

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Treasuring Truth

SERMON REFERENCE: Proverbs 23:23

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2095

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The casualty of present-day America is fallen truth.
 - i) We have sacrificed truth on the altar of pragmatism.
 - (1) We no longer ask, "Is it true?"
 - (2) We now ask, "Does it work?"
 - ii) We have lost the idea that there is such a thing as fixed truth.
- b) Truth goes beyond facts.
 - i) Facts in and of themselves may be true, but there is a difference in acquiring facts and learning truth.
 - (1) We are drowning in facts.
 - (a) The Bible says that knowledge in the last days will increase.
 - (i) Daniel 12:4
 - (2) The Bible speaks of those who are ever learning but not coming to the knowledge of truth.
 - (a) 2 Timothy 3:7
 - ii) America today needs truth.
 - (1) Where does mere intellectual knowledge take us?
 - (a) We are seeing more suicides, more broken homes, more drug abuse, more illness and more heartache today than ever before; yet, we have facts.
 - iii) Facts are like a recipe; truth is the meal.
 - c) Proverbs 23:23
 - d) Satan is the sinister minister of evil and the master of camouflage and deception.
 - i) His method is to deceive; His method is the lie.
 - (1) John 8:44
 - (a) Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees in this passage.
 - (2) Satan is the master liar.
 - (3) There is no truth in Satan, and he has corrupted our world.
 - (a) He ruined God's creation through a lie.
 - (i) Genesis 3:1-5
 - ii) Jesus said that Satan's motive is murder.
 - (1) John 8:44
 - (2) Satan wants to bring death to youth, happiness, joy and purity.
 - (3) Satan wants to bring spiritual death, physical death and eternal death.
 - e) There are three specific things we learn about truth from Proverbs 23:23.

2) WE MUST PRIZE THE TRUTH (PROVERBS 23:23)

- a) We must value truth in our own hearts.
- b) Truth is indispensable.
 - i) The Lord Jesus said that the Bible is truth.
 - (1) It is called the Word of truth.
 - (a) 2 Timothy 2:15
 - ii) The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of truth.

- (1) John 16:13
 - iii) The Lord Jesus said that He is the truth.
 - (1) John 14:6
 - iv) The church is called the pillar and the ground of truth.
 - (1) 1 Timothy 3:15
 - v) The Apostle John said that he had no greater joy than to know that his children walk in truth.
 - (1) 3 John 1:4
 - c) Truth is absolute.
 - i) We have lost our absolutes today.
 - (1) We are told that we must be tolerant.
 - (a) Yet, in medicine, we're not told that we need to be tolerant.
 - (b) In mathematics and physics, we're not told that we need to be tolerant.
 - (2) When it comes to the greatest truth of all, which is spiritual truth, we're told that we need to be tolerant and that there are no fixed absolutes in the world.
 - d) Truth is attainable.
 - i) We can know the truth.
 - ii) The Bible is the precepts of truth.
 - (1) John 17:17
 - iii) Jesus Christ is the person of truth.
 - (1) John 14:6
 - iv) The Holy Spirit is the power of truth.
 - (1) John 16:13
 - e) If we have the precepts of truth and understand the person of truth but don't have the power of truth, then truth without power is deadening and depressing.
 - i) This is what the Bible calls the letter of the law rather than the spirit of the law.
 - ii) Knowledge without transformation avails nothing.
 - (1) It only increases your judgment.
 - (a) If we hear the truth but don't allow the Holy Spirit (who is the power of truth) to transform us from information to transformation, then our judgment will be all the greater.
 - (b) 2 Peter 2:21
 - (2) One day, we will give account for all the truth we have heard.
 - (a) It would have been better to have not heard the truth than to hear it and refuse to live by it.
- 3) WE MUST PURCHASE THE TRUTH (PROVERBS 23:23)
- a) We get the truth through wisdom, instruction and understanding.
 - b) The search for truth is costly.
 - i) There's a price to pay if you would have truth.

- c) John 8:31-32
 - i) The word “disciples” means “learners.”
 - ii) Truth alone will not make us free.
 - (1) No matter how much truth we’re surrounded by, if we do not know the truth, learn the truth or understand the truth, then that truth avails us nothing.
 - iii) Jesus is speaking in this passage to those who believe.
 - (1) We must believe.
 - iv) After we believe, then we must continue in the Word.
 - (1) In order to continue in the Word, we must be a disciple, a learner.
 - v) When we are a learner, then we will know the truth.
 - (1) And then the truth makes us free.
- d) What keeps us going in our Christian lives is not what we feel but what we know.
 - i) It is truth that delivers us from ignorance and the bondage of sin.
- e) Discipleship is costly, but ignorance is far more costly.
- f) What will it cost to know truth?
 - i) It’s going to cost you time.
 - (1) Time is precious; however, ignorance is more costly than time.
 - (2) Hurry is the death knell of prayer, study and meditation.
 - (3) Most people do not pay the price to purchase truth.
 - ii) It will cost you discipline.
 - (1) Proverbs 23:23
 - (a) The word “instruction” may be translated “discipline.”
 - (i) Instruction means “self-discipline.”
 - (2) We can pray for wisdom, but we have to study for instruction.
 - (3) Very few Christians are serious Bible students.
 - (a) It is no wonder that we are so easily led astray.
 - (4) We never get beyond the place where we need to study.
 - (5) 2 Timothy 4:13
 - (a) The Apostle Paul was in prison when he wrote this.
 - (i) It was his second imprisonment.
 - (ii) It was perhaps the last letter he would ever write.
 - (b) He wanted something to protect his body.
 - (i) We should never get so spiritual that we neglect our bodies.
 - (ii) God knows that we have physical needs.
 - (c) Most scholars believe that the parchments here were the Old Testament Scriptures that Paul had.
 - (i) Paul was at the end of his life, and he was still a student.
 - 1. He was proficient in many languages.
 - 2. He wrote most of the New Testament.
 - 3. He had seen the Lord face to face.
 - 4. He had been to Heaven and back in a vision.
 - 5. He still wanted to read and study.

- (6) There are at least four reasons why we should read:
- (a) For enlightenment
 - (i) We need to get hold of truth.
 - 1. Truth is to our spirit what food is to our body.
 - 2. Truth is to our spirit what light is to our eyes.
 - (ii) Don't read merely to get facts; read to get truth.
 - (iii) To know truth is to know God.
 - 1. To know truth is to know Jesus.
 - 2. Jesus is truth.
 - (iv) All truth is God's truth.
 - 1. The devil doesn't have any truth.
 - a. He is the source of deception.
 - (v) We need to read widely, in addition to the Bible, as the Apostle Paul did.
 - 1. Paul was a very literate man.
 - a. He quoted the Greek poets and philosophers.
 - i. Acts 17:28
 - (vi) The Bible gives us a lens, a radar, by which we trust and test all other truth.
 - 1. All real truth intersects.
 - 2. When we learn the truth, then we will see how it relates to all other truths and how it comes together.
 - (vii) We are to be a channel of truth.
 - 1. If we read and grow in knowledge but not in grace, then we will make ourselves obnoxious.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 8:1
 - (b) For enjoyment
 - (i) Reading is exciting.
 - 1. We can meet people in books whom we've always wanted to meet.
 - 2. We can visit periods of history.
 - 3. We can visit faraway places in books.
 - 4. We can read books that grapple with the great issues of life, death and eternity.
 - a. There are no problems that are new.
 - i. Ecclesiastes 1:9
 - (ii) When we read, we can learn great truths including theology, which is the greatest truth of all.
 - 1. Theology is called the Queen of the Sciences.
 - (c) For enrichment
 - (i) Ignorance will cost you a lot more than books.
 - (ii) Your children can inherit your books and enjoy your knowledge.
 - (iii) Build character in your home by putting truth into your children.

1. There needs to be devotional truth for the heart.
 2. There needs to be doctrinal truth for the mind.
 3. There needs to be practical truth for the will.
 - a. Children need to learn about missions, prayer, soul winning, home building, and other disciplines.
- (iv) Are you growing in knowledge and in truth?
1. Are you excited about truth?
 - a. What new truths are you learning?
 2. Are you experiencing freedom in your life?
 - a. John 8:32
 - b. Are you still in bondage to political correctness, prejudice, lies, the party line, pressures and fears?
 3. Are you learning humility?
 - a. A person who is learning truth doesn't tell you how much he knows, but how little he knows and how much he has yet to learn.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 8:1
 4. Are you learning balance?
 - a. God helps us to have balance.
 - i. Not all worship and no evangelism.
 - ii. Not all evangelism and no worship.
 - iii. Not all prophecy and no devotion.
 - iv. Not all program and no meditation.
- (d) For enablement
- (i) To allow us to do what we need to do.
 1. We could not do what we need to do if we remain static and do not grow.
 - (ii) In order to do our jobs better, we need to upgrade our skills.
 - (iii) Reading alone will not help us improve.
 1. We need to apply what we read.
 - (iv) Do not become a book recluse.
 1. Readers are leaders, and leaders are readers.
- iii) It will cost you obedience.
- (1) If you are simply a gatherer of facts and a notetaker but do not obey what you hear, then you are living dangerously.
 - (2) Truth is transformational.
 - (3) Romans 12:1-2
 - (a) As your mind feeds on truth, your mind is renewed.
 - (4) If you learn truth but don't act on it, you do yourself danger.
 - (a) Impression without expression leads to depression.
 - (5) James 1:22
 - (a) A person who hears the truth and does not act upon it is self-deceived.

- (i) Someone who goes to church and raves about the choir and the sermon but does not put it into practice is self-deceived.
- (6) Matthew 7:26
 - (a) Jesus said that a person who hears His words but doesn't obey them is a foolish person.
- g) Proverbs 23:23
 - i) Buy the truth, and don't sell it.
- 4) WE MUST PRESERVE THE TRUTH (PROVERBS 23:23)
 - a) Proverbs 23:23
 - i) There is nothing so valuable that we should exchange truth for it.
 - b) Titus 1:9
 - c) Philippians 1:27
 - d) Jude 1:3
 - e) We're in a battle for truth.
 - i) There is an open war today on the Word of God.
 - (1) There are those who deny the truth.
 - (2) There are those who distort the truth.
 - (a) There are those who claim to get extra-biblical revelations and visions.
 - (i) This is a dangerous thing because soon these extra-biblical revelations become anti-biblical revelation, and people are led away from the Word of God.
 - (3) There are those who dilute the truth.
 - (a) They mix the truth with error to try to accommodate what they believe.
 - (i) For example, there are those who try to accommodate themselves to evolution because they believe that's scientific truth, and yet, they say that they believe the Bible.
 - 1. So, they say that they believe evolution is God's way of doing it.
 - 2. In truth, however, you cannot have both because they are antithetical.
 - (ii) They try to fit things together that do not fit.
 - (4) There are those who defile the truth.
 - (a) They preach what is true, but they do not live what they preach.
 - (i) They make merchandise of the Word of God.
 - (b) 2 Corinthians 2:17
 - 5) CONCLUSION
 - a) Proverbs 23:23
 - i) "Buy the truth and sell it not."

- b) When the child of God looks into the Word of God and sees the Son of God and is changed by the Spirit of God into the image of God for the glory of God, then he has found the truth of God, as he's been set free.
- c) Jesus is the person of truth.
- d) The Bible is the proclamation of truth.
- e) The Holy Spirit is the power of truth.
- f) The Lord Jesus Christ loves you so much that He died for you as if you had been the only one who ever needed it.
 - i) He took your sins to the cross and paid your sin debt.
 - (1) What must you do?
 - (a) You must believe it.
 - (b) You must receive it.
 - (c) You must confess it.
- g) Confess Jesus Christ as Lord.
- h) Pray to Him now, asking Him to come into your life.
- i) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16