

Saving Truth

The Bible is God's truth revealed to His creation (John 17:17, Timothy 3:16).

God is both Creator and Sovereign King of the universe (Genesis 1:1, Psalm 47:7, Psalm 145:1, Romans 14:17). All humankind is equal before Him (Genesis 1:26-28).

But we have all sinned and fallen short of His standards (Romans 3:23, 2 John 1:8-9). The penalty for that sin is death (Romans 6:23).

But God, according to His love for us and His plan from before the beginning of time (Ephesians 1:4), sent His Son (John 3:16), Jesus, the second person of the Trinity to be born of a virgin (Matthew 1:18-25), to walk this earth, both fully human and fully divine (John 1:1-3, John 10:30-33, Matthew 4:2, John 4:6, 1 John 1:1), in perfect accordance with the Father's will (1 Peter 2:22, 2 Corinthians 5:21).

He sacrificed Himself, body and blood, for our sins to make a way for us all to escape God's wrath (Romans 1:18, John 3:36) and the punishment of our sins—eternal separation from God (Romans 3:21-31, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). He was betrayed, beaten, crucified, and died (John 19:1-37). He was buried (John 19:38-42) and descended into hell to defeat death and rose again on the third day (Acts 2:24-27, Revelation 1:18) in bodily form eating, drinking, and conversing with His followers (Luke 24:13-48, Acts 10:40-41).

After 40 days, He ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9-12) where He now sits at the right hand of God (Acts 7:55-56, Romans 8:34, Ephesians 1:20). He sent the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-31, Acts 1:8 and 2), the third person of the Triune God, to seal unto eternal salvation all who would receive God's gifts of grace and faith (Ephesians 1:13-14, Ephesians 2:8-10, 2 Corinthians 5:5, Ephesians 4:30, 1 Peter 1:5) and are baptized (Luke 3:16, Matthew 28:19).

Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead and establish His eternal kingdom for all those who believe in Him (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Luke 21:25-28, Revelation 22:12).

Sanctifying Truth

This truth does not exempt us from trials, temptations, tribulations, persecutions, famines, disease, or even bodily death (John 16:33, James 1:2-8). God's truth promises peace in the midst of all this, not the absence of suffering (Philippians 1:29), not the assurance of earthly prosperity (Matthew 16:26-27). In fact, God allows our suffering, oftentimes more than we can bear on our own, to make us more like His Son (Romans 5:3-4, Philippians 3:10). God desires the eternal salvation of all mankind (1 Timothy 2:4) more than our deliverance from temporal troubles (Job). To this end, God allows adversity to attract our attention (Psalm 119:67).

So, do not allow Satan to twist God's truth into a misleading lie (John 8:44) based on your present circumstances. *If you prayed harder... If God was really love... This is all your fault... You should be ashamed.... If you really believed...*

Instead, trust that God has promised to be with us every step of the way (Joshua 1:9), to give us His peace no matter what we face (John 16:33), that He has overcome every hardship this side of heaven (John 16:33), that He will make a way for us to escape sinning despite our suffering (1 Corinthians 10:13), that He will wipe away all our tears (Revelations 21:4-6), that through His strength we can be content despite our circumstances (Philippians 4:11-13), that what we see in this world is only temporary (2 Corinthians 4:18), that He will use all things for good (Romans 8:28), and that nothing can separate us from His love (Romans 8:35-38).

This truth unites us as believers in Christ, brings about spiritual maturity, and gives us hope in the everlasting life Christ won for us.