

"You Can Be Sure"

While this world is filled with uncertainties and disappointments, there are some things about which you can be certain. Hello I'm Phil Sanders, and this is a Bible study, In Search of the Lord's Way. There are absolutes that never change. So let's explore them. So stay tuned.

Welcome to *In Search of the Lord's Way*, where we search the Scriptures to find the Lord's teaching about salvation and the Christian life. We go to the Bible, because we know the Bible has proved itself true time after time. Thanks so much for spending this time with us. We want to be a part of your life each week.

I get to travel throughout the United States and usually fly out from the Oklahoma City airport. I sometimes have to fly when the skies are filled with dark clouds and rain. You can easily get wet and cold. Going through the airport lines and waiting to board the airplane can be stressful. But there's an experience in an airplane that never gets old to me. It reminds me of something that I need to know. No matter how dark, how wet, how cold, or how dreary a day may be, the sun still shines above the clouds.

The clouds may temporarily block out the sun, but the sun is still shining. Life may seem dark and dreary on earth, but the brightness of the sun hasn't diminished one bit. Truth may seem hidden for a time by our culture, but it's not lost or any less true. The Bible urges us to "Buy truth, and do not sell it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding" (Proverbs 23:23). Buying the truth means taking the time to search it out in the Word of God. God wants us to know the truth and to live it out in our lives. Today I want us to explore some lasting truths that are unchangeable and undeniable. They're truths about which you can be sure.

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The Edmond church will now worship in song, we'll read from 1 Peter 1:22 to 25, and then we'll look at some truths that you can risk your soul on.

Our reading today comes from Peter's first letter, chapter 1, verses 22 to 25. "Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring 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 OFF, BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER.' And this is the word which was preached to you." That's a reading from God's holy word. Let's pray together. Father we're grateful that in Your wisdom You gave us Your Word, so that we might know Your will. Help us to be faithful in our obedience to that word. And may Your will be done always on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus name, Amen!

Some things are disposable, some last for years, some last a lifetime, and some last forever. Many people live for the present and lose sight of what lasts forever. We're wise when we seek what is eternal.

Thousands of years ago God told Noah in Genesis 8 and verse 22, "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." Now what God told Noah has remained true to this day after thousands of years: the regular passing of day and night and the seasons of the year have not changed. The whole world depends on these reliable things of these laws, and their laws of time. The earth rotates every twenty four hours. It takes the Moon 27.32 days to go around the Earth once. It takes the Earth 365 and $\frac{1}{4}$ days to circle the sun. How come there's been no change in all these years? It's because God regulates it and God keeps His promises. He is the power behind it. You can be sure.

The Bible praises Moses for his wisdom in choosing what is lasting. Hebrews 11 verses 24 to 26 says, "By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward."

Moses realized that there's something greater than being Pharaoh's grandson. And in spite of all the riches, power, and advantages of being Pharaoh's grandson, Moses chose to live like an Israelite. In those days God's people of Israel were enslaved to Egypt and treated horribly. But Moses chose the God of Israel over the gods of Egypt, because the God of Israel was and still is the true God.

We all live between two worlds, one filled with physical things and one with spiritual. We must understand that what we see physically in this world is not all that exists. The apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4 verses 16 to 18, "Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Well, what are some of these eternal, absolute truths? What is eternally sure and certain? Well, there are at least five things more certain than the shining sun. And you can count on them as more certain than a twenty-four hour day. They are spiritual truths that are eternal, and they will last longer than the earth. You can be sure of them. They are absolutes.

First, you can be sure that God exists and He is eternal. The Bible says in Romans 1 and verse 20, "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse." The existence of the sun, moon and stars speak clearly of the eternal powers and the divine nature of God. Psalm 19 verses 1 says, "That the Heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork."

Our own physical bodies bear witness that a very powerful and intelligent Being created us. The more you know about how complex and intricate your body is, the more you'll realize that we could never be the result of an accident or evolution. We are designed physically and morally by God. And it's clear that God designed us to live in this world. And if this world was different or we were different, we could never have survived. Without an intelligent Designer and a moral Designer, this world wouldn't make sense. My friend, you can be sure there is a God.

Moses proclaimed in Psalm 90 verses 1 to 2, "LORD, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."

Second, you can be sure Jesus is the Divine Son of God. The Bible says in John 1:1 to 3, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. And all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made." In verse 14 of this same chapter, John 1, the Bible says, "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth." Jesus has always been Divine. He became flesh and dwelled among us.

The Scriptures go on to say about Jesus in John 3 verses 35 to 36, "That the Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." God has made Jesus Lord and has given everything into His hands. He has all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28 and verse 18). He is Lord of all and has authority over all flesh (John 17 verse 2).

Moses predicted that Jesus would come and be Lord of all. Acts 3:22 to 24 quotes Moses saying, "The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people." Now because Jesus is the Lord and is the Son of God, the most important thing that you can do is listen and obey Him.

Third, you can be sure that God's Word is true and it's eternal. Psalm 119 verse 89 proclaims, "Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed (or settled) in the heavens." God's Word doesn't change with the generations; it remains the same. It was true when it was written and it's still true today. When Jesus told the devil, "It is written," in Luke 4, He was making it clear that what God had Moses write some 1200-1500 years before was still true and authoritative. One might translate the phrase, "it is written" as "it stands written." God wrote it, and nothing can weaken its authority. It stands, because God meant for it to stand. You can deny it, avoid it, hide it, or debate it; you can even get everyone to agree with you against the Word; but at the end of the day God's revealed Word stands as the spiritual and moral authority in our lives. God's Word stands because God stands! God's Word is the inspired Word, the authoritative Word, and my friend's it's the last Word.

The Lord Jesus promised in Matthew 24 and verse 35, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." God's book, God's only book the Bible, will survive when everything else is gone.

1 Peter 1:23 to 25 says, "Since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; (he said) for 'All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers (yes), the flower falls (yes), but the word of the Lord remains forever.' And this is the good news (the gospel) that was preached to you."

The Lord Jesus said in John 12 and verse 48, "The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day." We will be judged by every word the Lord Jesus speaks. You can't ignore the Words of Jesus forever. They'll be brought forward as the standard of what is right and true and moral. You'll be judged by them, not by opinion polls or the ideas of the day. You can be sure God's Word will be present on the last day, the Day of Judgment.

Fourth, you can be sure of the love of God for His people. God's love is undeserved, it's intentional, and it's sacrificial. God loves us even when we don't deserve to be loved, and His grace is greater than our sins. God's love is intentional. Jesus laid down His life on His own initiative. God isn't obligated to us; we're obligated to Him. He intentionally chose to love and bless us. God's love is sacrificial. He so loved us that He was willing to sacrifice His only begotten Son Jesus, and Jesus bore our sins in his

body, it was personal, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness (1 Peter 2 and verse 24). According to 2 Corinthians 5 and verse 21, God made Jesus, who knew no sin, to be sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The love of God is far greater than I can understand or even describe. There's never been a moment or a fraction of a moment when God has not loved His people. Romans 8 verses 35 to 39 asks, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we're being killed all the daylong; we're regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Fifth, you can be sure that Jesus is coming again. The Bible tells us in Acts 1 verses 10 to 11 that Jesus ascended to heaven. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." They made it clear: Jesus is coming a second time; and one day we will meet Him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16 to 18).

When Jesus comes He will raise all the dead and will judge mankind. The Lord Jesus said in John 5 verses 28 to 29, "Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment."

Now each one of us must one day give an account to Jesus, Jesus Christ for the lives that we've led. 2 Corinthians 5 and verse 10 says "that we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds done in the body, according to what he's done, whether good or bad." Now those who have rejected Jesus and lived ungodly lives have reason to fear His coming, but those who have believed in Him and obeyed Him can look forward to His coming with joy and promise.

God keeps His promises. The Lord Jesus said in John 14 verses 1 to 3, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. And if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I'll come again and I'll take you to myself, that where I am there you may be also." Oh friends, we can put our trust in God, we can put our trust in His Word and it means living lives that are worthy of His promises, of living for Him and doing His will. Would you do that? Would you do that? Let's pray together. Father we're so grateful for the love of Jesus. We're thankful Father for what He's done for us, and Father for the word that is so true. Father help us to live lives that show our love and show our obedience. May Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus name we pray, Amen!

Truth is still true and authoritative regardless of what people think or say. You can try to hide it, ignore it, deny it, rationalize it away, forget it, hate it, or argue against it; but the Truth remains firm and untouched. It stands the test of time and circumstance because God spoke it.

So the Bible urges in Proverbs 23:23, "Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding." My friend, don't settle for anything less than the truth. Don't be deceived by a half-truth or by a counterfeit. God gave us the truth in Christ and the Bible, but we have to store it up in our hearts, we have to buy it. We have to then use the truth to judge between what is from God and what

is not. We have to search out the truth to have confidence in what we believe and practice. John Huss said over 600 years ago, "Seek the truth, listen to the truth, teach the truth, love the truth, abide by the truth, and defend the truth unto death."

We must love and obey the truth if we hope to have eternal life. We must believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Hebrews 11:6 says that without faith, we can't please God. The truth means that we're honest about our sins. We know they're wrong and we must forsake our sins in repentance. The truth means that we'll confess Christ before others and be baptized for the remission of our sins. Jesus taught baptism is necessary to salvation in Mark 16:16 and John 3 and verse 5, and so we immerse penitent believers in water so that they might have their sins washed away and be united with Christ. Why not find reassurance by placing your faith in Christ and obeying His teaching. Nothing, nothing, nothing will bless your life more than knowing that you're right with God.

Oh we hope today's study is reassuring to you. If you want a free printed copy, or a CD, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send us an e-mail to searchtv@searchtv.org. Or, you can call the Search office toll-free at 1-800-321-8633. Now all our programs also appear on our website, and that's www.searchtv.org. You can access them in a printed form, audio, or video format. We also offer free study sheets to go along with our programs. And you can download them free at our website or call and request them. They'll help you study God's Word with us.

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