

“TRUTH!”

JOHN 8:12-36

- Opposite of the TRUTH:

> **A LIE** - Any statement or act designed to deceive another person. The motivation for most lying is a desire either to hurt the one against whom the lie is directed (Gen 3:1-13; Rom 3:13) or to protect oneself, usually out of fear or pride (Matt 26:69-75; Acts 5:1-11). Lying is emphatically condemned in the Bible (Ex 20:16; Eph 4:25). It is wrong because it is contrary to the nature of God (Titus 1:2; Heb 6:18) and because it shows a person is not in touch with reality (Rom 1:25; 1 John 1:6). On the other hand, it is possible to be truthful with the intention of hurting another person. The Bible teaches believers to be truthful in love (Eph 4:25). (from Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

> **To DECEIVE** - (1) **To lead into error; to cause to believe what is false, or disbelieve what is true; to impose upon; to mislead; to cheat; to disappoint; to delude; to ensnare.** (2 Tim 3:13 - *Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.*) (2) **To beguile; to amuse, so as to divert the attention; to while away; to take away as if by deception.** (3) **To deprive by fraud or stealth; to defraud.** (Syn. - DECEIVE, DELUDE, MISLEAD - *Deceive* is a general word applicable to any kind of misrepresentation affecting faith or life. *To delude*, primarily, is to make sport of, by deceiving, and is accomplished by playing upon one's imagination or credulity, as by exciting false hopes, causing him to undertake or expect what is impracticable, and making his failure ridiculous. It implies some infirmity of judgment in the victim, and intention to deceive in the deluder. But it is often used reflexively, indicating that a person's own weakness has made him the sport of others or of fortune; as, he *deluded* himself with a belief that luck would always favor him. *To mislead* is to lead, guide, or direct in a wrong way, either willfully or ignorantly.) (from Webster's Dictionary)

I) TRUTH'S LIGHT! (v12)

> **Let's define “LIGHT”** – Light has been associated with the presence, truth, and redemptive activity of God since creation. Before man was created, light was brought into being by the Creator: *"Then God said, Let there be light; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good"* (Genesis 1:3-4). **Throughout the Bible, light represents truth, goodness, and God's redemptive work.** Darkness, on the other hand, symbolizes error, evil, and the works of Satan (Genesis 1:4). God or God's Word, the Bible, are frequently represented as lights or lamps to enlighten and guide the believer (1 John 1:5). *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"* (Psalms 119:105). The Psalmist also declared, *"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"* (Psalms 27:1). Light is also used as a symbol of holiness and purity. Paul counseled the Christians at Rome to *"put on the armor of light"* (Romans 13:12). (Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

> SHINE the LIGHT: (Four keys)

- #1 - By coming to the **“TRUE”** light- John 1:9-13
- #2 - By rejecting the **“DARKNESS”**- John 3:16-21
- #3 - By **“WALKING”** in the light – 1 John 1:5-7
- #4 - By **“PROCLAIMING”** the light – 1 Peter 2:9-10

II) TRUTH'S WITNESS! (v13-30)

(v13-20) **The WITNESS of Jesus is TRUE!** (1) The witness to Christ is borne by the **prophets** (Acts 10:43), (2) by **John the Baptist** (John 1:7), (3) by the **Father** (John 5:37; 8:18), (4) by the works of **Christ** (John 5:36; 10:37-38), (5) by the witness of His Promise (the **resurrection**) Acts 4:33, (6) by the witness of His followers (their **testimony**) - Acts 1:8; 5:29-33; 26:16-18.

(v21-24) Without Christ all will die in their **SINS**, turn to Romans 5:12-21 (with Christ one receives **“eternal life!”**)

(v25-29) Jesus spoke of His crucifixion in verse 28, *“when you lift up the Son of man, then you will know that **I AM**.”* (Matthew 27:45-54)

III) TRUTH'S FREEDOM! (v31-36)

> **Truth is a moral and personal characteristic of God:** He is "the God of truth" (Isa 65:16). The psalmist declared, "Your law is truth" (119:142), "all Your commandments are truth" (119:151), and "the entirety of Your word is truth" (119:160). Because of His perfect nature and will, God has to speak and act in truth; He cannot lie (1 Sam 15:29; Heb 6:18; James 1:17-18). **Jesus is the Word of God who became flesh, "the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth"** (John 1:14). All Jesus said was true, because He told the truth which He

heard from God (John 8:40). He promised His disciples that He would send "*the Spirit of truth*" (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13) - a **Helper** who would **abide in Christians forever** (John 14:16), **testify about Jesus** (John 15:26), **guide Christians into all truth** (John 16:13), and **glorify Jesus** (John 16:14). **God is truth; the Spirit is truth; and Jesus is truth.** Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me*" (John 14:6). Jesus and the revelation which the Spirit of truth gave through His apostles are the final, ultimate revelation and definition of truth about God, man, redemption, history, and the world. "*The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ*" (John 1:17). The Bible declares in 2 Tim 2:15 - *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* 1 Tim 3:15 – *I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

His "TRUTH" through His "WORD" brings FREEDOM!

"Abide in His Word" (Jesus – John 1:1) to:

- Be set **FREE** from the slavery of **SIN** – John 8:34-36
- Strengthen your **FAITH!** – Romans 10:17
- Bear much **FRUIT!** – John 15:5
- Have **PRAYERS** answered – John 15:7
- **PROSPER** your ways and bring you good **SUCCESS** – Joshua 1:8-9

(Memory verse: John 8:31-32)