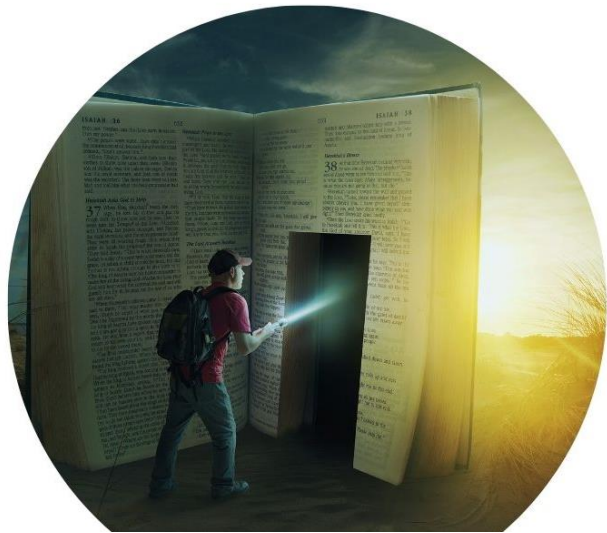


KNOW THE TRUTH

6 WEEK TEACHING SERIES

**Renewing Our
Confidence in
God's Word**



**St Nicholas Church Australind
July 2023**

Know The Truth Teaching Series

Week	Title
1	Can we 'Know the Truth'? Where can we find the truth?
2	How does the Church define Scripture and core beliefs? Why we can be confident in the Bible as a source of truth? The position of the Anglican Church on Scripture and core beliefs
3	What is False Teaching? How do we recognise False Teaching?
4	What is Progressive Christianity? Where does it come from? What are its core beliefs and is it False Teaching?
5	Why is False Teaching such a serious issue? How should we respond to false teaching and false teachers?
6	How can I make sure I am living in the truth and growing in true Christian maturity?

Know The Truth – Week 1

Is truth knowable and if so how do we know what's true?

Quiz:

1. Who said the immortal lines "What is truth?"
2. Who was he talking to?
3. What was the context?

Is Truth Knowable?

Jesus believed in the existence of truth. He also believed in absolute truth:

“The reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me”.

The scriptures talk about ‘truth and ‘*the truth*’ – never ‘my truth’ or ‘your truth’. So the answer, according to the Bible is yes – truth is knowable!

How do we know what is true?

There are three main ways of establishing truth.

1. **What we can establish using our senses** eg sugar is sweet; dogs bark, it gets dark at night.
2. **Where we can see the consequences following a certain action** eg: telling lies breaks trust.
3. **Truth which is revealed by the Holy Spirit, primarily through the scriptures** eg Humans are made in the image of God.

This truth isn’t airy fairy blind faith stuff – it can be tested, tried, and proved true by its consequences.

- eg, what evidence is there that God made the world?

What does the New Testament say about Truth?

First of all it makes it clear that ***truth is knowable and can be found:***

1. In Jesus Himself
2. In Jesus’ words
3. In the words of God the Father
4. In Scripture and the words of the Old Testament Prophets
5. In the testimony and the teaching of the Apostles
6. In the church of the Living God

1. In Jesus Himself

a) Jesus himself said it:

John 14 v 6 – “**I am** the way, **the truth** and the life”.

b) The new testament writers affirm this:

- The Apostle John writes: “The word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, **full of grace and truth.**” John 1 v 14
- The Apostle Paul writes: “” ...you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with **the truth that is in Jesus**” Ephesians 4 v 21

2. In Jesus’ Words

a) Jesus claimed that he was speaking the truth

- “To the Jews who had believed him Jesus said, “**If you hold to my teaching** you are really my disciples. Then **you will know the truth and the truth will set you free**”. John 8 v 31-32
- All four gospels record Jesus using the phrase, “***Truly I tell you***” or “***Very truly I tell you***”
 - Matthew, 28 times
 - Mark , 10 times
 - Luke 6 times
 - John – 24 times
- Jesus said: “I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken” John 12 v 49.

b) Jesus challenged those who did not believe him.

*“Yet because **I tell the truth**, you do not believe me! Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If **I am telling the truth**, why don’t you believe me? Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God”.* John 8 v 45 – 47

c) Jesus acknowledged that he is the son of God when questioned at trial. He wants to communicate clearly about who he is

*“Are you the Son of God?” He replied, “**You rightly say that I am**” (to the chief priests and teachers of the law) Luke 22 v 70*

“Are you King of the Jews? It is as you say”. (to Pilate) Luke 23 v 3

The truth is both in the person of Jesus himself and in his words. It is both head knowledge and relational knowledge.

3. In the words of God the Father

- John 17 records Jesus praying for his disciples the night before he died. As part of this prayer Jesus said to the Father, *“Sanctify them [the disciples] by the truth; **your word is truth.**”* John 17 v 17
- In a discourse with the Jewish leaders, Jesus says that **“The Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me . . . the scriptures testify about me”**. John 5 v 37-49

The word ‘testimony’ occurs frequently in the New Testament and carries a lot of weight. It means:

Testimony is a **statement or declaration of truth or fact**, usually given under oath or affirmation in a court of law or a religious context. It can be oral or written, and it is often witnessed by others who confirm its authenticity. It serves as evidence or proof of something

4. In The Old Testament.

a) The new Testament writers say this clearly:

- The Apostle Peter says *“**We have the prophetic message as something completely reliable . . . Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophets own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but **prophets though human, spoke from God** as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**”* 2 Peter 1 v 19-21
- The writer of the Hebrews says the same: *“In the past **God spoke** to our ancestors **through the prophets** at many times and in various ways* Hebrews 1 v1.
He goes on to say *“...in these last days **he has spoken to us by his Son...**”* Hebrews 1 v 2
- Paul says, *“**The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your ancestors when he said through Isaiah the prophet ...**”* Acts 28 v 25

b) Jesus declared:

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law and the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them, **but fulfil them**” Matthew 5 v 17.

c) Both Jesus and the New Testament Writers drew on Old Testament Scripture in their teaching.

- The Old Testament is referred to and quoted throughout the New Testament. There is no doubt that the first Christians understood the Old Testament to be the words of God and therefore regarded them as reliable and trustworthy.

Quick Quiz

1. How many books are there in the Old Testament? 30 39 42
2. How many O.T. books did Jesus quote from? 6 12 24
3. How many O.T. books are quoted in the New Testament? 15 23 34
4. How many O.T. quotes are there in the NT? 250 300 350

(Source: The Interactive Bible Website)

5) In the Testimony and Teaching of the Apostles

a) The apostles were eyewitnesses of all that Jesus said and did

- John says, “This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that ***his testimony is true.***” John 21 v 24.
- Peter says, “We did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but ***we were eyewitness of his majesty***”. 2 Peter 1 v 16
- In the book of Acts, Peter is quoted as saying five times, “***We are witnesses of these things***”. Peter said, “***We cannot stop speaking of what we have seen and heard***”. Acts 4 v 19.

b) The apostles taught what they had learned from Jesus

- Jesus promised the Apostles that ***the Holy Spirit would teach them ‘all things’ and remind them of everything he had said to them.*** John 14 v 27
- “***Jesus ‘opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures***”. Luke 24 v 45
- The Apostle **Paul**, although not one of the original 12 disciples, said that he **received the gospel by revelation from Jesus Christ**. Galatians 1 v 12.
- Paul met with Peter, James and John to confirm that **they were preaching the same gospel** message. Galatians 2 v 1-10
- Peter says that **Paul wrote his letters “with the wisdom God gave him”**. 2 Peter 3 v 16

6) In the Church of the Living God

*“...the church of the living God, the **pillar and foundation of the truth**”. 1 Timothy 3 v 15*

- The church is founded on the truth, continues to be built on the truth and witnesses to the truth.
- Everywhere the gospel was preached people put their trust in it – people from many different people groups, cultures and traditions – the Samaritans, the Ethiopian Eunuch, Greeks and Romans as well as Jews. And this continues to this day.
- And we too, are the church of the Living God. We too have our testimonies. Jesus said that we would be able to tell what is true and what is false by what is produced – “by their fruits you shall know them”.

Activity

Break into twos and threes. What evidence do you see in your own life or the lives of Christians you know that point to the gospel being the truth?

The Truth is found:

In Jesus himself	John 14 v 6	Ephesians 4 v 21
In Jesus' Words	Matthew 24 v 35/Mark 13 v 31/Luke 21 v 33	John 8 v 31-32,45 Ephesians 4 v 21
In the words of God the Father	John 17 v 17	
In Scripture	John 10 v 34 Acts 17 v 11	2 Tim 3 v 15-17 Hebrews 4 v 12
In the words of the Old Testament and the Prophets	Acts 28 v 25, 23 Hebrews 1 v 1-2 1 Peter 1 v 10-12	2 Peter 1 v 20-21 2 Peter 3 v 1
In the testimony and teaching of the Apostles	Luke 24 v 45 John 14 v 26-27 John 21 v 24 Acts 2 v 32, Acts 3 v 15, Acts 5 v 32, Acts 10 v 39, Acts 10 v 40 2 Corinthians 4 v 2 Galatians 1 v 11-12	Galatians 2 v 6-7 2 Thessalonians 2 v 15 2 Tim 3 v 14 Hebrews 2 v 3 2 Peter 1 v 16 2 Peter 3 v 15-16 1 John 1 v 3 1 John 4 v 6
In the Church of the Living God	1 Timothy 3 v 15	

For Further Exploration

- Watch: 'John Lennox on What is Truth? Practical Wisdom Podcast' on YouTube
- Watch: Jesus the Game Changer DVD: Video 1 on Jesus or online via Olive Tree Media
- Read: Jesus: A Short Life – The Historical Evidence by John Dickson
- Read: 'Live your Truth and other Lies' by Alisa Childers