

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 [Read John 17:17] (*w02* 3/1 13)

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

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

At John 8:32, Jesus was primarily referring to freedom from sin (Ro 8:1, 2)

The truth also frees us from specific consequences of sin

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 individually we can *choose* to serve God [Read Deuteronomy 30:19] (*w10* 1/15 11)

Note some ways that the truth can affect someone’s life

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

Living by the truth results 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, such as those about the condition of the dead

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 someone from such vices (2Co 7:1; *g02* 6/22 7-8)

The truth has brought about marvelous changes in people who were once given 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)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School*, pp. 52-54, 166-169.)