

NOTHING BUT THE Truth

THE CHURCH EXPERIENCE

SEVEN
TRUTHS
FOR DAILY LIVING

Tired of all the lies? Go to the source of Truth –the Word of God as expressed in the Bible and in the Person of Jesus Christ. Find out what's true about your personal identity.

Learn how to live out the truth in your daily life, your witness, your home, your worship, and your church life.





DAY ONE

WITHING OUT THE
truth

THE SOURCE OF TRUTH

“YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.”

PSALM 119:105

When you're on a road trip, even if your destination is familiar, chances are you will use a map, a GPS, or an app to help you get where you're going. Why trust those things? Why not just rely on your own understanding of the roadways?

First, you know the experts spent a lot of time combing over the geography and highway systems to provide the best, most up-to-date information. Second, you know that placing your faith in your own talent for navigation can easily lead you astray. What happens if the landmark you remember isn't there anymore? What if there's a construction detour or a terrible accident? Now the route you knew is out the window and you're late!

In life, we also have a road map for how we are to conduct ourselves. God's Word, the Bible, contains the greatest wisdom from the ultimate expert, the God who created you! It's always current, always available, and always accurate.

So even if your life takes an unexpected detour or the social and political landscape changes, the truth of Scripture stands. Read it for directions. Pastor Adrian Rogers said, "If you have a Bible that's falling apart, you'll have a life that's not."

Our world is entering a dark age in which everyone will be doing what is right in his own mind, perhaps more than ever before. Where will we find truth that we can apply to our daily lives? Keep a firm grasp on Scripture and never let go.

LIVE IT OUT

Do you have a Bible reading plan you can easily follow?

If not, take time today to set your course. Some people prefer to read the Bible in chronological order; others employ a one-year reading plan offering bite-sized daily chunks from both the Old and New Testaments. Find what works for you!



DAY TWO

STANDING BY THE
truth

THE TRUTH

ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN'S IDENTITY

“FOR YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THE SPIRIT OF BONDAGE AGAIN TO FEAR, BUT YOU RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION BY WHOM WE CRY OUT, “ABBA, FATHER.” THE SPIRIT HIMSELF BEARS WITNESS WITH OUR SPIRIT THAT WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD, AND IF CHILDREN, THEN HEIRS— HEIRS OF GOD AND JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST, IF INDEED WE SUFFER WITH HIM, THAT WE MAY ALSO BE GLORIFIED TOGETHER.”

ROMANS 8:15-17

Identity is a big talking point today. While many use skin color and/or gender to characterize their identities, Christians are to identify themselves as “children of God.” Adrian Rogers said, “The truest thing about me is what God says about me.”

How does this bedrock of our identity play itself out in the real world? For starters, no matter how many times we fail, our Heavenly Father is not going to disown us. This is important to remember as we live out the human experience. There will be days when we fail and others when we don't have all the answers, but we do have an all-loving, all-knowing, all-powerful God who will help us at every turn.

Since we know both who and whose we are, we don't have to fall for the lies of this world. If the culture is moving one way and God is moving the other, there's no question about which is the way of truth. We find the truth in God's Word. (See John 17:17.) We can boldly approach the throne of God in prayer whenever we struggle with doubt or feel susceptible to the lies of this world. Whenever we feel attacked, stressed out, or scared, we remember we are children of God and our Father has a plan for our lives. (See Jeremiah 29:11.) Not every day will be easy; God certainly hasn't promised us that. What He has promised is to be with us. (See Matthew 28:20.) With this in mind, walk through each day, live in a spirit of forgiveness, trust God, and pursue righteousness.

LIVE IT OUT

On the front of an index card, write I AM A CHILD OF GOD.

You may also wish to write a Bible reference similar to Romans 8:15-17 on the back. Now, place this card where you will see it every day—the bathroom mirror, somewhere in your car, or on your desk at work. As you face each day, you will be reminded of God's Truth and the identity you enjoy as His child.



DAY THREE

WITHING OUT THE
truth

THE TRUTH

ABOUT COUNTER-CULTURAL LIVING

“FOR GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US A SPIRIT OF FEAR, BUT OF POWER
AND OF LOVE AND OF A SOUND MIND.”

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

Do you ever feel like giving up on the world? Sometimes we come across something so evil or ungodly, it makes us want to hide from the rest of society and quietly wait for Jesus to come back and sort it all out. Most entertainment companies progressively pollute the morality of our culture, many politicians seek to divide us, and the devil is always trying to ruin the life God has given us. It's easy to give into fear instead of taking a stand for truth.

Our modern world may seem more evil than ever before, but the struggles we deal with today are not all that different from what the Early Church faced. Just as God sent out brave Christians such as Paul, Peter, Barnabas, and Priscilla and Aquila, He sends us to accomplish Kingdom work.

In his message, “A Lifestyle for the Last Days,” Pastor Adrian Rogers said, “All who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. If you're not suffering any... you're not living godly in Christ Jesus. If you are a child of God, you're living in hostile territory.”

Today in America there is a very real chance that standing up for your faith will result in more than name-calling. While we may not have to worry about violence and imprisonment just yet, we never know when the cultural tide will morph into more open oppression of God's people. What each of us needs to decide now is how important the truth really is. You may or may not experience an overwhelming amount of persecution in your life; search your soul for what your response will be if you do.

LIVE IT OUT

Standing up for God-inspired truth can be a scary proposition.

In order to understand what persecution looks like and how the Early Church responded to it, read Acts 3-4. Once you've done that, think of ways you can live for truth in the culture.



DAY FOUR

truth

THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR WITNESS

“YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. A CITY THAT IS SET ON A HILL CANNOT BE HIDDEN. NOR DO THEY LIGHT A LAMP AND PUT IT UNDER A BASKET, BUT ON A LAMPSTAND, AND IT GIVES LIGHT TO ALL WHO ARE IN THE HOUSE.”

MATTHEW 5:14-15

Have you shared with others the wonderful things God has done for you? In Mark 5, we read about a demon-possessed man healed by Jesus Christ. After being shunned by his own fearful community, he returned to his hometown and told people how God had restored him. In addition to hearing his testimony, the townsfolk could see the difference in this man who had once been possessed by a “legion” of demons.

The people we encounter every day need to see something different about us as Christians. If we are meant to live out hope, truth, and love in front of those who don't know Jesus (and we are), our lives cannot appear joyless, confused, or self-centered.

We must model the truth of Christ with kindness. 1 Peter 3:15 says, “...always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.” The NASB uses the words “gentleness and respect.” Unfortunately, some Christians try to bully others with the truth. We can be firm and respectful. Pastor Adrian Rogers said, “When you're right, you can afford to keep your temper.”

LIVE IT OUT

Let your light shine before men today by refusing to complain.

When you speak to others, let your words be the kindest, most refreshing talk they'll hear all day. If you can build better habits with your tongue, your actions are sure to follow, and you will open doors to sharing the truth with those who need to hear it.



DAY FIVE

WITHING OUT THE
truth

THE TRUTH IS REVEALED AT HOME

“AND YOU, FATHERS, DO NOT PROVOKE YOUR CHILDREN TO WRATH, BUT BRING THEM UP IN THE TRAINING AND ADMONITION OF THE LORD.”

EPHESIANS 6:4

If your family members could rate you on Amazon, how many stars would they give you? What kinds of comments would they leave? Would their words be flowing with admiration or would they say you're like a product that "looked good online, but wasn't what they thought it would be"?

One of the hardest, and most telling, places we are called to live for Christ is in the home. The Bible has a lot say about how we should treat our family members. Ephesians 5:22-33 hits the highlights by declaring that wives should submit to their husbands "as to the Lord" and that men should love their wives with a selfless, Christ-like love that mirrors the way God cares for the church. When both "halves" follow that blueprint, marriage is a beautiful "whole". As for children, they are to respect their parents as Mom and Dad lead them in the ways of the Lord.

The lie society tells us is that marriage is about our individual happiness. The truth is it's about our unified godliness. Pastor Adrian Rogers put it this way: "God made us different that He might make us one." The home is a place to give, not to take. Pastor Rogers said: "If you need love, give it. If you need encouragement, give it. Whatever you need, give it away."

If you want to get the proverbial five-star review from those around you, live out the truth of God's Word in your relationships. Humble yourself before God and care for those around you.

LIVE IT OUT

Where have you allowed lies to cause friction in your relationships?

Have you belittled your spouse? Disrespected your parents? Been harsh with your children?

Maybe there is a friend or co-worker you have lost touch with after an argument.

Take steps today to mend these relationships.



THE TRUTH ABOUT WORSHIP

“BUT THE HOUR IS COMING, AND NOW IS, WHEN THE TRUE WORSHIPERS WILL WORSHIP THE FATHER IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH; FOR THE FATHER IS SEEKING SUCH TO WORSHIP HIM.”

JOHN 4:23

One of the most deceptive lies in our culture is that worshiping God is accomplished in an hour on Sunday morning. This lie can lead us out of the church doors to live lives of idolatry the rest of the week.

Corporate worship is essential, is biblical, and has been vital to Christian living since the Early Church. Jesus affirmed corporate worship by attending temple services, following practices that had been in place since the time of Moses.

But Jesus also told the Samaritan woman in the story we read in the fourth chapter of John that we must worship with our whole lives, “in spirit and truth.” If we leave our church hour and prioritize our earning power, our belongings, our passions, or anything else above God, we are not true worshipers. Jesus transformed the thinking of the “woman at the well” so that she could leave a life of idolatry and enter a life of joyful worship.

Pastor Adrian Rogers said it like this, “True worship is all that I am responding to all that He is: my body, my soul, my spirit, responding to God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost...my mind, my emotions, my whole will, lifted to Him in praise, adoration and thanksgiving.”

True worship, Pastor Rogers said, “is man’s ultimate privilege and greatest duty, and meets man’s greatest need.” As we worship Jesus Christ in spirit and in truth, we become more like Him.

LIVE IT OUT

Read John 4:4-42 and reflect on how true worship changed the Samaritan woman’s life.

Then read Psalm 63:1-8. Meditate on the truths revealed about worship in the passage. In this Psalm, we see that a true worshiper earnestly seeks God, responds to God with praise—in his words and actions—meditates on God and His Word, and depends on God every minute of the day.



THE TRUTH

ABOUT CHURCH LIFE

“NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER, AS IS THE MANNER OF SOME, BUT EXHORTING ONE ANOTHER, AND SO MUCH THE MORE AS YOU SEE THE DAY APPROACHING.”

HEBREWS 10:25

Yesterday we looked at why the worship hour alone does not signify true worship; we must worship “in spirit and in truth” every day of the week. But make no mistake, God wants us to find a Bible-believing church and connect with the people there. He wants us involved in church worship, work, and fellowship.

Pastor Adrian Rogers advised looking for a church that majors on the “four B’s”—The Book (the inspired, infallible Word of God), The Blood (the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ), The Birth (the new birth when one becomes a believer), and The Blessed Hope (the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ). If your church, or the one you’re visiting, doesn’t stand on those pillars, Pastor Rogers said, “saturate that place with your absence.”

Perhaps you’re involved in a church that once stood on a rock-solid foundation but is falling for the lie that the true biblical message must be watered down to appeal to seekers in an anti-Christian culture. Take a stand with leadership. Point the way to Jesus Christ as the Head of your church. Insist your church adhere to biblical standards while remaining attractive and gracefully hospitable to those who do not yet know Jesus. The truth will attract those who are truly seeking God.

To live out the truth in your church, you have a responsibility to take an active role. You may not be the most knowledgeable, the most gifted speaker, or the best organizer, but there is somewhere you can be of use in your body of believers. Too many churches are bogged down by members who show up to take in a sermon but are conspicuously absent when work must be done. What blessings could your church community—and the community your church serves—be missing out on because of your absence?

LIVE IT OUT

The local church is always looking for a few good men and women who love the Lord and want to make a difference.

Look for ways you can serve, whether it’s visiting the elderly, driving the church bus, teaching Sunday School, or mentoring young people. We all have a part to play in the kingdom of God.