

Truth And Salvation

Yirmeyah Tan, 16 March 2026

Shalom.

Today our topic is Truth and Salvation. Let me begin with quoting from **2Th 2:7-13** –

2Th 2:7 *For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.*

2Th 2:8 *And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

2Th 2:9 *Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,*

2Th 2:10 *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

2Th 2:11 *And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*

2Th 2:12 *That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

2Th 2:13 *But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:*

I. Definition of Truth

Thayer's Dictionary: *"the truth as taught in the Christian religion, respecting God and the execution of his purposes through Christ, and respecting the duties of man, opposing alike to the superstitions of the Gentiles and the inventions of the Jews, and the corrupt opinions and precepts of false teachers even among Christians"*

We should add that the Bible is the foundation of truth.

We refer to a very important verse in **Deu 29:29** -

Deu 29:29 *The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

There is truth that is kept secret by Yahweh but the truth we can learn has been revealed to us through His word, the Bible.

The next important point is that we need to deal with is the concept of truth from a relative point of view and an absolute point of view:

II. Relative vs Absolute Truth

"Postmodern philosophy looks at how each person perceives things differently and concludes that no ultimate standards exist. The fact that we all have different perspectives only shows that we are not omniscient; yet it does not follow that no being can know or define truth."

<https://learn.ligonier.org/devotionals/god-truth>

Relative truth can be illustrated by the example of an elephant in the dark room and a few men groping for the elephant. Each one finds a different part and describes the elephant accordingly. That is the human way of perceiving truth- that each participant recognizes a portion of the truth. None of them in the dark room will be able to give you the full picture of the entire elephant. Absolute truth says the elephant is the elephant as revealed by God's word and whatever is revealed in the Bible all of us can see clearly what the elephant looks like but what is truly hidden from us are secrets that belong to Yahweh. This is a very important distinction between relative and absolute truth because most people in the world believe in relative truth and that nothing is absolute. However, the Bible teaches us absolute truth beginning with God Himself and His creation. Let us go to **Rom 1:20-25** -

Rom 1:20 *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

Rom 1:21 *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

Rom 1:22 *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*

Rom 1:23 *And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

Rom 1:24 *Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:*

Rom 1:25 *Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*

These verses clearly put us on notice that our Creator can be known by everybody via the magnificent things that He has created in the world around us. Yet people choose to deny Him and instead turn to false gods which they make for themselves by way of images of mortal man, even angels, birds, animals, fishes, whatever. They turn to worship their own creation, and this really provokes Yahweh to anger. We are told that, because people have dishonoured Him and despised His creation, He has given them up to uncleanness, to the lust of their own hearts, to dishonour and to defile their bodies among themselves. You heard of LGBTQ and all the terrible sins that they commit every day.

The Bible also tells us that the Bible is truth. Refer to **Isa 25:1** –

III. Thy Word is Truth

Isa 25:1 *O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; **thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.***

Whatever God has said and caused to be written down, these are the counsels of God and the Word of God. They represent His faithfulness and His truth. Yeshua told us in

Joh 17:17 *Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth.***

Next, the Bible clearly tell tells us that the law [the Torah] of God is truth. Look at **Psa 119:142** and **Psa 119:151** –

IV. Law is Truth

Psa 119:142 *Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and **thy law is the truth.***

Psa 119:151 *Thou art near, O LORD; and all **thy commandments are truth.***

All the laws that are written down in the Bible collectively called the Torah, which is the truth of Yahweh- and truth is eternal and cannot be changed. Truth is the opposite of a lie. The laws and the commandments of God are eternal and unchangeable, whether it is the law of the Sabbath or the law of clean and unclean food: all the laws in the Bible are truth and cannot be changed.

Next, the Bible tells us that the gospel is truth in **Eph 1:13-14** –

V. The Gospel is Truth

Eph 1:13 *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard **the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation**: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*

Eph 1:14 *Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

The gospel is the truth, and it tells us that, nearly 2,000 years ago, God sent His only begotten son Jesus Christ, Yeshua the Messiah, born of a virgin woman called Mary. He suffered and died for our sins on the cross, was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to accomplish our salvation. He shed His blood to take care of all our sins, the penalties for our sins and He took our penalties upon Himself. The gospel is truth! If the gospel is a lie, there is no salvation, we have no future and we only have the prospect of eternal torment in hell. Thanks be to Yahweh that His Son fulfilled the gospel by dying on our behalf and rising from the dead. To assure us that this indeed is true, we have been given the Holy Spirit as a seal of God's promise until we come into our full salvation when we see Him face to face.

Next, if God has revealed truth in the Bible and in the gospel, how is it that not many will acknowledge the truth? Let's turn to **2Th 2:10 and 2Th 2:12** –

VI. Acknowledge the Truth

2Th 2:10 *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

2Th 2:12 *That they all might be damned who **believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.***

People know the truth, the truth of the Gospel, the truth of the Bible but they do not believe; neither do they love the truth but, instead, they love the pleasures of unrighteousness. Sin gives pleasure for a season, and many people are tempted to sin. They remain in unrighteousness without repentance because they have pleasure in it. They do not love the truth, and they do not believe the truth of God. Those who are destined for condemnation will not acknowledge the truth and they will neither be able to have the knowledge of the truth. Refer to **2Ti 3:2-7** –

VII. Those destined for Judgment

2Ti 3:2 *For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*

2Ti 3:3 *Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,*

2Ti 3:4 *Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;*

2Ti 3:5 *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

2Ti 3:6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

*2Ti 3:7 Ever learning, and **never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.***

People enslaved by sin will never be able to come to knowledge of the truth but, instead, they will believe the lie of Satan. The Bible tells us that Satan is the father of lies so Satan is their father by default because they despise the truth of God's word and the truth of God's Gospel of salvation.

The next important point that we want to take note of especially is that we need to know the truth and because only the truth can set us free. Look at **Jhn 8:31-34** -

VIII. Truth sets us Free

***Joh 8:31** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

Joh 8:32** And **ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

***Joh 8:33** They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?*

Joh 8:34** Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

These verses carry tremendous truths that we must understand carefully and apply in our lives. Firstly, Yeshua said He makes a distinction between those who merely believe in Him and those who believe in Him, but who continue in His word. That is, those who continue to obey His word, to abide in His word: these He counts as disciples. Disciples are those who abide in Him and His word and only disciples will know the truth and only those who know the truth will be set free. Mere believers will not be able to understand the truth; they will never come to the full knowledge of the truth. They may get fragments of it because they have not committed their lives to follow Christ as His disciples.

I have another video which I did in the past: the title is 'Only Disciples Enter the Kingdom of Heaven.' If you want to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, you must become His disciples. Your knowledge of the truth will set you free. Free from what? Bondage to sin! Yeshua said in Jhn 8:34: whosoever commits sin is a servant of sin. To commit sin means to make a practice of sin without repentance. The word 'servant' of sin is from the Greek word 'doulos' and it means slaves. Those that continually sin without repentance, they become the slaves of Satan. If you want to be free, you must come to the truth. How do you get the truth? By obeying Yeshua. The word abide ['meno' in Greek] means to continue in the word, to continue in a relationship, to continue being obedient to Him.

Look at the same thought in **Rom 6:16** –

***Rom 6:16** Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

In Rom 6:16, Paul gives us a choice: we can either remain slaves of sin, bondage to sin unto eternal death or we can choose obedience unto righteousness. We are slaves either of sin or of righteousness. Paul is saying: why not become slaves of righteousness, pledge ourselves to obey God forever in order that we might attain unto eternal life.

Look at what John wrote in **Jhn 3:8-9** –

1Jn 3:8 *He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*

1Jn 3:9 *Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*

He who commits sin is in bondage to sin: he who cannot break out of the bondage of sin. Yeshua told us that in the world you only have two categories: either you are children of God or children of Satan. Yeshua revealed this to us in the parable of the wheat and the tares. Yeshua told the Pharisees in John 8: 'you are of your father the devil' meaning: you are children of the devil. That is why they opposed Yeshua and wanted to kill Him so often until they finally managed to crucify Him.

In 1Jn 3:9, if you are born of God, you cannot commit sin. To commit sin means to continue practicing sin without repentance. John wrote in this first letter: in the very first chapter he says that we all fall into sin but we ought to repent, confess and He is faithful and just to forgive us. The Bible makes allowance for our falling to occasional sin but the Bible warns us that if there is any sin from which we cannot repent and to which we continue to commit then, the question: is are you born of God or born of Satan; are you a child of God or a child of Satan? Whoever is born of God does not commit sin, does not remain in sin without repentance. That is a very important distinction.

Next, we are told that not only must we learn the truth, know the truth, acknowledge the truth but we must walk in truth. Refer to **Psa 86:11** –

IX. Walk in Truth

Psa 86:11 *Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.*

We must make the determination to walk in the truth of God. Do not be double-minded. Be single-minded: have the determination in your heart to follow Christ, to walk in His truth. To walk in His truth means to obey His word as revealed to us, that is, to obey His Commandments, His laws.

2Jn 1:4 *I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father. John the Apostle was delighted to find people walking in truth.*

Next, we must love people in truth. Look at **2Jn 1:1-2** –

X. Love in Truth

2Jn 1:1 *The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;*

2Jn 1:2 *For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever.*

Love must be genuine, love must be based upon truth, love cannot be based upon deception and lies. Look at **1Jn 3:18** –

1Jn 3:18 *My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed, and in truth.*

Do not just verbalize your love using your tongue: love must be expressed in deed and in truth. Love must be grounded in truth not deception. There must be genuineness in our love.

Related to this is the injunction by Apostle Paul for us to speak the truth in love. Refer to **Eph 4:25-25** and **Eph 4:15** –

XI. Speaking the Truth in Love

Eph 4:24 *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

Eph 4:25 *Wherefore putting away lying, **speaking every man truth with his neighbor**: for we are members one of another.*

Eph 4:15 *But **speaking the truth in love**, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:*

We are to speak truth to our neighbour and to brethren in Christ but very often the truth hurts. Very often people cannot receive the truth without feeling hurt and rejected. We should speak out the truth from love and not condemnation. It must not be condescending from a superior to an inferior, it must not have the effect of putting people down. The whole idea is redemption, to help people out of the mess they are in and people: who are living a lie; gently correct them and bring back them back into the truth that they too might learn to walk in truth. Truth will always hurt; that is why love is required.

Next, the Bible tells us that we are to rejoice in truth. Look at **1Co 13:6** –

XII. Rejoice in Truth

1Co 13:6 *Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but **rejoiceth in the truth**.*

We must rejoice in the truth, not in iniquity, not in lies, not taking pleasure in sin. We must rejoice in the truth of God's word, no matter how tough it is for us to accept His truth. His truth must prevail because His truth will make us free and lead us into an eternity of glory.

Now we come to worshipping. This was revealed to a Samaritan woman at the well and she was deep in sin when Yeshua exposed her sins to her. Then she began to ask questions about worshipping, where to worship God, at which mountain. Yeshua gave her this revelation that applies to all of us in **Jhn 4:24** –

XIII. Worship in Truth

Jhn 4:24 *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him **must worship him in spirit and in truth**.*

Worship in spirit that means with the help of the Holy Spirit and in truth: so for our worship to be acceptable to him we must do it through the Holy Spirit. Our worship must reflect our lives that are rooted in truth; we must be walking in truth, we must be people who believe in the truth, love the truth and we have no pleasure in unrighteousness, no pleasure in sin. Let's look at what Yeshua said to the Pharisees in **Mat 15:7-9** –

Mat 15:7 *Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,*

Mat 15:8 *This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*

Mat 15:9 *But **in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men**.*

Every church has some form of worship: with their lips, people appear to be worshiping Him. Many have beautiful choirs and musicians, but whether such worship is acceptable to God depends on the preaching: are the doctrines biblical or precepts of men? So many preachers twist the Word of Yahweh and dilute it to make it palatable to people. I have met quite a few preachers some of them were honest to tell me that they cannot preach correct doctrines because they will lose their salaries, their tenure, their housing and retirement pensions. Yeshua said His doctrine is not His own but from His Father. Paul instructed his disciples, Timothy and Titus to teach sound doctrine.

In line with this injunction, that Paul gave to Timothy, was to rightly divide the word of Truth in **2Ti 2:15** –

XIV. Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

2Ti 2:15 *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.***

Rightly means carefully studying the word of Truth: do not entertain any lies, do not turn to the left or right, do not try to placate men, do not try to win favours with men but focus on the truth regardless of the consequences.

Look at the prayer of the psalmist in **Psa 25:5** –

XV. Lead me in Thy Truth

Psa 25:5 *Lead me in Thy truth and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on Thee do I wait all the day.*

A wonderful prayer! This prayer will surely be answered by God if you ask Him. Lead Me in Thy truth, teach me Your truth; You are the God of my salvation. I only wait for You; You are the one I must follow all the days of my life. I want the truth, the truth from your lips, the truth from your word.

Call upon Him in truth is another injunction in **Psa 145:18-19** –

XVI. Call Upon Him in Truth

Psa 145:18 *The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that **call upon Him in truth.***

Psa 145:19 *He will fulfil the desire of them that fear Him: he also will hear their cry and will save them.*

Call upon Him in truth, pray to Him in truth as you walk in truth. When you live the truth and walk in truth, whatever desires of your heart that are from Satan will be pushed out and the true desires that God wants in your heart will be fulfilled. He will surprise us with so much goodness.

Sanctify by the truth, look at **Jhn 17:17** –

XVII. Sanctify by Truth

Jhn 17:17 *Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy Word is Truth.*

What is sanctify? It is to separate us from the world unto God himself. Truth will sanctify us unto God, and the Word of Yahweh is Truth. Look at the law of Sabbath: observance that sets us apart as a special people unto Yahweh. Leviticus 11 is another means of sanctification: not

eating unclean food, not touching the unclean things because they are abominations to Him. if you eat them, you become an abomination to Him yourself.

Next, Yeshua is truth. Look at **Jhn 18:37-38** –

XVIII. Yeshua is Truth

Joh 18:37 *Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and **for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.***

Joh 18:38 *Pilate saith unto him, **What is truth?** And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in Him no fault at all.*

What is truth? The sad thing is: Yeshua the embodiment of Truth, was there before him, Yeshua is the truth, Yeshua came to witness to the truth and Yeshua said something else very significant: everyone that is of the truth hears My voice. If we cannot hear His voice, we shall miss the resurrection of the just.

Look at another passage **Jhn 14:5-6** –

Joh 14:5 *Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?*

Joh 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.***

Yeshua not only came to show us the way to the Father; He revealed Himself as the truth and gave us life. More than that, the Father is truth in **Jhn 8:26** –

XIX. Father is Truth

Joh 8:26 *I have many things to say and to judge of you: but **He that sent Me is true**; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of Him.*

Joh 8:27 *They understood not that he spake to them of the Father.*

He that sent me is true: He is the truth; the Father is the truth.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth in **Jhn 16:31** –

XX. Spirit of Truth

Joh 16:13 *Howbeit when He, **the Spirit of truth**, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come*

The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of Truth. The Father is the Truth; Yeshua the Son of God is the Truth the Way, and the Life. The Bible tells us there two fathers: Satan, the father of lies, and God, the Father of Truth. Now you can see and appreciate how important truth is to our salvation.

Shalom