

13 TRUTHS

3 GOSPEL TRUTHS

GOD'S LOVE, ELECTION, AND FORGIVENESS ARE GIFTS FREELY GIVEN.

Sometimes we tell ourselves the lies, "I have to be perfect," or "my worth in God's eyes is based on my performance," or we tell ourselves in different ways that God's love must be earned. But the truth is God chose us, God's forgiveness is freely given, and so there's nothing we can do to make ourselves any better: We're already perfect in his sight.

Isaiah 43:1 This is what the Lord says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine."

Ephesians 1:4b,5,7 In love [God] predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ... In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us.

Psalms 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

GOD IS WITH YOU, IN CONTROL, AND ON YOUR SIDE.

Sometimes we tell ourselves, "I'm on my own," or "everything is out of control." But the truth is we're never alone. We have a God who is with us, in control, and using all of that control for our good.

Matthew 6:25-34 (sel.) Look at the birds of the air... your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ...do not worry about tomorrow.

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Don not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

1 Peter 1:5 [You] are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Exodus 14:14 The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.

Romans 8:39 [Nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

IT WILL BE ALRIGHT, YOU ARE SAFE, THIS WILL END WELL.

Often we tell ourselves, "there's no way this can end well." We think the future holds bad things for us. So we turn to other things than God to give us a feeling of safety. But the truth is, if you're a child of Christ, then things will be alright. God promises life will be difficult at times, but a good ending waits for us.

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Isaiah 43:2,3 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

John 16:33 I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the World.

1 John 2:8 the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

3 LAW TRUTHS

I'M GOING TO SIN, BUT I'M NOT DEFINED BY MY SINFUL MANAGEMENT OF THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS.

Sometimes we tell ourselves that in order to really be Christian, we won't have certain kinds of feelings or we won't struggle with certain sins. The truth is struggling with sin is a very real part of life, but because of Christ, it no longer defines us.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Romans 7:19,24-25;8:1 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing... What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! ...Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES.

A major temptation we can struggle is the lie that our problems or unhappiness are entirely the faults of others, or that if we ignore problems we've caused, they're not that big of deal and they'll just go away. But the truth is God still allows sins to have limited consequences here on earth, consequences we ought to own.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

1 Timothy 5:8 Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO LIVE LIVES FOR GOD AND PLACING ANYTHING ABOVE GOD IS IDOLATRY.

Sometimes we like to minimize our sins and ignore the fact that anything that takes priority over our God and what the lives he's called us into are idols. Breaking commandments 9 thru 10 are always breaking commandment 1.

1 Peter 4:3 For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.

Galatians 5:19-21 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 5:3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Philippians 4:8-9 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

GOD HAS CALLED CHRISTIANS INTO A HARD LIFE.

Sometimes we think that, because we're now children of God, life ought to be easy and always fair. We think happiness is based on things in life going our way. We might think God should protect us from all pain and suffering. But the truth is God promised us there would be troubles, pain, and hardships before we go home to heaven.

John 16:33 I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the World.

1 Peter 1:6-7 Now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

John 13:16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master.

GOD MAKES US BETTER THROUGH SUFFERING.

The world tells us that troubles, pain, and hardships aren't good for us, and that we need to avoid them at all costs. Before Christ, that might have been true. But the truth is that now, through Christ's providential plan, he promises to never waste the hardships we experience but work them all into his plans for our good.

1 Peter 1:6-7 Now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Romans 5:3-4 [W]e also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

GOD WORKS HIS WILL THROUGH FLAWED PEOPLE.

Sometimes we think there's no way God can use weak, sinful people like us in his plans. We feel like God only has uses for the spiritually strong or mature. But the truth is God works his will through flawed people just like you and me, working out his full plan of salvation through sinning saints who know their Savior.

2 Corinthians 12:9 He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

1 OVERARCHING TRUTH

GOD'S WORD IS TRUTH, AND GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES.

Numbers 23:19 God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

1 Samuel 15:29 He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind."

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ALL EVERYONE ELSE NEEDS IS GOD.

Sometimes we tell ourselves, "I need to be everything for that friend in need," or "that person depends on me alone." A parent might think, "I can meet all of my child's needs." This is called a Savior complex. The truth is that we want our friends and families to ultimately find all their needs met in Jesus. We need to realize we don't have the ability to meet all of someone's needs, but Jesus does through his providence.

Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 12:9 He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

ONLY WHAT GOD THINKS MATTERS.

Sometimes we tell ourselves, "I have to have everyone's love and approval," and we can think that our reputation with other people is the most important thing. The truth is the only person whose opinion ultimately matters is God. We live for an audience of One, and that One already loves and approves us perfectly because of Christ.

1 Corinthians 4:3-4 I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not judge even myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.

GOD HAS CALLED ME TO SERVE, NOT TO BE SERVED.

We often tell ourselves the lie that we should try to get as much as we can out of life for ourselves, and the more we have, the better. The truth is we're not here to get as much out of life as we can for ourselves, but instead we're now here to serve, as Christ came to serve.

Galatians 5:13-14 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Ephesians 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

ALL 13 OF THE TRUTHS

God's Word is truth, and God keeps his promises.

Gospel Truths:

God's love, election, and forgiveness are gifts freely given.

God is with you, in control, and on your side.

It will be alright, you are safe, this will end well.

Law Truths:

I'm going to sin, but I'm not defined by my sinful management of thoughts, feelings, and actions.

Sin has consequences.

We have been called to live lives for God, and placing anything above God is idolatry.

Theology of the Cross Truths

God has called Christians into a hard life.

God makes us better through suffering.

God works his will through flawed people.

Living with Imperfect People Truths

All everyone else needs is God.

Only what God thinks matters.

God has called you to serve, not to be served.