




TITLE: *It Had To Be Said: 'You Shall Know The Truth'*

 **OPENING QUESTION:** Have you ever believed something totally ridiculous that turned out to be false? (Example: It takes 7 years for gum to digest, when it actually only takes a few days.)

6 SIGNS OF TRUTH DECAY:

IMMATURITY

Ephesians 4:14– (Let us) no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like truth.

IMMORALITY

Ephesians 4:19– They don't care anymore about right and wrong, and they have given themselves over to immoral ways. Their lives are filled with all kinds of impurity and greed.

UNREALITY

2 Thess 2:12– Since they refuse to trust truth, they're banished to their chosen world of lies and illusions.

ILLEGALITY


Proverbs 29:18– Where there is ignorance of God, crime runs wild.

IDOLATRY

Romans 1:25– Instead of believing what they knew was the truth about God, they deliberately chose to believe lies. They worshipped the things God made but not the Creator Himself.

INJUSTICE

Isaiah 59:14– Our courts oppose people who are righteous, and justice is nowhere to be found. Truth falls dead in the streets, and fairness has been outlawed.

 **QUESTION:** Which of these 6 signs of truth decay do you think is most prevalent in our world today? Why? Romans 1:25 warns about exchanging the truth for a lie. What are some modern-day examples of this, and why are they so appealing?

How To Know The Truth:

CREATION

Romans 1:20– For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Romans 1:19– ...since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

CONSCIENCE

Romans 2:15 (MSG)– "This shows that God's law is not something alien, imposed on us from without, but woven into the very fabric of our creation. There is something deep within us that echoes God's yes and no, right and wrong."

Proverbs 20:27– The human spirit is[a] the lamp of the Lord that sheds light on one's inmost being.

CONSIDERATION

Proverbs 14:15– The simple believe anything, but the prudent give thought to their steps.

John 3:33– "Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is truthful."

Matthew 7:15-16– "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?"

Matthew 7:16 (MSG)– "Don't be impressed with charisma; look for character. Who preachers are is the main thing, not what they say."

Matthew 7:20 (LB)– "Yes, the way to identify a tree or a person is by the kind of fruit produced."

**COMMANDMENTS**

2 Timothy 3:16— All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

CHRIST

John 14:6— "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 3:33— "Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is truthful."



QUESTION: Which of the "How to Know the Truth" steps (Creation, Conscience, Consideration, Commandments, Christ) do you personally need to strengthen in your life right now?

WHAT DO I DO WITH THE TRUTH?**1. BELIEVE IT!**

Colossians 1:23— Continue to believe this truth and stand in it firmly. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. "



QUESTION: Colossians 1:23 challenges us to "stand firmly" in truth. What are some practical ways we can keep from drifting?

2. DO IT!

Philippians 3:16— We must be sure to obey the truth we have learned already.



QUESTION: Philippians 3:16 says we must "practice what we know." How can obedience to truth deepen our understanding of it?

"Before you try to learn anything new, practice what you know!"

3. STAND FOR IT!

2 Corinthians 13:8— Our responsibility is never to oppose the truth, but to stand for the truth at all times.



QUESTION: 2 Corinthians 13:8 tells us to always stand for the truth. Have you ever had to take an unpopular stand for what's right? What happened?

4. SPREAD IT!

3 John 1:8— We must support believers who go on trips like this so that we can work together with them in spreading the truth.



QUESTION: 3 John 1:8 encourages us to work together to spread the truth. What opportunities do you see for sharing the truth in your community this week?



Titus 2:7b— In everything, set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness.

QUESTION: Why is it significant that truth is not just an idea, but a person—Jesus Christ?

CLOSING QUESTIONS:

QUESTION: Of the five ways to know the truth (Creation, Conscience, Consideration, Commandments, Christ), which one do you want to grow in this week—and what's one thing you'll do to take that step?



QUESTION: Truth isn't just something we believe—it's something we *live*. What's one truth you already know that you could put into action starting today?

