

- The Deity of Christ — He was *not just* a Great Prophet
- The Plan of Salvation — The “sinners prayer” is *not* in the Scriptures
- The Vanishing Away of the Old Covenant — Rituals of the Old Covenant can *not* be incorporated into worship of God today
- The Time of the Lord’s Return — Mankind *can not* predict a specific date
- False Teachers Will *Appear* To Be As Harmless As Sheep — They are *not* always obvious
- False Teachers Will Arise From *Among* Christians — They will *not* be announced as “false teachers”
- The Lord’s Supper Is Offered *Every* First Day of the Week — *Not* quarterly
- Christians Are To Assemble *Every First* Day of the Week to Break Bread— *Not* on Saturday because it’s more convenient
- Baptism *Is* For The Remission of Sins — It is *not* just a symbol of one’s earlier salvation
- There *were* no Christmas Cantatas or Organs in the Early Church
- Jesus Christ *Is* the *Only* Way to God — There are *not* “many paths to God”

As we said, this is certainly only a partial list of truths that many do not accept because of their failure to love the truth. “[G]iving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons” is quite easy to do when Christians don’t know the Word intimately. Those who have a sincere love of the truth can measure every aspect of their lives in light of the truth revealed in that Word. They can measure their own beliefs — the church they attend — their relationships in and out of the church — current social issues — political candidates — parenting skills — and on and on. But — to do that — they must first love the truth enough to *use* their Bibles — often — daily — *enough* that they will not “*believe the lie*” because God sent them a “powerful delusion.”

That *New York Times* article on the front page is of course a complete fabrication. You might have noticed that it was dated August 31, 2023. It *could* however, easily be what the future *may* hold if Christians don’t love the truth enough to *know* it *and* defend it. A recent Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life revealed that 70% of Americans affiliated with a religion said they agreed that “many religions can lead to eternal life.” That is *not* consistent with what the *Scriptures* say (Eph 4:4-6; John 14:6; I Tim. 2:5) yet *many* of that 70% have the audacity to call themselves “Christians!” Obviously, their Bibles remain unopened. They have no interest in Bible study. They don’t bother to attend Bible Classes and they see no need to assemble with other Christians to worship God. They just don’t love the truth enough to inconvenience themselves *or* to *disagree* with anyone to defend it! Why *wouldn’t* they be willing to turn in their Bible? It’s just not that important anyway!

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DILIGENCE

“We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.” — Hebrews 6:11

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“All the News That’s Fit to Print”

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<p>New York — It was reported last week that a suburb just west of New York City announced that all of its residents would be required to relinquish ownership of any and all Bibles they currently own or possess. This action is in response to the new Bible Confiscation Law that was recently passed by the City Council. The suburb had planned to begin hiring several additional Law Enforcement officers to assist in the enforcement of the new Law that is scheduled to go into effect exactly one month from today. According to the regulations set forth in the law, officers were to begin going from house to house confiscating all Bibles from every home in that suburb on the date the Law is to take effect. City Council also approved a large appropriation authorizing additional funds to hire extra Law Enforcement officers to carry out the new Law since City officials had expected</p>	<p>residents to mount major protests against it. In a highly unexpected turn of events however, City Council has rescinded the appropriation for the additional funding to hire extra police officers. The President of Council issued the following statement: “Council has determined that there is no longer any need for additional funds to hire extra law enforcement officers to enforce the Bible Confiscation Law recently passed by Council members. These funds will no longer be needed since nearly all of the residents have voluntarily turned in all of their Bibles in advance of the Law becoming effective. Several residents have stated that they no longer used the Bibles anyway and are therefore more than willing to comply with the new Law.” Council’s President also said that most of the residents further stated that they do not love the Truth enough to fight against Council’s new Law.</p>
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To Love the Truth

“The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.”
(II Thess. 2:9-12 NIV)

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Bible Scholars have provided various interpretations as to exactly who “*the lawless one*” might be in II Thessalonians 2:9. Regardless of whom we believe that lawless one is, those words should cause *any* reader to pause and consider what they mean to *every* individual who has any desire whatsoever to go to heaven. Those words say that God *Himself* will *send* a powerful *delusion* to those who *do not* love the truth! Those people will *perish because* God will *cause* them to believe the lie — *because* of the *delusion* sent by *Him*! Those are *very* strong words yet when we look around us — even in the church — there seems to be an ever increasing *lack* of love for the truth. There is less and less study of the Bible. Christians are more willing to compromise the truth today than ever before for the sake of unity with those who *do not* love the truth. Bible truth is important! II Thessalonians 2:9-12 makes it *very* clear that God *demand*s that His people love the truth. Those verses also make it clear what the consequences will be if they *fail* to do so.

We read in II Timothy 3:1-9 —

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: From such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as their’s also was.”

These verses make it clear that there are those who display a *long* list of extremely undesirable traits yet — *have a form of godliness*” so they are able to lead “*silly women*” astray time and time again. Those whom they influence *never* seem to learn the truth. Those undesirables are men “*of corrupt minds*” who “*resist the truth*” and are “*reprobate concerning the faith.*” One would *think* that words as strong as these we have just read in II Thessalonians and II Timothy would cause *all* Christians to desire to have a knowledge of the truth. But it’s hard to believe that over the years we have heard fellow Christians *criticize* Bible study on the basis that the more Christians study the Bible, the more opportunity it creates for disagreement within the Body. While we *should* be concerned about disagreements within the Body, to discourage and stifle indepth Bible study for the purpose of avoiding strife among the Body is a big price to pay— considering what these verses say about *God’s* response *toward* those who *do not* love the truth. Intentionally avoiding study of God’s Word is *choosing* to avoid *exposure* to truth. *That* surely would seem to be a demonstration of “*refus[ing] to love the truth.*”

The seeming lack of love for the truth today is most certainly not simply an avoidance of truth of any *sort* since mankind is *fascinated* with searching for the “truth” in many *other* areas. Numerous television series are *based* on a search for the “truth”. Perhaps the most recent — as well as — the most ridiculous — is the Fox Network show *Moment of Truth*. Supposedly, that show has a way of determining whether or not friends and loved ones actually tell you the truth when asked certain probing questions. There are also many documentaries that supposedly “*reveal*” newly discovered truths concerning any given topic. One of those recently re-broadcast was *The Gospel of Judas* on the National Geographic Channel. (Any serious Bible student however would probably take issue with several statements in many of *those* documentaries). Just typing in the word “truth” in the “Books” section of Amazon.com brings up nearly 500,000 results. So “*searching for the truth*” is big nowadays. Unfortunately however, love for *Biblical* truth *isn’t* big nowadays — and *that* results in a lack of desire to *study* the Bible. We have *hundreds* of religious denominations that *claim* to preach the Word of God yet are serious departures from the church established by Christ. Religions that have been created by men are insulated from the truth with layers of beliefs established for all *kinds* of reasons. Many have “*corrected*” the Scriptures to accommodate their own needs and weaknesses. They have “*revised*” the Gospel and added their own creeds and by-laws until their “*religion*” no longer even *resembles* the truth revealed in the Scriptures. John 17:17 states: “*Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*” When man chooses to engage in the practice of “*religions*” that are *not completely* guided by the Word, it is a flagrant display of a lack of love *for* the truth. But then — God *did* say that He would *cause* them to believe the lie *if* they *failed* to love the truth.

While a love for the truth would of course *begin* with acceptance of Christ as our Savior *in the manner* specified in the Scriptures, it is also important well *beyond* that initial response. Loving the truth is a means of protection from Satan for those who are already Christians.

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.” (I Timothy 4:1-3 NKJV)

These verses above clearly state that those who “*believe and know the truth*” are *not* the Christians who will “*depart from the faith*” because of accepting “*doctrines of demons*” like the ones included in *this* particular list. They will *recognize* lies when they *hear* them *because* they *know* the truth.

There *are* a number of truths revealed in the Bible that are simply beyond question for those who *know* the Word. *Some* (a very few) of those truths include: