

## The Truth John 18:36-38

**Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.**

Pontius Pilate once asked, “What is \_\_\_\_\_?” That question still \_\_\_\_\_ many. The Bible gives an answer to that question, and we’re going to explore that answer. The Lord Jesus said to those who believed in him, “If you \_\_\_\_\_ in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you \_\_\_\_\_” (John 8:31-32). The Word of Christ can set us free and give us \_\_\_\_\_ life. I don’t want anything \_\_\_\_\_ than His Word or \_\_\_\_\_ than His Word. I want the \_\_\_\_\_ Word of God without any embellishment or human tradition added. Give me the Bible.

Over the last few years, the American people have awakened to the \_\_\_\_\_ of lies and falsehoods. We’ve faced false advertizing, fake news, and political propaganda. We no longer \_\_\_\_\_ much of what we see and hear on television or social media because we’ve been deceived by so many messages. Many people think nothing of \_\_\_\_\_, but God still condemns bearing false witness and trickery. Jesus said Satan is the \_\_\_\_\_ of lies in John 8:44. Paul had to deal with false apostles and deceitful workers who pretended they were angels of \_\_\_\_\_ in 2 Corinthians 11. Peter warned, “there will be false \_\_\_\_\_ among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies” (2 Peter 2).

I don’t want to be fooled, and you don’t either. Proverbs 23:23 says, “Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.” Where do we buy this truth? Yes, the truth will \_\_\_\_\_ you something! You must examine things carefully, embrace what is right, and refuse to accept what is not right. What is your \_\_\_\_\_ of measure? The Bible, of course! God’s ways are \_\_\_\_\_ true!

### **Our reading today is from the Gospel According to John 18:36-38.**

The truth is that which corresponds to \_\_\_\_\_ as opposed to that which is imagined or a whimsy. Truth tells us the way things really are. Falsehoods do not correspond with reality; they tell us something \_\_\_\_\_ than the way things are. They misrepresent the truth and sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ it to their own desires. Paul said, “But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to \_\_\_\_\_ cunning or to tamper with God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God” (2 Corinthians 4:2). People who tell the truth are \_\_\_\_\_ and transparent, while false teachers practice cunning ways and tamper or twist the Scriptures to make them fit their desires.

Philosophers through the ages have asked whether truth is even \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible everywhere assumes that people can know the truth if they will \_\_\_\_\_ to God. The Lord Jesus promised, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will \_\_\_\_\_ the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32). By studying the Words of Jesus, we can know the truth and become His true \_\_\_\_\_. Many students, sadly, study more from the writings of \_\_\_\_\_ than they do from the Scriptures. They listen more to the thinking of men than to Jesus and they \_\_\_\_\_ fully knowing the truth of God’s Word. They fall into \_\_\_\_\_ because they listen to the wrong sources.

That's why we must continue to \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word.

When people speak of truth, they speak of different \_\_\_\_\_ of truth. Some speak of objective and subjective truth. What do we mean by this? I have here a \_\_\_\_\_ of jellybeans. I ask you what is your favorite \_\_\_\_\_ of jellybean. Of course, the answer to this question \_\_\_\_\_ on the individual. Each person will have his own favorite flavor and may even \_\_\_\_\_ what he likes best. Subjective truth is subject to one's \_\_\_\_\_. This is subjective truth, and it \_\_\_\_\_ with the individual.

If I ask you, however, how many jellybeans are in this jar there's a specific, correct \_\_\_\_\_. This jar contains exactly 182 jellybeans. If you guessed anything other than 182, you'd be \_\_\_\_\_. This is an objective, verifiable \_\_\_\_\_. What one thinks or feels about it does not change the \_\_\_\_\_ of jellybeans. An objective truth is not subject to the \_\_\_\_\_ of people.

Sadly, some people want to \_\_\_\_\_ their subjective feelings for objective facts. This substitution creates controversy, and some would rather \_\_\_\_\_ these objective facts to keep from facing the controversy. For instance, only Jesus is the Son of God who became flesh, who died for our sins, and who rose again on the third day. The Lord Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Only Jesus can save you from sin or give you eternal life.

Objective truth, unlike subjective truth, is \_\_\_\_\_ and defined. It is not subject to the whims of time or \_\_\_\_\_. You can't vote it in or vote it out. You can ignore it, but you cannot \_\_\_\_\_ it or make it go away. You can substitute what you like for it. But if you don't like it, you still have to \_\_\_\_\_ it. Even if the \_\_\_\_\_ disagrees with the truth, objective truth, it still remains true.

Just because people differ in their understanding of morals doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ what God says in the Bible. What God calls sinful is truly sinful, whether we \_\_\_\_\_ with God or not. When God condemns an attitude or a behavior, He has condemned it for \_\_\_\_\_ time. What I think or feel about that behavior or that attitude will not change what God has \_\_\_\_\_ in Scripture.

Then there are absolute truths and relative truths. Some believe truth is \_\_\_\_\_. By this, they mean that truth is \_\_\_\_\_ relative to some particular frame of reference, such as a language or a culture. That \_\_\_\_\_ things are particular to a language or culture, however, does not mean that \_\_\_\_\_ things are relative to that group. Relativism \_\_\_\_\_ there are any absolutes at all. You can't logically \_\_\_\_\_ against the existence of absolute truth. If someone says, "There are no absolutes," he is arguing \_\_\_\_\_ an absolute. One might well reply, "Are you absolutely sure about that?" If he's sure, then he's \_\_\_\_\_ on an absolute (that there are no absolutes) and contradicting himself.

There are numerous absolute truths in Scripture. For instance, Genesis 1:4-5 says, "And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the \_\_\_\_\_ day." Genesis 8:22 says, "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not \_\_\_\_\_." It hasn't ceased in thousands of years.

The apostle John said this about God, "This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is \_\_\_\_\_, and in Him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5).

When God gave the ten commandments in Exodus 20, He gave us several examples of \_\_\_\_\_ absolutes; and these are principles of right and wrong in all times and places: "Honor your father and your mother." "You shall not \_\_\_\_\_." "You shall not commit \_\_\_\_\_." "You shall not

\_\_\_\_\_.” “You shall not bear \_\_\_\_\_ witness.” “You shall not \_\_\_\_\_.” Christ, who is Lord of all, taught these things as well. God revealed in Hebrews 9:27, “it is appointed for man to \_\_\_\_\_ once, and after that comes judgment.” There are many absolutes \_\_\_\_\_ in Scripture, and we cannot change them, add to them, or take away from them.

The Scriptures themselves are imperishable. Psalm 119:89 says, “Forever, O LORD, your \_\_\_\_\_ is firmly fixed in the heavens.” The Lord Jesus said, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my \_\_\_\_\_ will not pass away” (Matthew 24:35). First Peter 1:23-25 says, “since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for ‘All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains \_\_\_\_\_.’ And this is the word that was \_\_\_\_\_ to you.”

It’s because the Word of God is firmly fixed that we can have \_\_\_\_\_ in its truthfulness and in its promises. God’s eternal Word means that what was written in the first century is still \_\_\_\_\_ today. Its commands, its promises, and its principles are still as authoritative today as it was when the apostles wrote them down.

God Himself is the essence of \_\_\_\_\_. Titus 1:2 reminds us that He is the God who “\_\_\_\_\_ lies.” Isaiah 65:16 calls Him the “God of \_\_\_\_\_.” Moses wrote, “God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?” (Numbers 23:19). God’s Words that are found in the Bible are called the “word of truth” in 2 Timothy 2:15. That’s why we must give all diligence to \_\_\_\_\_ God’s Word.

John 1:14 says about Jesus, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” Jesus brought us both grace and truth. You can’t have one without the other. God’s grace doesn’t come packaged in lies or half-truths. You can’t find God’s grace or truth in \_\_\_\_\_ doctrines that come from men. As we’ve noted, God’s truth is found in the Words of Christ \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible. The Lord Jesus prayed, “Sanctify them in the truth; your \_\_\_\_\_ (that is, what’s in the Bible) is truth” (John 17:17). The Lord wanted His people to be set apart as \_\_\_\_\_ in the truth. He wanted them to know the truth and to hold fast to it, so they might be known as God’s \_\_\_\_\_. God’s Word is true, because God is true!

In John 6, several of Jesus’ disciples \_\_\_\_\_ they didn’t believe Him or like what He said and they abandoned Him. “So Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you want to \_\_\_\_\_ as well?’ Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of \_\_\_\_\_ life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God’” (John 6:67-69). If you want eternal life, you cannot \_\_\_\_\_ it anywhere else but in the Words of Jesus. The Lord Jesus said, “I am the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). Jesus is not merely one way among \_\_\_\_\_; He is “the way!” Jesus does not merely speak; He embodies the truth! Jesus is not merely one way to life; He \_\_\_\_\_ the life. If we miss our opportunity in this life to follow Jesus, we have no \_\_\_\_\_ of coming to the Father. He is the only way; His teaching is the truth; and only He has the words of eternal life.

The Lord Jesus said, “For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear \_\_\_\_\_ to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth \_\_\_\_\_ to my voice” (John 18:37). If you wish to be “of the truth,” listen to Jesus. If people listened to the Lord Jesus, we

wouldn't have so much chaos and confusion. If we truly practiced what He taught, we'd have greater \_\_\_\_\_ for life, greater relationships with one another, greater honesty, less violence, greater compassion, greater service to the needs of others. Many of our social and moral problems would disappear if we all heard and \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

Instead, we've bought into the \_\_\_\_\_ notion that truth doesn't matter! People claim, "what's true for you is true for you, and what's true for me is true for me." What they're actually saying is there is \_\_\_\_\_ truth or morality. When people buy into that way of thinking, truth and morality \_\_\_\_\_. Can you imagine living in a world that doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ anything is true or that doesn't have any morals? Who could find \_\_\_\_\_? When morality doesn't matter, people will choose to follow their selfish desires, and no matter who it \_\_\_\_\_. When truth doesn't matter, people will follow selfish ambitions that \_\_\_\_\_ the weak. Truth and morality matter!

Because truth matters, what we \_\_\_\_\_ matters! Paul urged the young preacher Timothy, "Be \_\_\_\_\_ to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. But \_\_\_\_\_ worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, men who have gone \_\_\_\_\_ from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some" (2 Timothy 2:15-18). Truth is what \_\_\_\_\_ us, while falsehoods tear us apart. This is why we must be faithful to the truth.

James 5:19-20 says, "My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will \_\_\_\_\_ his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins." Truth can \_\_\_\_\_ sin sick souls. The gospel truth can bring sanity to the confused, light to those in darkness, hope to the despairing, and eternal life to those who believe. "Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23). I hope that you will. An earlier reformer said, "Therefore, O faithful Christian, search for truth, hear truth, learn truth, love truth, speak the truth, hold the truth, defend the truth till \_\_\_\_\_." The truth is that important and necessary thing for your \_\_\_\_\_ to be saved. It's more \_\_\_\_\_ than silver or gold and \_\_\_\_\_ than the honeycomb. Only the truth can set you \_\_\_\_\_! It will set you free from the deceptions of the devil, free from sin, and free to live an honorable Christian life. Do you \_\_\_\_\_ the truth, the truth that Jesus came into this world to give us?

First Timothy 2:3-4 says, "This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who \_\_\_\_\_ all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." We don't need partial truth or half truths; we need the \_\_\_\_\_ truth. The Lord Jesus said, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come" (John 16:13). We have all the truth found in the \_\_\_\_\_ Word of God, given by the Holy Spirit to the apostles and prophets.

If you wish to have that freedom from sin, then \_\_\_\_\_ the truth. First Peter 1:22 teaches that you purify "your \_\_\_\_\_ by your obedience to the truth." When we believe in Jesus Christ, repent of our sins, confess Jesus as the Son of God, and are baptized into Christ, we're \_\_\_\_\_ the truth. When we're baptized, God washes away our \_\_\_\_\_, adds us to the \_\_\_\_\_, makes us His \_\_\_\_\_. Obeying the truth means \_\_\_\_\_ the teaching of the Lord, not adding to it or taking away from it. Have you obeyed the truth?