

The “5 Truths” of the Gospel

Truth #1: Already Forgiven – all of your sins were forgiven on the Cross of Christ, except the sin of unbelief. Mark 3:28; Romans 5:10a; John 16:8-9

Truth #2: Made Clean – when you trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God takes out your old sinful spirit (heart) and gives you a brand, new clean heart. Romans 6:6; Romans 6:17-18; John 3:3,7

Truth #3: Made Righteous – as a Christian, you are now righteous in your spirit because Jesus, in the form of the Holy Spirit, lives in you. 2 Peter 1:4

Truth #4: In Union – you are “in Christ” because Jesus joins as one with you in your spirit. John 14:20; 1 Corinthians 6:17; Colossians 1:27

Truth #5: By Faith – you are righteous on the inside but your body is still dead to sin. Follow by faith the inner life of Christ so that you can live a righteous life. Romans 8:10; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:3b

The “5 Keys” to Understanding the New Testament

Key #1: Teaching of the Holy Spirit - only the Holy Spirit can make the Bible come alive since your human mind is incapable of understanding God's spiritual truths. 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Key #2: Proper Context - the New Testament must be understood in its proper Jewish context. Otherwise, the message gets misinterpreted and is dramatically changed. Romans 9:4; John 4:22b

Key #3: Spiritual Beings - all people have an inner spirit and an outer mortal body. Christians have a “born again” spirit that is righteous, but they still live in their not-yet-redeemed mortal bodies. 2 Corinthians 4:16, 5:1-6; Ephesians 4:24

Key #4: Jesus Emptied Himself - Jesus lived by the power of the Holy Spirit that He received at His baptism. Jesus lived by faith and not by His own power. Therefore, He is your model for a life of faith. John 14:10b; Matthew 12:28; Matthew 12:18

Key #5: Hebrew Law - God gave the Law only to the Jews; the Gentiles have never been under the Law. Romans 2:14; Hebrews 7:18, 28; Hebrews 8:13

2 Peter 1:20-21 But know this first of all, that **no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,** [21] for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, **but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.**



John 14:26 But the Helper, **the Holy Spirit,** whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things,** and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.



Colossians 2:2b-3 ... that is, **Christ Himself, [3] in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**

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True Tracts

How to Understand the Bible

For centuries, people have attempted to interpret the Bible by the power of their own human reasoning. This has led to a number of errors which have been passed down through the generations and are now part of what might be called “traditional teaching” or the “wisdom of men.” Only by the illuminating revelation of the Holy Spirit can you understand the Bible, especially the New Testament. Whether you are reading the Bible, listening to a sermon or reading a book, you can truly understand the truth only as the Holy Spirit teaches you.



Colossians 1:9b-10a ... that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, [10] **so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord ...**

Teaching of the Holy Spirit

Scripture declares that all spiritual truth is understood only by the illuminating revelation of the Holy Spirit since the human mind is incapable of comprehending God's unfathomable truths.

John 16:13a But when He, **the Spirit of truth**, comes, **He will guide you into all the truth**;

Throughout Church history, scholars and others have attempted to interpret the Bible from the perspective of their own human understanding. This has led to the many errors in doctrine, ones that have been taught for centuries. These are the traditional "wisdom of men" doctrines which offer just enough truth to hide their error. Tradition, which evolved into denominationalism, takes the power out of the Word of God and the intimacy of your relationship with Jesus Christ.

The battlefield for spiritual maturity is in the mind. God's truth is the transforming agent of change that allows you to trust God and hear His spiritual voice - it "grows" you as a Christian. The Holy Spirit will teach you His truth. Therefore, the road to the abundant life of Jesus Christ is God's pure, unfiltered and untainted Word as found in the Bible. But, the barriers to understanding the truth are the unbiblical "wisdom of men" traditional teachings that have been so common in church history.

1 Corinthians 2:10a, 12-13 For to us **God revealed them through the Spirit**; ... [12] **Now we have received ... the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God**, [13] which things we also speak, **not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit**, ...

Believing the Lies

Consider this example: have you ever said, "I'm just a sinner saved by grace?" If you believe this, you believe a lie. You *were* a sinner and you *were* saved by grace, but if you think you are still a "sinner," you have missed the significance of the Cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this example, there are at least two lies: [1] the Church generally rejects the Biblical truth that you, as a believer, are redeemed and fully righteous in your born again spirit, while still living in a not-yet-redeemed mortal body that can still sin.

Romans 8:10 If Christ is in you, though **the body is dead because of sin**, yet **the spirit is alive because of righteousness**.

And, [2] tradition teaches that you are only credited with Christ's righteousness, but you are not really righteous yourself. The Bible teaches that you are literally righteous in your born again spirit because you have a new heart indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 5:17b ... much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of **the gift of righteousness** will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17b Do you not know that **you are a temple of God**, and that **the Spirit of God dwells in you**? [17] ... **for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are**.

Most denominational teaching discounts these truths by saying that you have received "imputed" righteousness. In truth, your righteousness is not imputed, or credited, it is real. But, if you believe this error born from tradition, believe the very things that keep you from understanding the finished work of the Cross and the power of Christ living in your new, righteous spirit.

How to Understand the Bible

See the inside front panel for 5 keys to understanding the New Testament. All five are critical in order to be taught by the Holy Spirit and to understand the letters of the Apostles in their proper, primarily Jewish, context.

There are some additional points to keep in mind as you read the New Testament:

1. There is no separation made by God between the religion of the Jews and the religion of the Gentiles. Only human tradition has separated them; this has led to a distorted Gentile perspective in interpreting the New Testament and has been a major cause of traditional teaching errors.
2. Jesus was born under Law, lived under Law and taught the Law to the Jews. Part of what made grace possible was that Jesus fulfilled the Law by His sinless life. If you take the teachings of Jesus out of their Law context, you will misinterpret much of what He said.
3. Mixing the teachings of Old Covenant Law and New Covenant grace will lead to error. Many of the errors today, related to finances and physical blessings, are rooted in mixing Law and grace; Law is self-effort while grace is the power of the Holy Spirit.
4. Mixing the eternal and the temporal will also lead to error. Those who are involved in the culture wars do not understand this truth; spiritual forces are the enemy, **not** other people.

As with any aspect of a Christian's life, trust by faith that the Holy Spirit will teach you His truth; it is the only way to understand the Bible.