

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward” (Psalm 19.9-11).

Truly, knowing the truth will make us free — free from “the wages of sin which is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom 6.23).



## *What Must We Do to Go to Heaven?*

- ❖ Hear the word of God (Mk. 4:24; Lk. 8:18; Rom. 10:17).
- ❖ Believe the word of God (Jn. 20:30-31; Heb. 11:6).
- ❖ Repent, the first word of the gospel (Ac. 2:38; 26:20).
- ❖ Confess (Jn. 12:42, 43).
- ❖ Be Baptized (Eph. 4:4-6) —
  - ↪ Buried (Rom. 6:3-7; Col. 2:11, 12; 3:1).
  - ↪ In water (Jn. 3:5-7; Ac. 8:36-38; 22:16).
  - ↪ For the forgiveness of sins (Ac. 2:38; Heb. 10:18).
  - ↪ To be saved (1 Pet. 3:20, 21).
  - ↪ Putting on Christ (Gal. 3:26-29).
  - ↪ Into a unified body (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:4-6).
- ❖ Live faithfully until the Lord comes (1 Th. 4:13-18), or until you die (Heb. 9:27; Rev. 14:13).

## ~ CHURCH OF CHRIST ~

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# THINGS ABOVE

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

— Colossians 3:1, 2 —

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## Truth Will Make Us Free

By Jamey Hinds

Jesus said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (Jn 8.32). Free from what, though? Those who were in the Lord’s hearing when He said the above words asked, “How can you say, ‘You will be made free?’” Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed” (Jn 8.33-36). Most

people don't want to admit that they have ever *sinned*. "Sin" is a word that is rarely used in our daily conversations. We instead say that people have "made mistakes," or we'll use some other kind of euphemism.

The truth is not something that everyone really wants — "The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, *because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved*. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thess 2.9-12).

"Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding" (Prov 23.23). Truth has a price — humility. If we really want to know the truth, and if we're willing to accept the truth, then we will only get it if we receive it *humbly*.

"Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. . . . Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, *in humility receive the word implanted*, which is able to save your souls" (Jas 1.18, 21).

"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the *humility of wisdom*. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom

does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy" (Jas 3.13-17).

"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your *hands*, you sinners; and purify your *hearts*, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord*, and He will lift you up" (Jas 4.7-10).

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and, 'Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity'" (2 Ti 2.15-19).

If we love the truth we'll show it by the way we live, the way we talk, the way we entertain ourselves (*e.g.*, the TV shows and movies we watch, what magazines and books we'll choose endorse, *etc.*).