

Living Christian Truth in a Doubting World

West Side Christian Church Next Steps Summer Study

Series Webpage: www.RichKnopp.com/living-christian-truth

Part 2

The Biblical Emphasis on Truth and Its Defense

June 24, 2025

Dr. Richard A. Knopp

Executive Director, Room For Doubt (www.roomfordoubt.com)

Website: www.richknopp.com

Email: Rich@RoomForDoubt.com

I. Introduction

A. "Truth": What comes to mind? (Isaiah 59:14-15; Jeremiah 7:28)

B. Perceptions of truth.

II. The Biblical Emphasis on Truth

A. Overview on truth

1. "True" or "truth" appear 260 times in the Bible.
2. Psalm 119:142
3. John 17:17
4. 2 Corinthians 4:2
5. Ephesians 6:14
6. 2 Timothy 2:15

B. The CORE of Christian truth in a FISH (*ichthus*).

C. The CORE of Christian truth in Scripture.

1. God wants all to be saved and have a knowledge of the TRUTH (1 Tim. 2:4-5).
2. God's eternal Word became FLESH (John 1:1,14).
3. Out of love, God gave his only begotten SON (John 3:16; 1 John 5:20).
4. God's Son was CRUCIFIED for our sins, BURIED, and RAISED (1 Cor. 15:3-5; Luke 24:34).

5. Jesus is the promised CHRIST (Messiah), the Son of God (Matt. 16:15-16; John 14:26-27; Acts 2:31-36).

III. The Importance of Defending Christian Truth

- A. **Ephesians 6:13-17** "... Put on the full ARMOR of God"
- B. **1 Peter 3:15** "Always being prepared to make a DEFENSE" (ESV) (Cf. Acts 22:1; 24:10; 26:12; Phil 1:7,16).
1. *Apologia*: *apo* (from) + *logia* (logic/reason) > "Apologetics"
 2. Paul's "reasoning" with the Jews and the Romans (Acts 17:2-3,17; 18:4,19; 19:8-9; 24:10).
 3. Paul's main point to Festus, a Roman ruler: "I am not insane What I am saying is TRUE and REASONABLE" (Acts 26:25 NIV).
- C. **Colossians 2:8** "Don't be taken CAPTIVE through hollow and deceptive philosophy."
- D. **2 Corinthians 10:5** "We DESTROY arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God."

IV. Instruction & Encouragement

- A. Be SENSITIVE (1 Pet. 3:15b; 2 Tim. 2:24-25; Jude 1:22).
- B. Be INQUISITIVE (Mark 11:27-33).
- C. Be EXPRESSIVE (John 9:18-25).

NOTE: The recommended reading for Week 3 (July 1) is chapter 2, "Challenges to Knowing Truth About God," in *Truth About God: What Can We Know and How Can We Know It?* pp. 31-37. For devotional times, read and meditate on the Scriptures in this outline.

Reflection and Discussion

The Biblical Emphasis on Truth and Its Defense

Note: You may not have time to discuss all of these questions, so feel free to select ones that seem most significant or relevant for your group.

1. This lesson offered some perceptions of truth by Isaiah and Jeremiah and in American culture. What is *your* perception of *truth* in our culture? Where is truth threatened or compromised? Where, if anywhere, do you see truth standing strong?
2. What did you learn or learn more about in this lesson? What Scripture(s) seem most impactful on you? Why?
3. This lesson covered five basic statements that are part of the CORE of Christian truth. Which one of these seems most spiritually significant or relevant to you *personally*? Why? Would you add any other beliefs that should be part of the core of Christian belief? If so, what?
4. 1 Peter 3:15 says we should always be prepared to “make a defense” or give a reasoned answer (*apologia*) for the hope we have as Christians. Currently, how well do you think you can do that? In what areas or topics do you believe you need more help in being better prepared?
5. The lesson concluded with three points for instruction and encouragement. What were these? Which one is the most relevant or the most encouraging to you? Why?
6. What questions or other comments do you have about this lesson?