

## “SANCTIFIED IN TRUTH”

**INTRODUCTION:** Every couple of years an e-mail circulates that recounts the “bloopers” made in Church Bulletin announcements...

1. “*Church Ladies with Typewriters Bloopers*”: Typing and grammatical mistakes made in bulletin announcements.
  - a. *The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.*
  - b. *The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'*  
*Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.*  
*Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.*  
*Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.*  
*Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.*  
*For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.*  
*Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.*  
*A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.*  
*Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.*  
*The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.*  
*Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM . Please use the back door.*  
*The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'*
  - c. *Weight Watchers will meet Tuesday evening, 7:00 p.m. in Room 117. Please use the large, double doors at the side entrance.*
2. These are comical examples of how information, communication and truth can get twisted. Much to the chagrin of many.
3. I can attest to you that announcements are **not** easy to do. In fact, I told my wife two Sundays ago that I am most nervous on Sunday mornings not when I’m preaching, praying, or administering the sacraments, but when *I do the announcements!* (fear of mistakes and getting people upset).
4. One more funny announcement: “*The Church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility*” (i.e., hospitality).

5. In the past few weeks, I have incurred the anger of a number of people, in Sunday School classes and in the worship services, simply by saying things they did not agree with or understand.
  - a. Not *false* statements. Not *lies* or *untruths*.
  - b. Just *observations* they did not like or agree with.
  - c. I won't use specific examples because I don't want to embarrass anyone...
  - d. But I will say this: *None of the things people took offense at were essential to faith, necessary for salvation, or even crucial to holiness.*
  - e. They were all **applications** of a precept or a principle in the Bible.
6. **When I first came to Christ Covenant** back in 2006, I waited for 6 months before I made pointed and practical applications in my sermons:
  - a. People said, "*His sermons are too academic, too theoretical and not practical enough.*"
  - b. Reason: I did not feel like I knew Christ Covenant well enough to speak into her shared life, her spiritual history or her corporate personality.
  - c. Remember: *I came here after 5 years of division and disagreement over many secondary issues in the Church and a tug of war over applications of Scripture.*
  - d. **Frankly, I was gun-shy. Afraid of applications.**
7. But as I got to know the people, and as I gained insight into our past and our personality, I began to talk about "us." Well...
  - a. The same people said, "*His sermons are too confrontational. He's too opinionated. He makes applications that he can't justify.*"
  - b. And they left!
  - c. And they all went to churches where the sermons seldom confront the people.
  - d. Those preachers talk about "*Those bad people out there in the world.*"
  - e. But I feel called to speak to "*these sinners in here in the church.*"
8. **Just for the record:** *I am an equal opportunity offender.*
  - a. If you sit here long enough, I'm going to make you angry.
  - b. Not *on purpose*, but inevitably by my applications.
  - c. I'm not going to talk a lot about *Liberals, Democrats, abortionists, Yankees and Federalists!*
  - d. Why not? Because they aren't here! I have a church full of *Conservatives, Republicans, pro-lifers, Southerners and Rebels!*
  - e. And my job is to preach to the people **here** and not to those who aren't here.
  - f. *I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening*

*to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (2 Tim 4:1-5)*

9. What I'm talking about here is our response to **Truth**.

a. "Truth" is a major word used by the apostle John in his writings:

- i. 27 times in his Gospel
- ii. 20 times in his 3 short epistles
- iii. "True": 38 times in his writings
- iv. "Truly": 31 times in his writings

b. According to John, Jesus says "Truly, truly I say to you..." 24 times.

c. Jesus came both to *tell* us and to *be* for us the Truth:

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:14, 17)*

*But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God. (John 3:21)*

*But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:23-24)*

*So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)*

*But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God." (John 8:45-47)*

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)*

10. Little wonder then that Jesus prays for us to be "sanctified in (the) Truth."

a. *Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. (John 17:17-19)*

b. Prayer request #6 in Jesus' High Priestly Prayer:

- i. *Glorify God*
- ii. *Saved in Eternity* (Kris Decker)
- iii. *Faithful to the Word*
- iv. *Kept in the Name* (Bernie Lawrence)
- v. *Safe in the World*
- vi. *Sanctified in Truth* (today)

- c. **Sanctified in Truth:** strange way of saying that Jesus wants us to be as committed to the Truth of God's self-revelation as He Himself is.
- d. *The Truth of the Gospel*

11. Jesus tells us three things about this Commitment to Truth

- a. The Sanctifying Power of Truth (17:17)
- b. The Singular Source of Truth (17:17)
- c. The Supreme Judge of Truth (17:19)

I. THE SANCTIFYING POWER OF TRUTH (John 17:17)

1. "Sanctify them in truth..." (v. 17)
2. **Note:** There are 9 things Jesus prays for in this prayer but only 3 *imperatives*.
  - a. i.e., nine requests
  - b. six requests *about* things
  - c. but only three *direct requests* to God; "orders"
    - i. "Glorify, your son...glorify me..." (vv. 1, 5)
    - ii. "Keep them in your name." (v. 11)
    - iii. "Sanctify them in truth." (v. 17)
3. "Sanctify" is the Greek verb *hagiazo*: set apart, consecrate, dedicate to God, make holy, declare sacred, reserve for God, anoint for holy service, or "sanctify"
  - a. From the Latin *sanctus* (holy)
  - b. Sanctified: *made holy for God*
  - c. *Sanctification*: saved and given to God
  - d. *Sanctification*: made holy like God
  - e. "You shall be holy (sanctified) for I am holy (sanctified)" (Lev. 11:44-45; 1 Peter 1:16)
4. **D. A. Carson:** *The Gospel According to John: Pillar NTC*; p. 565.

*The 'holiness' word-group from which Sanctify derives is rather rare in the Fourth Gospel. At its most basic level of meaning, 'holy' is almost an adjective for God: he is transcendent, 'other', distinct, separate from his creation, and so the angels cry unceasingly in his presence, "Holy! Holy! Holy!" (cf. Is. 6:3; Rev. 4:8). Derivatively, then, people and things that are reserved for him are also called holy – whether a sensor for an altar in the temple of the old covenant, or a man set apart to be the high priest, i.e., ideally, if someone is set apart for God and God's purposes alone, that person will do only what God wants, and hate all that God hates. That is what it means to be holy, as God is holy.*

5. Jesus is praying, “*Make these chosen ones of yours uniquely dedicated to you and holy in your Word – the Bible.*”
6. Set aside for God by means of Truth: *divine revelation*
  - a. Through Jesus who is *The Truth* (John 14:6)

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever.*  
(John 14:16)
  - b. Through the indwelling of the *Spirit of Truth*

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.* (John 14:16-17)

*But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.* (John 15:26-27)

*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.* (John 16:13)
7. What Jesus is praying for us here is a *complement* to what He prays for us in verses 14-16.
  - a. *I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*  
(John 17:14-16)
  - b. **Safe in the World**
  - c. *Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.* (John 17:17-19)
  - d. **Sanctified in Truth**
8. **Set aside by Christ, with the Spirit, by means of the Word of God so as they go on their mission in the world, they may be safe in the world.**
9. *Sanctified in the Word...Safe in the World.*
  - a. Positive: make them holy
  - b. Negative: keep them safe from sin
10. **Martyn Lloyd-Jones: *Safe in the World*; p. 38.**
  - a. *God who had thus separated and marked a people for himself, then gave them to Christ. This covenant was to the effect that the Father handed over these people whom he had chosen for himself before the foundation of the world. He handed them to the Son in order that the Son might make of them a people fit for God’s special possession and enjoyment. So when the Son left heaven to come on earth, to be born as a babe in Bethlehem and to do*

*all that he did, he was coming to carry out that plan. He came because God had handed these people to him and the Father had said, in effect, ‘These people cannot be my people as they are. I have chosen them but they are not yet fit and I cannot truly enjoy them until they are. So I give them to you. Go and save them, go and redeem them, go and sanctify them and make them a people that I can enjoy and in whom I shall have my great joy and pleasure.’ So the Lord Jesus Christ came from heaven to earth in order to do that. That is the whole meaning of the incarnation, of his suffering, and of his being subjected to temptation. It is the whole meaning of his agony in the Garden, his death upon the cross, his resurrection and of everything else that he did. It has all been done for these people of God. The design is to prepare them for the Father in order to make them fit and meet for him.*

- b. St. Paul puts this same truth this way:

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (Titus 2:11-14)*

- c. **Lloyd-Jones:** *Sanctified Through the Truth*; pp. 8, 11.

*His great desire is that his people should be kept by God, yes, but not by being taken out of the difficulties and problems. How then are they to be kept? And the answer is that they are to be kept by being sanctified; not by being taken out of the world, not by the false solution of monasticism—by a desire to quit life somehow or other—that is not God’s way of keeping his people. His method is to ask his Father to sanctify them.*

*As his followers we are separated from the world—‘They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world’—they are separated for God’s special service, to represent him in the world. Our very task and calling demands that we must be a holy people since we cannot represent a holy God unless we ourselves are holy.*

**11. Key Point:** This sanctifying process can *only* come about by means of *The Truth*.

- a. “Sanctify Them in Truth...”  
 b. Why? Because it is only the Truth of God that can take worldliness out of us!  
 c. **D. A. Carson** explains this fact: *John: Pillar NTC*; p. 566.

*In practical terms, no-one can be ‘sanctified’ or set apart for the Lord’s use without learning to think God’s thoughts after him, without learning to live in conformity with the ‘word’ he has graciously given. By contrast, the heart of ‘worldliness’, of what makes the world the world (1:9), is fundamental suppression or denial of the truth, profound rejection of God’s gracious ‘Word’, his self-disclosure in Christ.*

12. The world operates by means of *lies*. It pumps into the worldling’s false notions of God, man, sin and salvation.

- a. The “*god of this world*” is Satan. He is both a liar, the father of lies, and the deceiver of the whole world.

- i. *Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:42-44)*
  - ii. *In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Corinthians 4:4)*
  - iii. *For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. (2 John 7)*
  - d. *We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. (1 John 5:19-21)*
13. So, *worldliness* is "The Lie": a propensity to reject the Truth about Christ in order to maintain our own standing in the domain of darkness, undisturbed.
- "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God." (John 3:16-21)*
14. **Ask yourself this question** the next time God speaks the truth in an uncomfortable manner through the preacher: Are you really upset about falsehood or is it that the Truth has upset your *worldliness* and the *castle of lies* in which you comfortably live as a worldling?
- a. ...your *dispensationalism* that is a contrived structure imposed upon the Bible?
  - b. ...your *Arminianism* that is man-centered and designed to give you, not God, the glory?
  - c. ...your *politics*: the politics of convenience that builds a system that benefits you at others' expense?
  - d. ...your *psychologized religion* committed to your feelings rather than to your holiness?
  - e. ...your *political correctness* that excuses away your sins because everyone agrees that God is wrong?
  - f. ...your *American Faith: moralistic, therapeutic deism*. "God will save you because you're a nice person"?

15. If you were **really** committed to **Truth**, you would not get angry at the preaching of the Truth!

*Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.* (James 1:19-21)

16. Jesus tells us that the Truth is only found in one place: *The Bible...*

## II. THE SINGULAR SOURCE OF TRUTH (John 17:17)

1. “Sanctify them in the Truth; Your Word is Truth.” (v. 17)

2. Jesus clearly defines the Truth: “Your Word is Truth”

3. **Bruce Milne:** *The Message of John: BST; p. 246-247.*

*The means of their sanctification, no less than the means of their protection, is the Word of God (17). Jesus has conveyed that Word to them. He himself is the incarnate Word of God (1:14). He will send his Spirit to enable the further expression of that Word in them and others.*

4. Herein lies the fountain from which all sanctifying grace is found: *The Word of God.*

- a. *And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.* (Acts 20:32)
- b. *But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles— to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’* (Acts 26:16-18)
- c. *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.* (Romans 1:16)
- d. *But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.* (Romans 10:8-10)
- e. *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.* (Romans 10:17)
- f. *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.* (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- g. *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.* (Heb. 4:12)

5. The Bible, even though ridiculed by many and adhered to uneasily by others, is, according to Jesus, the source of *Truth*...divine truth.
  - a. Truth can come from science, experience and reason, but its ultimate judge is Scripture.
  - b. *Sola Scriptura*: Scripture alone as supreme and infallible judge of all claims to truth.
6. Those who doubt the Bible, who are embarrassed by its claims and its precepts, or who chafe under its narrow parameters for faith, holiness and salvation, will always struggle to be holy and mightily used by God.
7. **Karl W. Giberson**, a former physics professor, and **Randall J. Stephens**, an associate professor of history, both at Eastern Nazarene College, have taken to task all these “Bible Thumping Fundamentalists.”
  - a. Their book: *The Anointed: Evangelical Truth in a Secular Age*
  - b. **New York Times**: “*The Evangelical Rejection of Reason*” (10-20-2011)
  - c. Criticized evangelicals who...
    - i. Disagree with the view of climate change
    - ii. Reject evolution
    - iii. Condemn abortion or homosexuality as sinful
    - iv. Are troubled by pornography, drug abuse or atheism
  - d. These people are “fundamentalists”: “*defined by simplistic theology, cultural isolationism and stubborn anti-intellectualism.*”
  - e. These two men write:
    - e. “*Christians have long been called ‘People of the Book.’ The label is especially appropriate for evangelicals. But the Book is thousands of years old, written in obscure languages, from a mysterious and incomprehensible time and place.*”
    - f. “*Like other evangelicals, we accept the centrality of faith in Jesus Christ and look to the Bible as our sacred book, though we find it hard to recognize our religious tradition in the mainstream evangelical conversation. Evangelicalism at its best seeks a biblically grounded expression of Christianity that is intellectually engaged, humble, and forward-looking. In contrast, fundamentalism is literalistic, overconfident, and reactionary.*”
8. In response: No one who is an evangelical wants to be branded as a “fundamentalist” – naïve, close-minded, mean-spirited, militant and embarrassingly uninformed.
  - a. Like *Muslim Fundamentalists, Nazis, The Ku Klux Klan or King-James-only isolationists.*
  - b. Is Evolution proven science? Is global warming caused by American industry? Is abortion ok? Are gays a persecuted minority? Is porn harmless? And are Islam, Judaism or Taoism as legitimate as Christianity as a way of salvation?
  - c. If we stop the name-calling, overcome our fear of being laughed at in intellectual circles, and trust in God’s Word, then “*The Truth will set us free*”

9. **Dr. Albert Mohler**, no intellectual lightweight, no raging fundamentalist, and no uneducated bumpkin, responded to Giberson and Stephens:
- a. *“Total Capitulation: The Evangelical Surrender of Truth” (10-26-2011)*
  - g. *We now know that when Giberson and Stephens speak of the Bible “as our sacred book,” they mean something far less than what evangelicals have historically believed - that the Bible is the very Word of God. The most honest part of that paragraph is found where the writers admit that they “find it hard to recognize our religious tradition in the mainstream evangelical conversation.” That is a huge admission - and one that is especially telling. Giberson and Stephens are far outside of the evangelical mainstream, and they know it. Even on the issue of evolution, Giberson affirmed Talk of the Nation host Neal Conan’s assertion that the rejection of evolutionary theory “is the mainstream of evangelical thought.” So, what are we to make of their essay in The New York Times? Did Giberson and Stephens hope to shift the evangelical mainstream by means of their essay? Not likely. They have made their preference for “secular knowledge” and secular affirmation clear enough. They could rest assured that the readership of The New York Times would overwhelmingly agree with their worldview and with their assessment of evangelical Christianity. That, we must assume, is their reward. They have, however, set the central issue before us. Evangelical Christians will either stand upon the authority and total truthfulness of the Bible, or we will inevitably capitulate to the secular worldview. Giberson and Stephens force us to see, and to acknowledge, the consequences of the evangelical surrender of truth.*
10. **Please hear me:** Eventually Truth always wins out. You need not surrender your trust in God’s Word in order to discover “truth.”
- a. If evolution *is* scientific fact, eventually the discovery of science and the revelation of Scripture will coinhere in the Truth.
  - b. So will global warming and the theology of creation care...
  - c. And abortion, homosexuality, pornography and the ethics of Scripture
  - d. *Allow the search for Truth to continue, but do not shame Bible believers with labels like “fundamentalists” or with accusations of “stupidity.”*
  - e. **Believe that God still speaks through His Word** – even if what He says is neither fully understood nor widely popular.
  - f. What if some fundamentalist Christians are wrong?  
*What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, “That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged.” (Romans 3:3-4)*
11. **Our consecration to God comes from one singular and supreme source of infallible truth: The Word of God...the Bible.**
12. Here is the #1 reason for trusting the Bible: *Jesus did so and was thus consecrated to God.*

### III. THE SUPREME JUDGE OF TRUTH (John 17:18-19)

1. *As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. (John 17:18-19)*
2. **Please note** what Jesus says: “...for their sake I sanctify (consecrate) myself (in truth), that they also may be sanctified in truth.” (v. 19)
3. Jesus does **not** mean: “I make myself more holy so that they would take the Bible more seriously.”
4. What Jesus means is this: “*I have consecrated myself to the mission of salvation by adhering to God’s Word and speaking that Word to the world, so that they too would be consecrated to the Word as they undertake their mission into the world.*”
5. Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament Word of God, spoke the Gospel Word of God and then gave to His apostles, through the Spirit, the New Testament Word of God. Jesus honored, believed and acted upon God’s Word.
6. *For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. (John 17:8)*
7. Our mission in this world as the *witnesses* of Jesus depends upon the same thing that Jesus depended upon: *The Word of Truth from God.*
8. **So let me answer our critics...**
  - a. Why do I not believe in evolution? *Because Jesus believed that God created the heaven and the earth.*
  - b. Why am I willing to take climate change seriously and examine gathered evidence? *Because Jesus affirmed the care of creation as our Christian duty.*
  - c. Why do I believe abortion is murder? *Because Jesus loved children and affirmed the sanctity and dignity of life.*
  - d. Why do I think adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, heterosexual fornication and pornography are wrong and harmful to us? *Because Jesus was sexually pure and taught that the only legitimate sex was between a male and a female in the confines of a life-long marriage.*
  - e. **Because Jesus believed and taught these things, I accept them as the Truth.**
9. For I believe, as the Scripture teaches, that Jesus is *The Truth* –
  - a. The Truth of God perfectly revealed to us
  - b. The Word of God incarnate in human flesh
  - c. The Supreme Judge of all Truth
  - d. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known. (John 1:1, 14, 17-18)*

10. And...because Jesus was **sanctified** in God's truth, so must I be, if I am to follow Him and serve God in this world.

11. **F. F. Bruce:** *The Gospel of John; p. 334.*

*If the disciples are to be effectively set apart for the work which they must do, the Son must first set himself apart for the work which he must do. He therefore consecrates himself to God on their behalf.*

**CONCLUSION:** So...please permit me to ask three things of you...

1. First, forgive us for typos in the bulletin and for any mistakes I make in the announcements. *We are only human.*
2. Second, please do not get angry with me when I preach the Word. Stop...hold your tongue...think...pray...then come to talk to me about my interpretation or my application...
  - a. *Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. (James 1:19-21)*
  - b. I am not always correct, but I do preach God's Word.
  - c. Jesus said: "God sent Me, and I speak for Him..."
 

*For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me." (John 12:49-50)*
  - d. I say to you: "Jesus sent me, and I speak for Him..."
  - h. *For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ. Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. (2 Corinthians 2:17-3:6)*
3. Third, would you consecrate yourself to God's Word as *the Truth* and cling to it until all other information, all other theories and every other opinion bows to its authority?
4. *We are the people of the Book, the ambassadors of Christ, the voice of God in the world, the witnesses of the Spirit...*
5. And this commitment to the Spirit's Book, Christ's Truth and God's Word has changed everything for us...

*From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2 Cor. 5:16-20)*

6. **Sanctify yourself in the Truth, in Christ, and in the Spirit's calling:** Become a devotee of the Word of God!