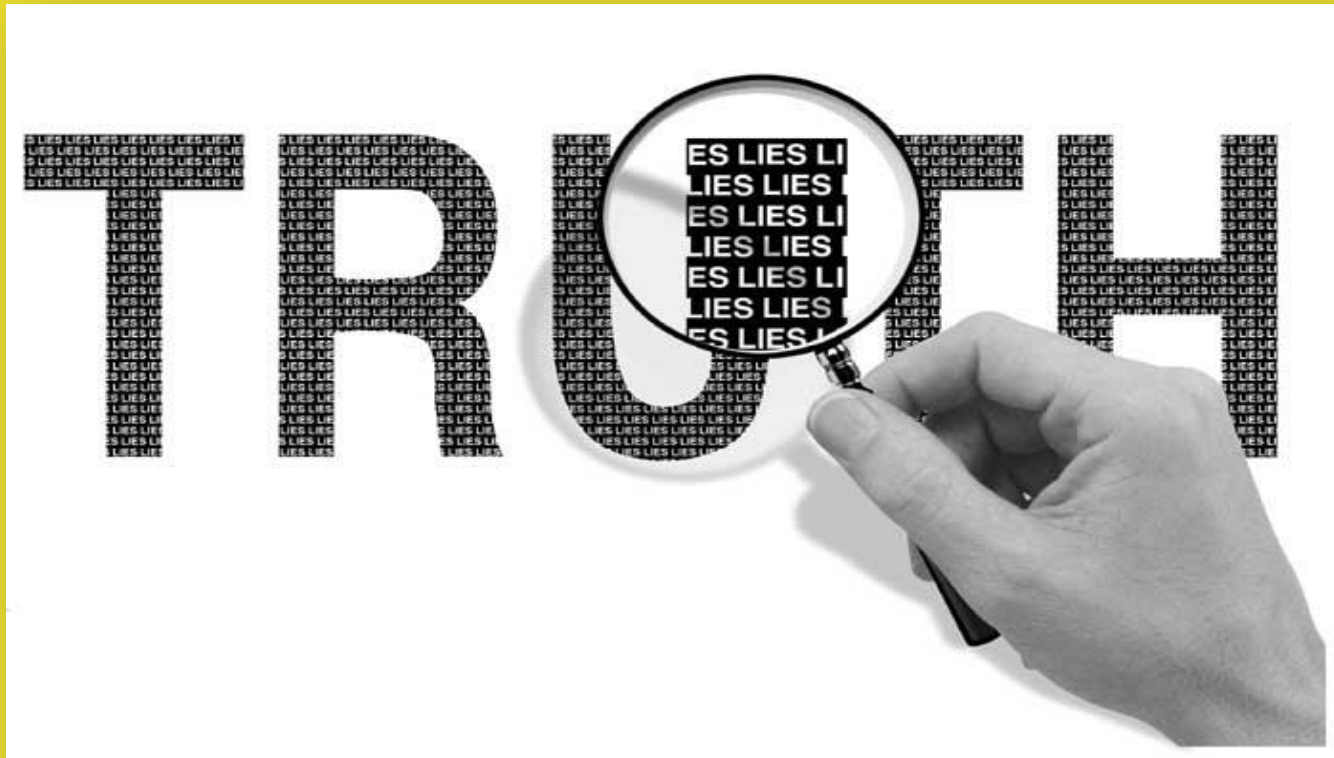


WORD OF TRUTH



Today, we will talk about the
‘Word of Truth.’

In the world, there are many lies and falsehoods masquerading as truth.



Paul told Timothy to rightly divide the word of truth.

He wrote: “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:25 (NKJV)

As Christians, we have a responsibility to ferret out the truth, and hold fast on them for our salvation depends on it.

John 8:31-32

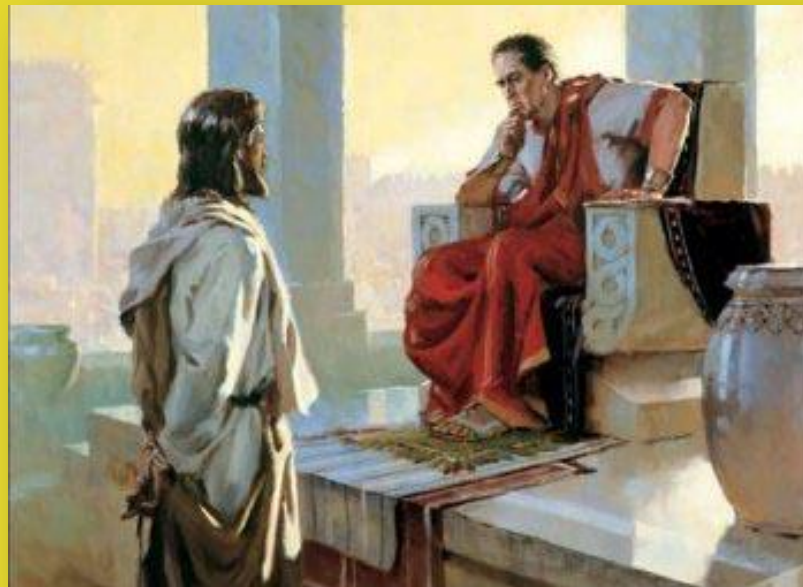
³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Before we try to understand the declaration of Jesus, let us first define what is truth.

What is truth?



Almost 2,000 years ago, a Roman governor asked a profound question to a man who was about to be executed. “**Quid est veritas?**”



“What is truth?” he asked.
The account is found in John
18:28-38.

John 18:28-38

²⁸ Then the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to be able to eat the Passover.

John 18:28-38

²⁹ So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

John 18:28-38

30 "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."

John 18:28-38

³¹ Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." "But we have no right to execute anyone," the Jews objected.

John 18:28-38

³² This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.

John 18:28-38

³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

John 18:28-38

³⁴ "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

John 18:28-38

35 "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

John 18:28-38

³⁶ Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

John 18:28-38

³⁷ "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

John 18:28-38

38 "What is truth?" Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him."

As governor, Pilate's task was to ferret out the truth about Jesus and make a judgment.

With all the falsehoods, it is extremely difficult to identify the truth.

“Quid est veritas- what is the truth?, asked Pilate. And had he known it, he might not have crucified the God of Glory.

So today we ask,
“What is truth?”

In defining truth, (and by this, we mean, biblical truth) it is helpful to know what the truth is not:

- Truth is not determined by what makes people feel good or happy.

Just because something is favorable or beneficial to us does not mean it is true.

- Truth is not determined by what the majority says is true.

Fifty-one percent of a group can reach a wrong conclusion. The crowd who gathered at the governor's palace and shouted crucify him, crucify him did not make their accusations true. It is still a lie.

- Truth is not determined by what is comprehensive.

A lengthy, detailed presentation can still result in a false conclusion.

- Truth is not what is believed.

A lie believed is still a lie. The High Priest believed Jesus was fake; his belief did not make it true, on the contrary he was wrong.

The Greek word for “truth” is
‘aletheia’, which literally means to
“*un-hide*” or “*hiding nothing*.”

It conveys the thought that truth is always there, always open and available for all to see, with nothing being hidden or obscured.

The Hebrew word for “truth” is ‘*emeth*’, which means “*firmness*,” “*constancy*” and “*duration*.” The definition implies an everlasting substance and something that can be relied upon.

Source of Truth



Where does truth reside?

Where does truth come from?

Is there a source of truth?

We instinctively know that truth comes from God. Truth can only come from the ultimate authority – the Creator Himself.

Jesus declares in John 17:17:

“Sanctify them by your truth.
Your word is truth.”

Therefore, God the Father is the source of truth.

The Psalmist wrote: “The
entirety of Your word *is* truth,
And every one of Your righteous
judgments *endures* forever.”

Psalms 119:160

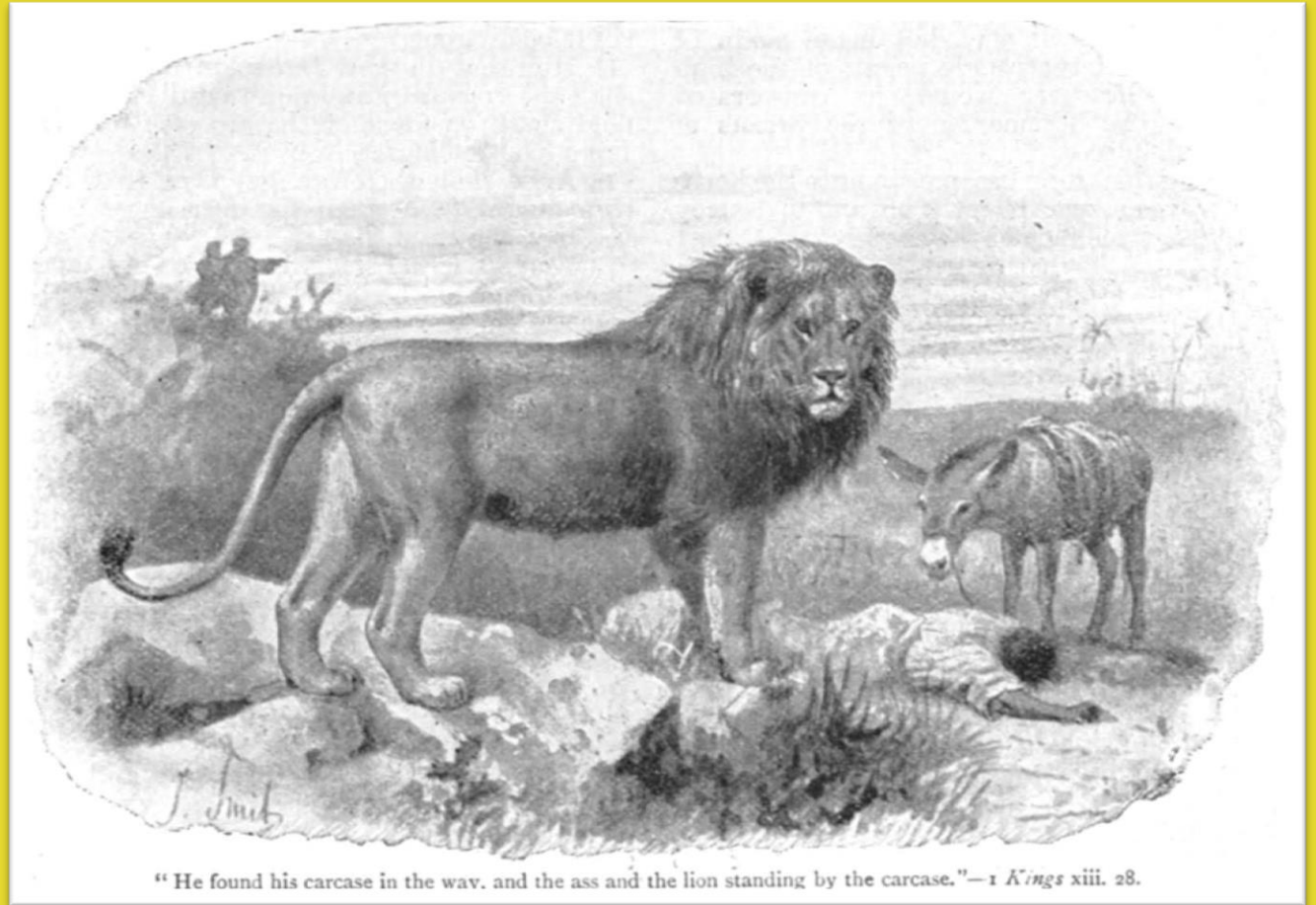
In 1 Kings chapter 13 is a rather unique story about a prophet of God who was deceived by another prophet.

Strange. But, why was it even
written down for posterity in the
scripture?

What lesson and insight can we learn from it?

The great lesson is:
only listen to the word of truth.

1 Kings 13:1-32



1 Kings 13:1-32

¹ By the word of the LORD a man of God came from Judah to Bethel, as Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make an offering.

1 Kings 13:1-32

² He cried out against the altar by the word of the LORD: "O altar, altar! This is what the LORD says: 'A son named Josiah will be born to the house of David. On you he will sacrifice the priests of the high places who now make offerings here, and human bones will be burned on you.'"

1 Kings 13:1-32

³ That same day the man of God gave a sign: "This is the sign the LORD has declared: The altar will be split apart and the ashes on it will be poured out."

1 Kings 13:1-32

⁴ When King Jeroboam heard what the man of God cried out against the altar at Bethel, he stretched out his hand from the altar and said, "Seize him!" But the hand he stretched out toward the man shriveled up, so that he could not pull it back.

1 Kings 13:1-32

⁵ Also, the altar was split apart and its ashes poured out according to the sign given by the man of God by the word of the LORD.

1 Kings 13:1-32

⁶ Then the king said to the man of God, "Intercede with the LORD your God and pray for me that my hand may be restored." So the man of God interceded with the LORD, and the king's hand was restored and became as it was before.

1 Kings 13:1-32

⁷ The king said to the man of God,
"Come home with me and have
something to eat, and I will give you a
gift."

1 Kings 13:1-32

⁸ But the man of God answered the king, "Even if you were to give me half your possessions, I would not go with you, nor would I eat bread or drink water here.

1 Kings 13:1-32

⁹ For I was commanded by the word of the LORD: 'You must not eat bread or drink water or return by the way you came.'"

1 Kings 13:1-32

¹⁰ So he took another road and did not return by the way he had come to Bethel. ¹¹ Now there was a certain old prophet living in Bethel, whose sons came and told him all that the man of God had done there that day. They also told their father what he had said to the king.

1 Kings 13:1-32

12 Their father asked them, "Which way did he go?" And his sons showed him which road the man of God from Judah had taken. **13** So he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." And when they had saddled the donkey for him, he mounted it

1 Kings 13:1-32

¹⁴ and rode after the man of God. He found him sitting under an oak tree and asked, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?" "I am," he replied. ¹⁵ So the prophet said to him, "Come home with me and eat."

1 Kings 13:1-32

¹⁶ The man of God said, "I cannot turn back and go with you, nor can I eat bread or drink water with you in this place. ¹⁷ I have been told by the word of the LORD: 'You must not eat bread or drink water there or return by the way you came.'"

1 Kings 13:1-32

18 The old prophet answered, "I too am a prophet, as you are. And an angel said to me by the word of the LORD: 'Bring him back with you to your house so that he may eat bread and drink water.'" (But he was lying to him.)

1 Kings 13:1-32

19 So the man of God returned with him and ate and drank in his house.

20 While they were sitting at the table, the word of the LORD came to the old prophet who had brought him back.

1 Kings 13:1-32

21 He cried out to the man of God who had come from Judah, "This is what the LORD says: 'You have defied the word of the LORD and have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you.

1 Kings 13:1-32

²² You came back and ate bread and drank water in the place where he told you not to eat or drink. Therefore your body will not be buried in the tomb of your fathers.'“ ²³ When the man of God had finished eating and drinking, the prophet who had brought him back saddled his donkey for him.

1 Kings 13:1-32

²⁴ As he went on his way, a lion met him on the road and killed him, and his body was thrown down on the road, with both the donkey and the lion standing beside it.

1 Kings 13:1-32

25 Some people who passed by saw the body thrown down there, with the lion standing beside the body, and they went and reported it in the city where the old prophet lived.

1 Kings 13:1-32

²⁶ When the prophet who had brought him back from his journey heard of it, he said, "It is the man of God who defied the word of the LORD. The LORD has given him over to the lion, which has mauled him and killed him, as the word of the LORD had warned him."

1 Kings 13:1-32

²⁷ The prophet said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me," and they did so. ²⁸ Then he went out and found the body thrown down on the road, with the donkey and the lion standing beside it. The lion had neither eaten the body nor mauled the donkey.

1 Kings 13:1-32

29 So the prophet picked up the body of the man of God, laid it on the donkey, and brought it back to his own city to mourn for him and bury him. **30** Then he laid the body in his own tomb, and they mourned over him and said, "Oh, my brother!"

1 Kings 13:1-32

³¹ After burying him, he said to his sons, "When I die, bury me in the grave where the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones. ³² For the message he declared by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel and against all the shrines on the high places in the towns of Samaria will certainly come true."

Lesson to Learn



HE SAID



SHE SAID



GOD SAID

CURRENT SERIES

There is great value in determining truth from falsehood, between what God said and what man said.

How then do we determine truth
from lies; from what God said
compared to what men tell us?

Is the explanation of what God
said difficult to understand?

For Christians,
the basis of truth
the Bible –
Sola Scriptura –
(solely the
Scripture.)



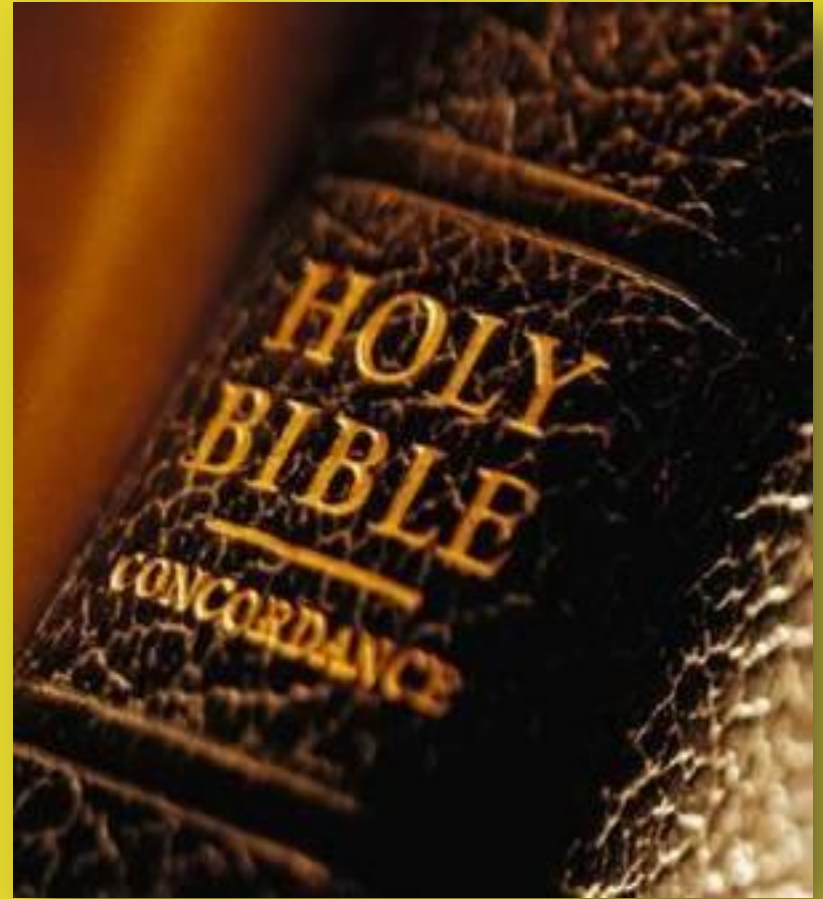
God's message to man is revealed in the Bible. The Bible is composed of 66 separate books, written by as many as 40 different authors, over a span of more than 1500 years.

The New Testament is composed of 27 books written by nine authors over a span of about 50 years, from 50 A.D. to 100 A.D.

Hebrews 1:1-2

¹ In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,
² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

The Bible defines itself as the word of truth and consistently claims divine authorship as the word of God.



It claims to be the ultimate and absolute authority of truth. The Bible does not just talk about God.

The Bible is God speaking to us
– revealing His truths.

Therefore, any teaching that is contrary to the scripture is false, even if it is a long held church tradition.

Jesus said in Mark 7:6-8. “You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

Mark 7:6-8

⁶ He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁷ They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.' ⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men."

Man made traditions are never the basis of truth.

The commandments that come from God are the only basis of truth.

Identifying the Truth



In today's vast and diverse world of religions, it can be difficult to know who is teaching the truth.

John said many falsehoods have gone into the world. Thus, many churches are vying for your devotion.

1 John 4:1

1 John 4:1

¹ Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

So, how do we distinguish what is true and what is false; and what God said from what man said?

There is one simple way of discerning what 'God said' which is the truth from what 'man said'.

In the Bible God speaks to the people. When you read the Old Testament look for the phrase “**The Lord said...**” which occurred about 3,800 times in the Old Testament. In the New Testament look for the “red letter” text - “**Jesus said**”.

What “God said” and what “Jesus said” are the basis of truth; and they are the words that we need to listen to for they are the words of truth.

Any message that is opposite, or contrary to God's spoken words are falsehood and lies that you should take note and be afraid of.

Here are the warnings of the
Apostles. Galatians 1:6-9 and 1
John 1:10-11.

Galatians 1:6-9

⁶ I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—⁷which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ.

Galatians 1:6-9

⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! ⁹ As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!

1 John 1:10

¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

Jude 1:3

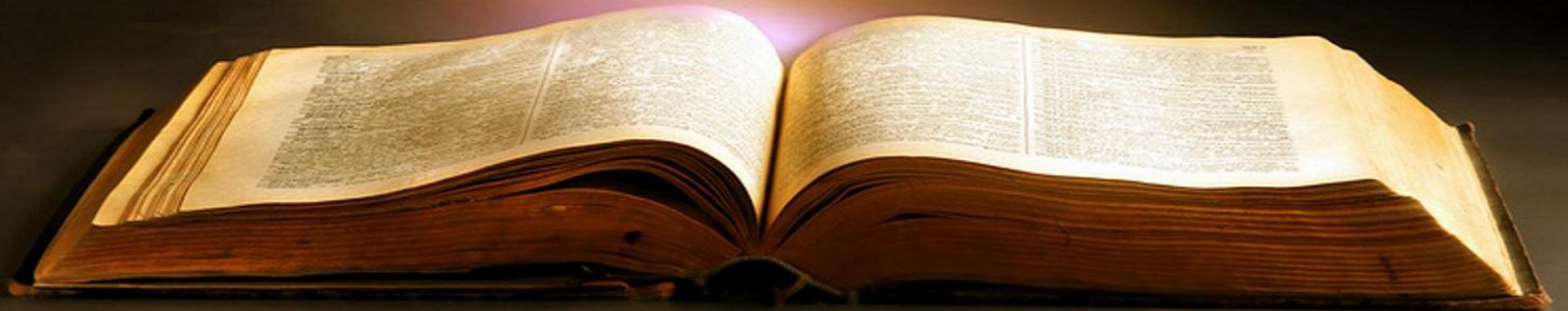
³ Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

If you find any discrepancy between what God and Jesus said and what the minister tells you, always go for the written word of God. That is your only guarantee against religious deception.

The word of God is the word of truth. Simply refer to the “The Lord said” in the Old Testament and the “red letter” text on what Jesus said in the New Testament and you will never ever go wrong.

Remember,
only God's words lead to life.

God Spoke



In the Scriptures, the foundation of
Truth is embodied in the Ten
Commandments!

In Deuteronomy 5, Moses reminded Israel how God gave His people the law – the 10 commandments.

In Psalm 119:142 (NKJV):

“Your righteousness *is* an everlasting
righteousness, And Your law *is* truth.”

Psalm 119:151

““You *are* near, O Lord, And all Your
commandments are truth.”

The 10 commandments are the words of God – the law is truth!

Deuteronomy 5, Exodus 20

Now, let us go through each
of the commandments.

1. There shall be no other gods before Me
2. You shall not make for yourself a carved image
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain
4. Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy
5. Honor your father and your mother

6. You shall not murder
7. You shall not commit adultery
8. You shall not steal
9. You shall not bear false witness
against your neighbor
10. You shall not covet

Today,
these truths are being redefined.

Many churches teach that these commandments are irrelevant.

People venerate images in churches; desecrate the Sabbath day; approved same sex marriages.

(Leviticus 20:13)

Leviticus 20:13

13 "If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

If anyone tells you that God has changed and reduced the 10 commandments to 2, and the law is no longer enforced today; you owe it to yourself to find out who said it.

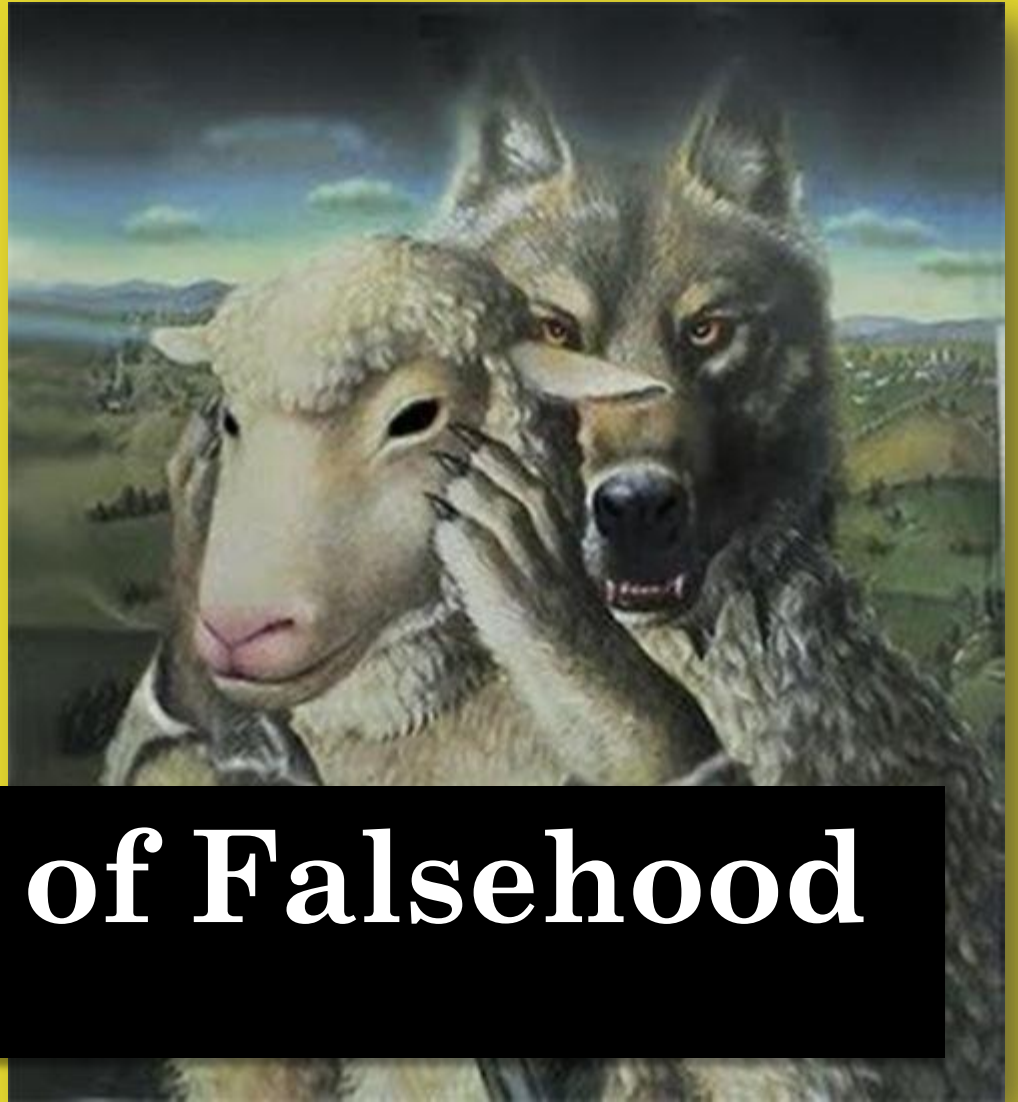
Did God change His truth
or was it man
who changed the word of truth?

It is commonly stated that the 4th commandment is never repeated in the New Testament.

Many denominations teach that the Sabbath is no longer meant for Christians. Nowhere in the New Testament will you find that the 4th commandment had been abolished or changed from the 7th day to the first day of the week.

If God has not stated it in unmistakable terms that he has changed a law, why should we believe it?

Who would you rather believe, the word of God or the minister who claimed to be a man of God?



The Rise of Falsehood

Jesus prophesied a time when there will be so much religious deception in the world. Matthew 24:23-24.

Matthew 24:23-24

²³ At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. ²⁴ For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible.

Jesus said that lies and falsehood could even deceive the elect if they are not careful. When people tell you Jesus is here. Do not believe them. Because the truth is everyone will see His coming.

How can anyone escape
from such deception?

The simple answer is to hold fast
and abide by the word of God
– the truth.

You will only find the truth when you start reading the Bible. Pay special attention to what “**God said**” and “**Jesus said.**”

Hang on to the word of truth!

The true and faithful elect can hardly be fooled by lies and falsehood because they know the truth. God's elect anchor their belief on the word of truth and not on manmade fables.

Summation

Why is it so important to
understand and embrace
the word of truth?

Simple, because there are dire consequences for being wrong.

Giving someone the wrong medication can kill them; having a wrong reading on the financial market can ruin the investor; boarding a wrong bus will get you to the wrong destination, and eating the wrong food can get you sick.

And nowhere is this more important than in the area of faith and religion. Believing in wrong teachings can cost you your salvation.

Eternity is an awfully long time to be wrong. Therefore, make your salvation secure!

The story of the 2 prophets has one important lesson - we must listen to God and not to man.

It reminds us to be wise and circumspect. Even a man of God is not immune to deception if he is not careful.

It is our personal and individual responsibility to search the scriptures – **to find the Word of Truth.**

As the Apostle Paul said:

**“prove all things and hold
on to what is right and true.”**

(I Thessalonians 5:21)

Consider those of Berea who
check the preaching of Paul
against the scriptures. Acts 17:11-
12.

Acts 17:11-12

¹¹ Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. ¹² Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

Who do you listen to:

your friends? Neighbors?
Boyfriends? Girlfriends?
Officemates? Pastors? other
websites?

or to God spoken of in the
Scriptures?

John 8:31-32

³¹ To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

**Jesus is
the way,
the truth
and the life.**

Anyone who abides by His teachings will come to know God's truth. And the truth will set you free - free from lies and falsehood, from error and sin and consequently, free from death.

If you allow someone deceive you
into disobedience, the
consequences are solely your
responsibility.

Therefore, stay alert, search out the word of truth, be true and faithful to God. Do not just listen to anyone.

If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch. (Luke 6:39) Only to God should we listen and obey.