



Perhaps one of the most important aspect of the Christian life has to do with speaking the truth as clearly taught in the Word of God.

The reason Paul in 2Tim 2:15 said, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Here's what Jesus said to those Jews who professed to believe in Him in John 8:31-32: "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

What could we say is the most central truth of the gospel?

John 14:6: "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Obviously, Jesus is the door to salvation, which must become the central focus of our beliefs if we call ourselves Christians.

As such, the apostle in 1John 5:20 said, "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life."

The reason Psalm 145:18 states, "The LORD *is* near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth."

How close is the Lord to our hearts right now?

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If our Christian life is to be grounded in truth, it goes without saying that the only truth we have is the Word of God.

How can we expect the Word of God to influence our lives so we live to follow Christ?

Ps 119:105: "Your Word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

2Tim 3:16-17: "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Heb 4:12: "For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

How should this affect our attitudes?

Rom 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Why?

Mat 4:4: "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Pro 30:5: "Every Word of God *is* pure; He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him."

Let's heed the warning of James 1:22: "But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

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Our world is replete with deceiving preachers and deceived believers, whose focus is to seek after the flesh, material prosperity, and an easy life. The Word of God on the other hand calls us to live humbly and submit our hearts to God's will, so as to live to the glory of God and Christ.

What does the Bible tell us about motives of the heart?

Pro 21:2: "Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts."

Philip. 2:3: "*Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."

Pro 20:27: "The spirit of a man *is* the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart."

Jer. 17:10: "I, the LORD, search the heart, *I* test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings."

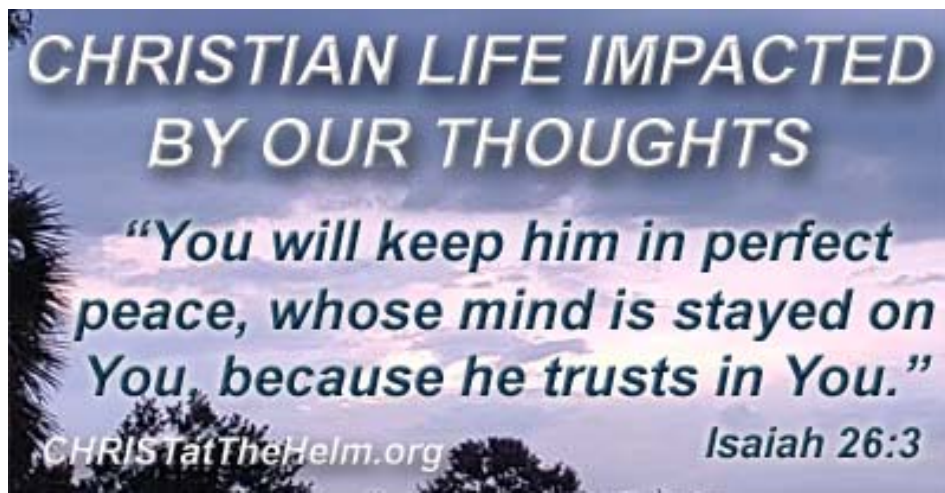
What did Jesus say about this?

Mat 6:1: "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven."

In all truth, what really matters to God is the sincerity of our motives when it comes to living our faith to serve God through Christ.

Therefore, will we ask God, as Psalm 26:2 says, "Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart"?

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How we direct our thoughts defines us in our actions and true intentions of the heart.

That's why Jesus said in Mat 5:28, "I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Clearly, our thoughts mirror where our hearts dwell, and proves whether we follow Christ or surrender to the world's lusts.

Jesus clarified further in Mark 7:20-23: "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

What should we then do?

Pro 4:23: "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

Philip 4:8: "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

Col 3:1: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God."

Are our thoughts directed towards God and Christ, or is the world the passion of our hearts?

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While we are saved by faith and not works, if our actions contradict the Word of God, we may claim to be Christians, but in all truth, God sees and knows best.

Why?

James 2:14: "What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?"

James 2:17: "Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

What does God expect from true believers?

Eph 2:10: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

1Peter 2:21: "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps."

Rom 12:1: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

1Peter 2:9: "But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

How should we then live?

Col 3:17: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Does our life support our confession of faith in Christ?

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Is our life an open testimony to our faith in Christ? Do our neighbors know our beliefs in Christ as Savior and Lord? Is our work environment aware of our faith?

Jesus clearly told us in Mat 5:16: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

1John 5:10 declares, "He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself."

As well, Philippians 1:27 add, "Let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ."

Obviously, the light of Christ must shine through our life. And in line with the teachings of Jesus, we can conclude that our entire life should paint a picture of who we are in Christ to the world around us.

Here's what Jesus also said on this:

Luke 8:16: "No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts *it* under a bed, but sets *it* on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light."

Luke 12:8: "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God."

Can we confess as Rom 1:16 says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes"?

As well, are we His witnesses to our world, or are we afraid or ashamed to share Christ with people?

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