

Message Three

**Being Absolute for the Faith of the Truth
and for the Functions of the Truth**

Scripture Reading: 2 Thes. 2:13; John 8:32; 17:17

I. We should be absolute for the faith of the truth—2 Thes. 2:13:

- A. We need a proper understanding of the expression *the faith of the truth*—v. 13:
 - 1. Faith is the reaction, the substantiation, of the unseen scenery (the truth).
 - 2. The scenery (truth) and the seeing (faith) are objective to the camera (us).
 - 3. When the light (the Spirit) brings the scenery to the film (our spirit), both the seeing and the scenery become subjective to us—2 Cor. 4:6.
 - 4. When the light brings the scenery to the film, there is a click within the camera, and this “click” within us which brings the scenery of the truth into our spirit is faith; this is the faith of the truth.
- B. We are lacking in the vision that comes from the faith of the truth—Acts 26:19:
 - 1. All the problems come from the shortage of a clear and adequate vision—Prov. 29:18a.
 - 2. The Bible may be in our hand, but it may also be veiled to us in the same way as it was veiled to many of the Jews when they read the Old Testament—2 Cor. 3:15.
- C. We need to be delivered from skating on the surface of the divine truth and cooperate with the Lord by laboring together with Him to dive into the depths of the truth of His marvelous New Testament economy—Eph. 3:9.
- D. We should have not only the objective knowledge of the truth but also the faith of the truth—the reaction to the truth we have come to know objectively.

II. We should be absolute for the functions of the truth—John 8:32; 17:17:

- A. The truth sets us free—8:32:
 - 1. To be deprived of the truth is to be in bondage, in slavery, but to know the truth is to be freed.
 - 2. The more truth we have, the more we are released from bondage.
- B. The truth sanctifies us, causing us to be saturated with the element of God; in particular, the truth sanctifies us for oneness—17:17:
 - 1. The truth sanctifies, and sanctification issues in oneness—vv. 21-22.
 - 2. The truth that sanctifies us for oneness involves the Lord Jesus, the Spirit of reality, and the word of the Father—14:6, 17; 15:26; 17:17.
 - 3. When the word mingled with the essence of the Triune God is imparted into us as the truth, this truth sanctifies us—v. 17:
 - a. As the word is mingled with the living Spirit in our spirit, we are sanctified with the essence of God.
 - b. We become one with God because His essence is being wrought into us; this is what it means to be sanctified by the word of the truth for the genuine oneness—v. 21.