

Telling the Truth

Week 2 - Telling the Truth...Everyday

May 28, 2006

Am I living an honest life?? ***This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*** 2 Corinthians chapter 5 verse 17 (884)

- New person - literally, something new has been created that is very different from what existed previously
- Old life is gone - forever done away with, not because of what I did, but because of the creative act brought about by God
- New life has begun - all things are new: my affections, my motives, my thoughts, my hopes, my ideas, my whole life!

So how come that doesn't describe me??

- ***How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. Psalm 119 verse 9 (468)***
- ***I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.***
Psalm 119 verse 11 (468)
- ***I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word. Psalm 119 verse 16 (468)***
- ***Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through your word.***
Psalm 119 verse 37 (469)
- ***Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119 verse 105 (470)***
- ***Guide my steps by your word, so I will not be overcome by evil. Psalm 119 verse 133 (471)***

I am at peace with God! ***Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege...***

Romans chapter 5 verses 1 & 2 (860)

- Am I comfortable to be in the presence of God?
- Do I desire to be in God's presence?
- Am I at ease in God's presence?

God does not condemn me! ***So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.*** Romans chapter 8 verse 1 (862)

- When I feel condemnation, is it from me or others? Because it isn't from God.
- God convicts me - brings me to repentance
- God never condemns me - to make me feel worthless

This world is not my home! ***We are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives.***

Philippians chapter 3 verse 20 (901)

- Since heaven is my home, shouldn't I be investing more of myself, my effort, my talents & my money there?
- Since heaven is my home, why then am I trying to find lasting pleasure / meaning / purpose here on earth?

I do not pursue worldly desires! ***I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls.*** 1 Peter chapter 2 verse 11 (935)

- When others see my life and what I live for, what I value, what I'm passionate about...do they think I am a resident of earth or heaven?

My attitude is like Christ's attitude! Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others too. You must have the attitude that Christ Jesus had.

Philippians chapter 2 verses 3-5 (900)

- Would others describe me as selfish or selfless?
- Would others describe me as someone who lives life to impress others or to impress God?
- Would others describe me as proud or humble?
- Would others describe me as someone who is genuinely more interested in me or others?

The power of sin has been broken in my life! We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. Romans chapter 6 verses 6 & 7 (861)

- Does sin still rule ANY area of my life?
- Am I living a powerless life in dealing with an addiction or a habitual sin struggle?
- Am I excusing my ongoing sinful behavior?

When I sin, I run boldly to God! This High Priest of ours (Jesus) understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy (compassion), and we will find grace (favor) to help us when we need it most. Hebrews chapter 4 verses 15 & 16 (922)

- When I sin, do I run to God or from God?
- Why do I run from God if compassion & favor await me when I run to God?

I do not live in fear! God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. 2 Timothy chapter 1 verse 7 (914)

- The fear in my life is never from God
- I do not operate out of fear...fear does not determine what I do or what I don't do
- God has given me miraculous power (*dunamis*) and self control

I live by faith NOT sight! My righteous ones will live by faith. Hebrews chapter 10 verse 38 (926)

- Living by sight means that I am in control...I seek to control my life, the people around me, the circumstances that concern me
- Living by faith means that God is in control, I relinquish control of my life to him, follow his lead, step out when he tells me to, I trust him to do what is best
- The life of faith is absolutely opposite to the life of sight

I can live this kind of life! I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength.

Philippians chapter 4 verse 13 (901)

- I really can!
- I need to stop making excuses!
- I need to start living the life God asks of me!

Next Week: Telling the Truth...to God

This study is based on the series "28 Days of Telling the Truth" first taught at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Ill. Bill Hybels is the Sr. Pastor of this dynamic church that God is using to challenge tens-of-thousands of churches around the world, including Bethel. You can visit Willow Creek at www.WillowCreek.org