

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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WHICH “TRUTH” ARE YOU FOLLOWING?

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Is there more than one truth? Some apparently think so. Recently, a man praised his father by saying, “He follows the truth as HE SEES IT.” While the son was not living according to the same truth his father was following, he saw no troubling contradiction. Why? Because the son is following truth as HE sees it.

When we examine the Scriptures, we learn that Jesus is the *way of truth* (John 14:6). Jesus says, “*He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same will judge him in the last day*” (John 12:48). The standard of truth is the revealed truth of Christ, not our view of truth (John 17:17). We will be judged by what Jesus SAID, not by what WE SEE truth to be.

Jesus says, “...*except ye believe that I am he, ye shall die in your sins*” (John 8:22). Jesus’ claim of deity, conveyed in the words “*I am*” (cf. Exodus 3:14, Jn. 8:58), is the truth we must believe, or we will die in our sins. Will our Jewish and Muslim friends receive a pass by God in

the Judgment because they do not SEE truth as Jesus REVEALED it? In the context of recognizing our religious leaders, Jesus says, “*call no man your father on the earth...*” (Matthew 23:9). Are our Catholic friends justified before the Lord in calling their religious teachers “*father*”, because they do not SEE truth as Jesus REVEALED it?

Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as “*the Spirit of truth*”, and promised that He would “*guide*” His apostles “*into all the truth*” (John 16:13). Paul, by the Spirit’s guidance in truth wrote that there is ONE BODY and this body is THE CHURCH (Ephesians 4:4, 1:22-23). Therefore, God’s revealed truth authorizes ONE CHURCH. Will members of Denominations, who glory in the fact that we have MANY VARIETY OF CHURCHES to choose from, be justified because they do not see TRUTH as God REVEALED IT?

The Spirit of Truth reveals God’s demand that we are not to be “*forsaking our assembling together*” (Hebrews 10:25). Will brethren who forsake assembling with the saints to exhort one an-

other in love be justified because they do not SEE TRUTH as God revealed it, but put family outings before assembling with saints?

Living according to truth as WE SEE it is important. If we violate our conscience by doing something we believe is not according to truth, we sin (Romans 14:23). However, this does not mean our conscience is THE STANDARD of truth. We must continue to train our subjective conscience by the revealed truth of God. For example, Paul lived in all good conscience before God (Acts 23:1), but he persecuted the way of the Lord (Acts 22:3-4,7). Was Paul justified by following truth as he SEES IT? Paul’s conscience met the standard of God’s revealed truth. He stood condemned, not justified.

Do you have a love of truth so you can be saved (2 Thessalonians 2:10)? This saving truth is not truth as you want it, or see it, but as God revealed it in the gospel of Christ. Jesus said “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...*” (Mark 16:16). Have you obeyed what Jesus revealed?