

“God Is Truth”
(Psalm 86:15)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. This verse not only shows us one further thing regarding God’s character, it also helps us to review.
 - a. It reminds us that He is gracious – He does give good gifts to hell deserving sinners.
 - b. That He is merciful, compassionate, full of lovingkindness –
 - (i) That He expresses His love towards us every day
 - (ii) In sparing us and showering us with the blessings we need.
 - c. That He is patient –
 - (i) He has length of nose; He suffers long with us, puts up with us, before He gets angry;
 - (ii) And thankfully, for the Christian, the Lord never gets angry –
 - (a) He poured that anger and wrath out on His Son
 - (b) So that He could show you mercy.
2. One thing we’ve seen that isn’t mentioned here – though it is implied in His lovingkindness – is that God is forgiving.
 - (i) It doesn’t matter what you have done,
 - (a) If you turn from your sins and take hold of Jesus by faith,
 - (b) He will forgive you.
 - (ii) You will not only have a blank slate as far as sin, you will have a full slate as far as righteousness.
3. Another which is closely related to what we’re looking at this evening,
 - a. Is that He is righteous and just.
 - b. He loves what is right and He does what is right.

B. Preview.

1. Our passage tells us one more thing about God: that is He is abundant in truth.
 - a. He is true – there is no lie in Him, no deception.
 - b. You know how it feels when people lie to you, when they try to deceive you and take advantage of you.
 - (i) If you’ve ever made an agreement with someone, only to have that agreement broken,
 - (ii) Or have signed a contract only to find out that what you signed wasn’t what you thought,
 - (iii) Or have bought something thinking it was a good product, only to find out it doesn’t work.

- (iv) Or to have a friend tell you that they will keep your confidence, only to break that confidence.
 - (v) We've all been burned by others who have deceived or cheated us.
 - (vi) You know how it feels to be betrayed.
2. The good news is this is something God will never do: He is absolutely true.
- a. John writes, "God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5).
 - b. Paul tells us, He "dwells in unapproachable light" (1 Tim. 6:16).
 - c. And James writes, "Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow" (1:17).
 - d. What we'll consider this evening is that,
 - (i) God always speaks the truth.
 - (ii) God will always do what He says.

II. Sermon.

A. First, God always speaks the truth.

1. Another way of saying this is that God can't lie.
- a. Paul, writing to Titus, says that we have the hope of eternal life, because God promised it long ages ago, and He "cannot lie" (Titus 1:2).
 - b. The author to the Hebrews, applies this in the same way:
 - (i) The reason you have the hope of heaven before you,
 - (ii) Is because it's "impossible for God to lie" (6:17).
 - (iii) He can't lie.
 - (iv) He can only tell the absolute truth.
2. This means,
- a. When God teaches us something in His Word about Himself, His Son, the Spirit of God, ourselves, the world, our flesh, or the devil, everything He says is true.
 - (i) Paul tells Timothy that the teachings he entrusted to him are "sound words."
 - (ii) He writes, "Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 1:13).
 - (iii) What the Lord teaches you in His Word is accurate, wholesome, and absolutely necessary for your well being.
 - (iv) It is true.
 - b. This is the same kind of confidence you can have with regard to the history that's in the Bible.
 - (i) There's a big difference between the inspired history and other histories – or between the biblical history and those written by other men.
 - (ii) God made sure that everything His historians wrote was the absolute truth.

- (a) Of course those who wrote it were careful to write nothing except what they believed to be the truth.
- (b) Luke writes to Theophilus in the introduction to his Gospel, “In as much as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write *it* out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; so that you may know *the exact truth* about the things you have been taught” (Luke 1:1-4).
- (c) Others who written history books over the years have tried to do the same.
- (d) But as hard as they try, they make mistakes.
- (e) God doesn’t make mistakes – He made sure what they wrote was accurate.
 - (1) And so when Joshua writes that the sun stood still and the moon stopped in answer to his prayers until Israel avenged themselves on their enemies (Josh. 10:12-13), that’s what happened.
 - (2) Or when Moses writes that God created the heavens and the earth in six days and rested on the seventh, that’s exactly what He did.
 - (3) God is truth – He speaks only the truth. He can’t lie.

- B. Second, there is a very precious blessing that comes from this truth: since He always means what He says, He will always do what He says.
1. God has given us other things in the Bible besides doctrine and history.
 - a. He has given us prophecy and promises, threats and rewards.
 - b. These are all true as well.
 2. All His prophecies are true and have or will come to pass.
 - a. When God said through the ages that He was going to send His Son into the world, that’s exactly what He did.
 - (i) After Philip met Jesus, he sought out Nathanael, and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and *also* the Prophets wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph” (John 1:45).
 - (ii) As we saw this morning, Jesus is the fulfillment of the whole Old Testament.
 - b. When the Lord said He is coming again, that’s what He’ll do.
 - (i) One day the very last person will be converted.
 - (ii) The Lord will then descend from heaven,
 - (iii) Raise the dead,
 - (iv) Translate the living,
 - (v) And gather everyone to the final judgment.
 - (vi) Those who didn’t trust Him will be cast into the lake of fire,
 - (vii) And those who did will enter into eternal glory.
 - (viii) As surely as God exists, this is going to happen.

- (ix) One day you will stand before Him,
 - (x) And if you are a believer, you will see heaven.
 - (xi) If you aren't, you will see hell.
- c. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away" (Matt. 24:35).
3. He has also made many promises.
- a. He will be faithful to fulfill these as well.
 - b. Especially His promise to save you if you will trust Him: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).
 - c. Have you ever struggled with assurance – with whether your sins have been forgiven?
 - (i) Hasn't God promised you, that if you will confess your sins, He is faithful to forgive you of all your sins and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9)?
 - (ii) Hasn't He said that if you will only receive His Son, He will make you His sons and daughters (John 1:12)?
 - (iii) Do you think God could ever not do what He promised?
 - (iv) Often the problem is not knowing whether or not you've trusted or repented.
 - (v) But don't let it ever be that you question whether God will do what He said.
 - (vi) He will.
 - (vii) As we saw last week, He must!
 - (viii) He is righteous and just – He can't say one thing and do another.
4. His commitment to truth also means He will do everything He has threatened.
- a. When Paul says, "So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God" (Rom. 14:12), that, "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Cor. 5:10),
 - b. And when Jesus says, "But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment" (Matt. 12:36),
 - c. That's exactly what's going to happen.
 - (i) Every sin you have ever committed will be brought up against you in judgment,
 - (ii) Unless you turn from those sins now, confess them to God, and humbly ask for His pardon through Jesus Christ.
 - (iii) God tells you what He's planning to do in advance,
 - (iv) So that you will have time to get ready.
 - (v) He will do what He said.
5. Finally, this also means God will give you the rewards He promised.

- a. If you are faithful with the two talents He gave you, He will give you two more.
 - b. If you are faithful with the five, He will give you five more.
 - c. Paul writes He “WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life” (Rom. 2:6-7).
 - d. The author to the Hebrews writes, “For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints” (6:10).
 - e. He must give what He has promised – He can’t lie; that would be impossible.
 - f. Paul writes, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith” (Gal. 6:7-10).
6. Now we return to our question: Can you love a God like this?
- a. Do you love Him?
 - b. Would you have God to be other way?
 - (i) Consider what it would be like if He was a liar,
 - (ii) If you couldn’t trust anything He said,
 - (iii) If you couldn’t count on Him to carry through with anything He promised.
 - (iv) In this world of uncertainty, the only thing you have to hold onto is God’s truth.
 - (v) It’s the only rock on which to build your life, the only assurance that things are going to turn out well for you in the end.
 - (vi) If you didn’t have this, you wouldn’t have anything.
 - (vii) This is simply another of God’s infinite perfections.
 - c. And so do you love Him?
 - (i) If not, why not?
 - (ii) Could He be any better –any more perfect – than He already is?
 - (iii) Take a good look at who God is.
 - (iv) See and understand what He is like.
 - (v) See His perfect character.
 - (vi) See that He is worthy of your love.
 - (vii) And let your heart be drawn out to Him. Amen.