

Copy #1

This morning I would like to call your attention to the seven-teeneth verse of the seventeenth chapter of the Gospel of John. I trust you all know that John 17 is our Lord's great prayer of intercession. He gave us the Lord's Prayer == We speak of the Lord's prayer very briefly when we mean the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples, the prayer He gave us as a pattern. I don't think it's wrong to call that the Lord's prayer, but in a very special sense this is the Lord's prayer because this is the prayer our Lord gave shortly before His crucifixion - it is His prayer of intercession for all of His people.

I'm going to confine our attention pretty much today to this one verse: Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth. In this verse the word truth occurs twice. Philosophers have argued and debated about what truth is. Some even say truth is whatever is in your heard. That is all there is. You can have no definite know-ledge of the truth! We would be in a very sad situation if that were the case. Yet apatt from God's Word that is the case. We are, you might say, like someone who has been dropped from a parachute out of a plane in the night into the middle of a big forest. There are trees all around and for all you know you may walk 100 miles in one direction before you strike water, before you come to a road, before you come to any ~~sz~~ source of food or life. It might be half a mile in the other direction. You have no way of knowing. You are just there not knowing what is in any direction, what or where you might be. That is exactly the situation man is in apart from the Word of God.

A little child gradually begins to learn about things around him. Then as we grow older we learn about more things. But everything we know apart from God's Word is partial. We do not have a full knowledge of anything apart from that. How ~~you~~ do you know that Julius Caesar ever lived? How do you know this world was in existence 100 yrs. ago? We ~~have~~ are around us ,of course, things that say they were written at that time. But how do you know they are true? It had to ~~start~~ start some time; maybe it started yesterday! And all of us were given brains that have in them little marks there that seem to be recollections of what we did duirng the last 10 or 20 years. We don't know, except that the Bible says we've been here a much longer time.

The Bible is God's Word. It is the truth. If we are going to know which direction to go; if we are going to know how we are going to get out of this world and how we are to come into the green pastures that the Lord wants us to have, we have to have truth. So God's Word is the only real source of truth.

Ps. 119:105 says: "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Truth is an abstract thing and is of great interest to some of us; others don't bother about it. Some get very fascinated in trying to figure out ~~just~~ what is the real nature of things, what it really means. But absolutely necessary for all of us is to learn what is truth as to how we should conduct our lives and where we are going. What are the facts? that are vital for us to know?