

# **THE TRANSMISSION OF THE TRUTH**

**Gary McDade**

The truth of God is the soul saving power to set men free from sin. The memorable words of the Savior himself show this to be the case. The apostle John wrote, “Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32). Today the task is to be “speaking the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15). Perhaps a few moments contemplating how Divine truth has been delivered will be edifying.

## **Truth Embodied in Christ**

The gospel of John tied the truth to Jesus Christ. In the opening chapter John informed his readers, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). Jesus Christ the living word is “full of grace and truth.” While Jesus corresponds in the New Testament to Moses the great law giver in the Old Testament, a point of emphasis John made heralds the truth as closely associated with Christ, “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ” (v. 17). Those who look to Christ are looking in the direction of the truth. In reply to Thomas’ concern about reaching that heavenly home, “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

## **Truth Imparted to Apostles**

The affirmation of the saving gospel came through “witnesses chosen before of God” (Acts 10:41). Peter said, “Even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead,” that is, the apostles. The Lord concerning “the transmission of the truth” made a unique promise to the apostles. John recorded Christ as saying, “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come” (John 16:13). The importance of identifying the audience addressed by these remarks cannot be overemphasized because some wrongly apply this promise to Christians today. The setting is Christ and his apostles, Judas having gone out (cf. Matt. 26:20; John 13:30).

Further revelation confirmed this promise to the apostles. For example, Paul said, “As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in the regions of Achaia” (II Cor. 11:10). Peter wrote, “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue” (II Pet. 1:3). The apostle John wrote, “For the truth's sake, which dwelleth in us, and shall be with us for ever” (II John 2). Clearly, the truth was imparted to the apostles.

### **Truth Entrusted to Christians**

A vital aspect of the Lord’s work among men is entrusting the truth to those who will love it, live it, and leave it to others. Paul commended the brethren at Thessalonica, “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe” (I Thess. 2:13). He used emphatic language in his remarks along this line to Timothy: “O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called” (I Tim. 6:20). In addition, he told how the truth was to be transmitted to others: “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (II Tim. 2:2). A grave responsibility rests upon man to obey the truth, which has been faithfully and fully transmitted unto him (Rom. 2:7-11).