

Holding to Truth in a Relativistic World

John 17.13-18

In spiritual battles which lie ahead, Christians will confront the vacuum of truth in our relativistic world. Jesus said, *You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free* (John 8.32). The challenge before believers will be severe: *Do I know the truth?*

A World Abandoning Truth

- The vacuum of truth and the church
- The testimony of heroes of the faith
- Who will stand for truth in our day?

How Should We Now Live? Know the Truth!

- Value God's Word (2 Tim. 3.16-17; Ps. 19.11)
- Read and meditate on God's Word daily (Josh. 1.8; Ps. 1.1-3)
- Make time to study God's Word (2 Tim. 2.15)
- Memorize God's Word (best done with others) (Ps. 119.11)
- Humbly obey God's Word (James 1.21-25; Ps. 119.105)

You shall know the truth
and the truth will set you free



1. Everyone knows about the 'frog in the pot syndrome' – how a frog dropped into hot water will instantly try to jump out, but a frog put in water that is slowly heated will happily swim around till it dies. What evidences of a 'frog-in-the-pot syndrome' decline of social, moral, and ethical standards can you identify in American culture?
2. The ultimate cause of this kind of decline is spiritual. The apostles Paul and John remind us: *We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces and principalities and powers* (Eph. 6:12), and *the whole world lies in the power of the evil one* (1 Jn. 5:19). Such overwhelming Satanic influence can lead to despair. What do Paul and John remind us of to restore our confidence in what God is doing? (See Romans 8.31-39 and 1 John 4.4.)
3. Go online and read accounts of Christian martyrs like Bonhoeffer or Watchman Nee (see VOM, Open Doors, BarnabasFund.com, or "20th-century Christian Martyrs" on Wikipedia). What aspects of their Christian lives stand out to you? What spiritual characteristics do they possess that you feel are lacking in your life?
4. The Church of Jesus Christ – that which is visible in the world as local churches and Christian institutions – is described by Paul as *the pillar and support of the truth* (1 Tim. 3.15). Like a pillar holds up a roof, so the church holds up God's truth. But even in the first century, churches failed to uphold God's truth! Not surprisingly, it happens today. What failures of the Christian church to support the truth do you see in America today?
5. Jesus' declaration in His prayer in John 17, *Your Word is truth*, is a clarion call for Christians to return to the Bible. On the front of this page, five responses to God's Word are enjoined. Ask yourself: Do I *truly* value God's Word? What evidence is there in my life? Do I read it and think about it? Am I willing to make the effort to 'hide it in my heart' – memorize Scripture – perhaps with someone else? When I know what it teaches, do I fight against it, or humbly obey it?