



Study Guide

Lesson 9

"Walking In The Truth"

Paul was a balanced Christian who had a balanced ministry; and we see evidence of this as he brought his letter to a close. He moved from God's timetable to practical Christian living. He turned from the negative (Satan's lies) to the positive (God's truth), and from warning to thanksgiving and prayer.

We desperately need balanced ministries today. We need to stand for the truth and walk in it but we need to present it with love and try to keep the doors of opportunity open. We must never permit our own feelings and biases to cloud our judgment and sour our attitudes. Satan is spreading lies but we must focus on the truth of God and present it to a lost and dying world.

Paul's emphasis was on the truth of God's Word, in contrast to Satan's great lie which Paul discussed in the previous section. Every believer has four responsibilities to God's truth.

Believe the Truth

2:13-14

Stages of salvation experience:

1. God _____ them. (2:13a)
2. God _____ them. (2:13b)
3. God set them _____. (2:13c)
4. God _____ them. (2:14)
5. God gave them _____. (2:14b)

Guard the Truth

2:15

Paul warned in his letters that there was a *present* danger, and that the church must guard God's truth and not turn from it. There are repeated warnings about this in the New Testament: 1 John 2:18-24; 4:1-3; 2 Peter 2; 1 Timothy 4; and 2 Timothy 3, to name only a few.

1. Paul showed the two fold responsibility all Christians have to guard the truth. What are they?

_____ and hold to the _____ (2:15)

2. Paul showed the progression and nature of scripture when he made the statement "stand firm and hold to the _____ we passed on to you, whether by _____ of mouth or _____ (2:15)

Practice the Truth

2:16-17

1. James 1:22-25 says if we hear the Word, but do not obey it we are only fooling _____.
2. Paul wanted to encourage the Thessalonian's hearts and strengthen them in every _____ and _____. (2:17)

Share the Truth

3:1-5

1. Paul prayed for the Thessalonians and requested that they pray for him. What was his request for prayer? The _____ of the Lord to _____ and deliverance from _____ and _____ men (3:1)
2. These letters are not just letters but establish the _____ of God (3:5)