

JESUS: THE INDESCRIBABLE GIFT

Jesus: The Gift of God's Truth

Twelve Daily Studies for Christmas

John 1:14–18; 2 Corinthians 9:15

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

STUDY



Quotable

Jesus was in a category by Himself. He never left a false impression. Never tried to appear as someone He wasn't. He was the personification of the truth.

— Charles R. Swindoll

Have people ever led you to believe something that wasn't true? It happens frequently during the Christmas shopping season as advertisers glamorize their products to make a sale. Only after we buy the item do we realize we were duped by a slick sales pitch.

If only we had a truth-meter that would flash green when people were being honest and red when they were misleading us, then we'd know the real score. With this handy device, we could test the words of advertisers, politicians, commentators . . . anyone, and we'd never be hoodwinked again!

God never lies. It goes against His nature to lie, so it follows that when God became flesh, *truth* became flesh as well. Jesus was the embodiment of truth. If a truth-meter existed in the first century, anyone who tested Jesus' words would have seen only green lights all the time!

We continue our Christmas series with three daily Bible studies on Jesus as the gift of God's *truth*. As we open God's Word, let's prepare our hearts to receive the teaching of the Holy Spirit.



PREPARE YOUR HEART

If you've been hurt by someone who lied to you, then you may have difficulty trusting people. Through God's Word, the Holy Spirit ushers us into a safe realm where only truth exists, never deception. Because God speaks truth, we can trust Him. Take a few moments to invite God to use His Spirit to "guide you into all truth" (John 16:13) through His Word today.



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TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

If you're in a private place, read the following verses aloud. Reading aloud focuses our mind and tunes our ears to hear the author's emphasis.

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14 NASB)

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (8:31–32)

What words or phrases stood out to you as you read?



Observation: Truth Personified

Observation is the *Searching the Scriptures* method of looking in the text for contrast, comparisons, repetition, cause-and-effect, and other features that might help us understand the author's intended meaning. Notice in John 1:14 (NASB) the flow of thought which begins with "the Word" and concludes with "truth." You might draw a line between those words in your Bible to show the connection.

We define *Word* in this context as "the true communication of God's essential nature." As the incarnation of the Word, Jesus was a true expression of God in human form—the heart and soul of God in flesh and blood. Read again John 1:14. What did the Word do? And what were the results?



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In the setting of John 8, Jesus was talking to people who “believed in him” (John 8:31). These people saw Jesus for who He truly was. They saw the inner glory of Jesus just as John described in John 1:14. What did Jesus say true disciples did (8:31)?

What were the outcomes of being a true disciple (8:32)?



Interpretation and Correlation: Truth Experienced

By interpreting and correlating, we seek to understand the meaning of a passage in context, compared to similar passages. According to John 8:31, abiding in Jesus' teaching is linked to knowing the truth and being set free (John 8:31–32).

An interpretive paraphrase can provide us a fresh understanding of Scripture. Read John 8:31–32 in Eugene Peterson's interpretive paraphrase of the Bible, *The Message*:

Then Jesus turned to the Jews who had claimed to believe in him. “If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure. Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, and the truth will free you.”

According to this reading, we experience truth when we live out what Jesus taught. How is that so? What's the connection between truth and doing what Jesus taught?



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Likewise, what's the connection between freedom and doing what Jesus taught?

Because Jesus embodied the truth *and* taught the truth, we never have to worry that we're on the wrong path if we follow Him. His way always points us in the right direction to the best result: freedom.



Application: We Need Grace in Every Season

In his message, Chuck Swindoll described the world of freedom when we enter through the gate of truth:

When I know the truth, I'm freed from self because I know life isn't about me. I'm not the center of attention. I know the truth about myself. I'm free from others' expectations and opinions. I am free from sin. Sin no longer masters us when the Lord tells us the truth about it.

Where can you find truth this Christmas? Certainly not in the fairy-tale hype of the season. Only in the baby in the manger, who grew up to become the greatest of all teachers, can you find truth to nourish your soul. On what truth would you like to focus your mind today and throughout this Christmas season? If you need prompting, read the rest of John 8, looking for one special truth in Jesus' words to which you can cling today.



A FINAL PRAYER

Father, You give the best gifts: peace, love, joy. But the greatest gift is Your Son whose words of life are true and trustworthy. Help me today to shape my thoughts around His words so I can keep my mind and heart free from the contamination of the lies of this world. Thank You for the gift of truth, in Jesus' name, amen.



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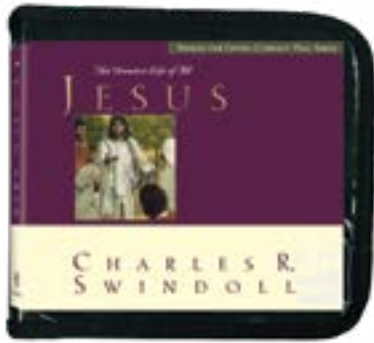
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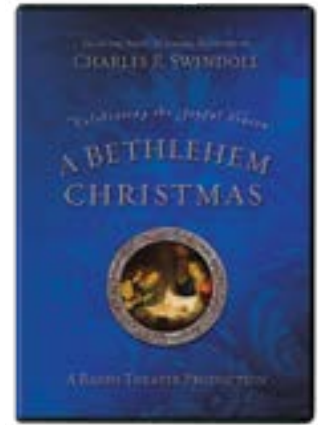
Tools for Digging Deeper



Jesus: The Greatest Life of All
by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series



He Is Born
by Stonebriar Community Church
Choir and Orchestra
compact disc



**A Bethlehem Christmas:
Celebrating the Joyful Season
(A Radio Theater Production)**
by Charles R. Swindoll and
Insight for Living Ministries
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For the 2018 broadcast, this *Searching the Scriptures* study was developed by Bryce Klabunde, executive vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and sermon transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages.



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