

Using Your Compass of Truth
Martinwood Christian Church

Using Your Compass of Truth
Reach One – Teach One

Good morning. It's great to be here with everyone in fellowship with Christ and the Holy Spirit. We have an incredible year ahead of us. The best feeling for me is I have no idea what's ahead; but I do have confidence the Lord will make our paths straight and if we're really in tune with Him, He'll turn those paths to gold for us to walk upon.

With what I read in the Scriptures, I believe God does not ask us to stand next to Him, He wants us to stand with (in) Him. You cannot do that physically, that's impossible. So what is He asking us to do? He's asking us to stand with Him in Spirit. Whew! That may seem to be a huge task, but not for those who seek first His Kingdom.

Last week we talked about finding something in our spirit to change this year. We don't have a lot of time. We're already down to 357 days. I don't know about you, but it takes me a while to figure out what I want to change.

But first I have to figure out where I am. It's like being a ship. You know where you want to go, but if you don't know where you are, you won't know how to get there. This journey should be done in Truth. Not truth in me, a friend or your spouse, but what's truth to you; truth between you and God.

But you first have to know where "there" is. Where do you want to be? Where do you see yourself in say five, 10 or 20 years? Where do you see yourself one year from now? Where are you now and how do you get from here to there?

What's your vehicle to get you there? A Maserati, a Cadillac, a VW? What do you see? What is your vision? What is guiding your vision? Was your vision created by the Truth you know as the Bible? You first have to have a vision to "see" where you're going because the Bible says people without a vision, perish.

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Proverbs 29:18

Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he.

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Once you get your vision and you're not sure where the vision came from, you have to test that vision. Is your vision based upon the Truth? Is it based upon wholesome ideas and principles. What is **your** truth, or do you gauge your vision upon THE Truth?

Do you know where the Truth is found? Right in front of you. Do you believe this is the Truth? Yes or No?

You have to believe this is the Truth to go so far as to embellish it, if you want God's full blessing upon you. He was so adamant about you knowing the Truth that He wrote this Truth on your heart.

Hebrews 8:10

For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Jeremiah 31:33

But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

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To Reach One and Teach One, we not only have to know the Truth, but we have to live the Truth. So what is the Truth?

A July 2022 Gallup poll reported, "A record low 20 percent of Americans say the Bible is the literal word of God, down from 24 percent the when the question was asked in 2017, and half of what it was in 1980 and 1984."

According to the Christian Standard "the view of the Bible as Truth is corroding at an alarming pace, even in those involved in churches."

They went on to say ““My truth” is a popular phrase today. It simply is a way of saying, “I am going to do what is right in my own eyes.” Biblical truth is commonly exchanged for a flexible fantasy of ever-changing truth that is dependent on changing circumstances and emotions. Our definition of *truth* becomes the intellectual, moral, and spiritual scaffolding that shapes our ethics and daily actions. Our version of *truth* shapes us daily and eternally.”

At the end of Jesus’ public trial, Pilate tried to confirm Jesus committed the crime of political insurrection against the Roman state.

John 18:37

Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

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Are you listening? Are you listening to what Jesus is saying/has said to us? The primary word for Truth is found 127 times in the Old Testament; *emet*. *Emet* means a body of truth that shapes the practice of daily living.

It can also be considered faithfulness, fidelity, integrity, sincerity, authenticity, and honesty. *Emet* is a lived body of beliefs, not a simple list of knowledgeable points.

What a person believes can easily be seen in how they live, rather than what they profess. In other words, Truth is lived out. What we believe to be true is manifested in our daily living.

The Psalms shows truth as a body of belief having an impact on our daily living. We should model truth in real life. “Guide me in your truth and teach me,” Psalm 25:5 says, “for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.”

Lived truth shapes us as well as those whose lives we touch. Proverbs 14:25 says,

Proverbs 14:25

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A truthful witness saves lives, but a false witness is deceitful.

How we live bears witness to the truth we claim to believe. How we live out truth may draw others to Christ; however, if our mouths profess one truth and yet we live out a lesser truth, this “false witness” may deter others from seeing Jesus.

When we make changes to our spirit ensure that it follows the Truth shown to us in the Bible and that which we have written on our hearts so when we “...Teach One” we speak the Truth, God’s Truth. The only way we’ll know the Truth is by spending time in the Truth. Patrick.....

“We live in an age when most people conceive of truth as subjective, an ever-changing consensual cultural construct that shifts with passage of time and the winds of faddish social favor. But, as Christians, there is a truth to which we may surrender—a truth that will shape us, guide us, preserve and strengthen us not only to eternal life, but through a life worth living now. That eternal and unchanging truth is plainly stated, implied, taught, and exemplified in the history, poetry, songs, prophecies, doctrines, and stories in the 66 books we call the Bible.”

“When it comes to the Bible, “Don’t adjust it; trust it!””

This week....

When you make a change in your spirit, your life, or your behaviors, be sure it is through Truth that a change is made to bear true witness to the Truth.

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Let’s go to the Lord in prayer....

Help us see the Truth in all we say and do. As we go forward into the remaining days of 2023 help us Reach those who need you and Teach them about you, just as the disciples did with/and for, Jesus. Show us your Truth in every situation as we go beyond the doors of this church and into a world in need of Your Truth. Thank you for blessing, protection and for lifting up your ministry right here on 8th Avenue. In Jesus Name we Pray....AMEN!

Before we leave today, Before we close today I want to give you the opportunity to make Jesus a part of your life. Now is the time. If not now, when? Don't wait. Take this time to make Jesus the Lord of your life.

Just say:
Lord Jesus
I repent of my sins
Come into my heart
I make you my Lord and savior

We believe if you said that simple prayer you've been born again. Read your Bible this week, keep coming back and God will show you the way.

We Love you, we care about you, and we can't wait to see you right back here next week.

Let's sing our last song.....

All references to the Christian Standard are from January/February 2023, "What is Truth?" by Bill Strother. P28-31.