

HOW DOES THE TRUTH AFFECT YOUR LIFE?

Note to the speaker:

Please ensure that your expressions will be understood by first-time meeting attenders. Show how even in the present system of things, our lives are improved in many ways when we apply Bible principles

IDENTIFYING THE TRUTH (5 min.)

Shortly before Jesus died, he declared to Pontius Pilate that His purpose in coming into the world was to “bear witness to the truth” [Read John 18:37]

Pilate had no interest in hearing what Jesus had to say about Kingdom truth (Joh 18:38; *w07* 10/1 32)

Unlike Pilate, Jesus specifically spoke of “*the* truth,” referring, not to truth in general, but to divine truth, truth about Jehovah God and his purposes (*w02* 3/1 13)

Divine truth is set forth in the inspired Word of God, the Holy Scriptures (2Ti 3:16, 17) [Read John 17:17]

Accurate knowledge of the Scriptures leads not only to identifying the truth but also to being freed from various kinds of slavery (Joh 17:3) [Read John 8:31, 32]

THE TRUTH LIBERATES BELIEVERS FROM SLAVERY (20 min.)

Down through the centuries, millions have been sold into slavery with no opportunity for freedom (*g02* 6/22 4-6)

Today, mankind is subjected to many different forms of slavery, but we individually can *choose* to be free [Read Deuteronomy 30:19] (*w10* 1/15 11)

Note some ways in which the truth can affect one’s life

[Speaker should select examples that meet the needs in the area where talk will be given]

Believing divine truth and living by it result in freedom from fear and despair over present world conditions

Bible prophecy shows that the earth will soon be wiped clean of wickedness and then peace will be abundant (Ps 37:10, 11; 2Ti 3:1)

Knowledge of the truth brings freedom from enslavement to false religious teachings

Millions fear the dead and look to witch doctors, spirit mediums, or clergymen for help (*g96* 8/8 19)

The truth is that the dead cannot harm us; nor are they suffering harm in eternal torment (Ec 9:5, 6)

Alcohol dependence and the use of tobacco and illicit drugs enslave millions; the power of the truth coupled with the desire for a good relationship with God can free one from such vices (2Co 7:1; *g02* 6/22 7-8)

The truth has brought about marvelous changes in people who were enslaved to fits of anger, abusive speech, and other ungodly conduct (Eph 4:31, 32; 5:25, 33)

Desiring to walk with God, they have learned to love kindness and to display godly qualities (Mic 6:8)

In the future, all true worshippers on earth “will be set free from enslavement to corruption and have the glorious freedom of the children of God” (Ro 8:20, 21; *w99* 5/1 6)

This will be true freedom from everything that has caused so much pain and distress to the human family (Joh 8:36; Ro 6:22, 23)

CHOOSE THE TRUTH AND ENJOY REAL FREEDOM (5 min.)

How good it is to serve Jehovah God and to have the hope of life in the new world of peace and righteousness! (2Pe 3:13)

To live in God’s new world, we must choose divine truth, fully embrace it, and put on the new personality (Eph 4:20-24; 1Th 2:13)

Jehovah never asks more of us than what we can do; our efforts to live in harmony with the truth will bring us spiritual protection and his smile of approval (Ps 5:11, 12; 3Jo 3, 4)

When standing before Pilate, Jesus said that everyone on the side of the truth listens to His voice (Joh 18:37b)

May we fearlessly take our stand on the side of the truth—divine truth—and obey Jehovah by listening carefully to the voice of Jesus (Lu 9:35)

(Public talk by circuit overseer, starting March 2011. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on)