

## TRUTH

There is no substitute for the truth. A Positive Spiritual Attitude (PSA) can only be built on the truth of God's word. Any falsehood, lie, or half-truth (I sometimes wonder if there is any difference in these three) results in trouble with a capital 't.' Shakespeare said these words, "Oh, what a tangled web we weave when we practice to deceive."

Lies may seem to get us out of a "jam" and help us cope with the people and things around us, but reality tells us that this is not true. When we the truth about something and tell a different story, we become a liar. Such is not a condition we like to have associated with us, but when we practice deception in our life, talk, and business we have become a liar.

Satan is the father of all lies (Jn. 8:44) and if we do not practice the truth, we become followers of him. Satan is always out to tempt man to sin and fall short of the glory of God. He will lie and "become as an angel of light" to get us to wrong our friends and God. If Satan can get us to believe the lie (the idea we can sin and there is no punishment for it), he has won the battle for our soul.

Truth isn't, the most pleasant of friends. Our sins and shortcomings cause us to have remorse about ourselves and our conduct. When the truth is known about certain things we have done or left undone, we don't usually like to "face the music." But only truth can make us better by forcing us to accept that which is right. If we continually live as if there is no standard to judge our conduct, anarchy is soon to follow.

Truth can also bring about guilt in our lives if we don't respond to it. When we violate that which we know to be right, our conscience tells us and we feel the guilt associated with our actions. But by responding to the truth obeying it we become free from all those things associated with non-truth, namely guilt. Jesus said in Jn. 8:32, "you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." Freedom from worry, guilt, and condemnation come with practicing the truth. There is no need to fear the authorities (namely policemen) when we are practicing those things prescribed in the law. Thus, we have become free from their power to enforce the law by arresting us for breaking it.

It is no secret that the Bible clearly teaches punishment for sin. Such a view that would espouse that God will not eternally punish in Hell is a rejection of clear Bible teaching. Since there will be a reward for our actions both good (Heaven) and bad (Hell) we recognize that only by knowing what truth and then practicing what we know is insurance against the wrath of God, as well as a lifestyle that acceptable to humanity.

Truth between husband wife, children and parents, business partners, and above all man and God results in stronger homes, better family units, and solid brother-to-brother relationships that build society. When we compromise the truth and seek to please ourselves by the fabrication of the events around us, we slowly begin to deteriorate all of the institutions of life that are the groundwork for a wholesome life as we know it. It is only a matter of time for who practice lawlessness to reach the end of his venture and "come to grips" with the truth he has long avoided.

Again, there is no substitute for the truth. Truth is the only standard by which mankind can live productive, healthy, happy lives. A Positive Spiritual Attitude (PSA) is built on truth and specifically, the truth of God.

Until next time memorize John 8 :32, and develop your PSA.