

Name: _____

Date: _____

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TRUTH IN THE CHURCH

*“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”
(1 John 5:20)*

Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	God wants us to realize our purpose as the true church. God’s church has a special mission.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God is true and the source of all truth.
<i>Good Work</i>	Pursue, prize, protect, and preach the truth that God has revealed to us.

A. The Church Is Special to God

As God’s chosen people, we need to treasure our status and special purpose in this world (1 Pet 2:9–10). Before we knew God, we lived in darkness. But now, we are the “light of the world,” so we must live in the light and proclaim the truth of God to others (Mt 5:14, 16). We must become the “pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Tim 3:15). Hypocrisy will hinder the work of the church. Therefore, we must diligently seek out God so that our lives can serve as an active testimony of God and His truth.

B. Defining the Truth

Truth in the world around us is defined by personal feelings or perspectives. It is not absolute. It differs from person to person, and changes from day to day. But the truth of the Bible is absolute.

1. *God Is the Source of All Truth:* With God’s word, all things came into existence, including the truth itself. God is truth, and the truth that His church follows must also be from God, not man.
2. *God’s Truth Never Changes:* While the world around us is constantly changing, God is and will always be the same (Heb 13:8), and His words can never be changed (1 Pet 1:23–25).
3. *God’s Truth Is Good:* God’s truth teaches us more about Him and about how we can reflect His goodness in our lives so that we can serve as effective witnesses for Him. When we do, our church will become a pillar and ground of the truth.

C. Pursue, Protect, and Spread the Truth

Without the truth, our worship is worthless (Jn 4:24). As members of God’s chosen church, we must:

1. *Pursue and Prize the Truth (Jer 29:13; Prov 2:1–5)*
2. *Protect and Guard the Truth (Gal 1:6–12)*
3. *Spread the Truth (Acts 10:42; 2 Cor 4:3–6)*

D. Discerning the Truth

Phil 4:8–9 teaches us the things that we ought to meditate on. These are the characteristics of God’s truth. If what we hear does not have these characteristics, then we know that it is not the truth. Even knowing this, it isn’t easy to discern the truth, but when we develop our spiritual wisdom, we can fulfill our duty of discerning and revealing God’s truth to the world (2 Tim 3:15–17).

Life Application

1. Seeking Out the Truth of God’s Word
2. Witnessing the Truth in Our Lives

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Lesson 1 Homework Assignment

The Importance of the Truth in the Church

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (1 John 5:20):

1. Why is God's truth so important to our church?
2. "I write so that you may know how you ought to _____ yourself in the _____ of _____, which is the _____ of the living God, the _____ and _____ of the _____." (1 Timothy 3:15)
3. Why do unbelievers call our church hypocritical? What does hypocrisy do to the church?
4. What does it mean to "pursue and prize" God's truth?
5. Do you pick and choose parts of the Bible to follow and to ignore? Explain how.
6. How can you be a better witness to the truth in your personal life?