



# Church of Christ

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## Heart to Heart...

As Jesus stood before Pilate, He explains His purpose: **“For this reason I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”** (John 18:37) Jesus gave man the truth. Not a truth, not a mixture of the truth with other things, but *the truth*. Those who follow *the truth* listen to God and Him alone.

**“There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”** (Proverbs 14:12) People can look at situations or ideas and think they are right. Upon what they determine, it looks like and seems like the truth in their mind. The end result can be death! *The truth* cannot be established upon what “seems right” to an individual. Jesus came to testify to *the truth*, which means it is available only one way. Other directions and ideas will lead one into death in the end.

How does one find *the truth*? You **must** look to the right source. People say they find God in creation or they feel closer to God in nature. Nature does not tell us who God is nor can it direct us in our lives. It reveals the power of God and His invisible attributes, but it can't bring you closer to God. Jesus said in His prayer before His death, **“Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.”** (John 17:17) *The truth* is the only way to be set apart (sanctified) for God and can only be found in His word. The only way one can draw closer to God is through Jesus. (Heb. 7:25) If one will take an honest and careful study of God's holy word, you will find *the truth*, which will move one away from doing what “seems right” in their own eyes.

To find *the truth*, you must **desire** it. Your heart has to be set on wanting it on God's terms. When Paul went to Berea to preach, the Bereans *“...received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.”* (Acts 17:11) They didn't just accept what Paul said, but they desired to know *the truth* in light of what the Scriptures said. How many of us just accept what someone tells us without investigating it from God's holy word?

To find *the truth*, you must **love** it. Paul warned the Thessalonians that those who perish would do so because *“they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.”* (II Thes. 2:10) One has to love *the truth* in order to not perish. In a recent discussion with an individual, they were about to make a statement, but asked me to show them from God's word if their thinking was proper. They wanted to know the truth and had a love for it, as they weren't afraid to change if they are wrong!

Finally, we must **live** *the truth*. Jesus said not everyone who calls Him Lord will make it but only *“those who do the will of the Father.”* (Matt. 7:21-23) We must concern ourselves with God's will, and not follow our own selfish desires, thoughts and will. We must live our lives in accordance with *the truth* of God's will. The easiest thing to do is follow our own thinking and feelings, but the end result will be death. Are you of *the truth*? How closely do you listen to the voice of Jesus? Think about it!!!

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