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Know the Truth

CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY

bimonthly (interim) schedule

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month

1ST TUESDAY: 5TH OF AUGUST

3RD TUESDAY: 19TH OF AUGUST

12 NOON IN 318 CLOB (& ZOOM)

☞ LUNCH PROVIDED FOR THOSE ATTENDING ☞

Capitol Commission Bible Studies are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month during the legislative interim. The *bimonthly* Bible studies are *nonpartisan* and *non-denominational*, in addition to being *open-to-all* (i.e. the entire Capitol community). With the present Bible study, we continue a relatively new exposition in the Gospel of John.

We have an in-person Bible study in 318 CLOB (Senate Committee Room) *and* also use Zoom. Scripture is taught so that everyone has the opportunity to comment or ask a question.

If you would like to learn more regarding the ministry of Capitol Commission, please visit <http://www.capitolcom.org>. *Capitol Commission's prayer is that this study will be edifying to you.* The sole intent of this ministry is to serve you, as a resource for pastoral attention, counsel, and prayer. *The present Bible study is just one aspect of that desire.*

— Dr. Ron J. Bigalke, Georgia State Minister, Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission Bible Study

is

Tuesday, 5 August 2025

John 8 — “Know the Truth”

The scene in the 1992 movie *A Few Good Men* is iconic. Tom Cruise played the role of Navy lawyer Lieutenant Daniel Kaffee, who is investigating the murder of a marine. Jack Nicholson plays Colonel Nathan Jessep, who is being questioned on the stand for his involvement. Jessep challenges Kaffee, “You want answers?” with the reply, “I think I’m entitled to them.” Jessep repeats, “You want answers?” to which Kaffee exclaims, “I want the truth!” Jessep responds with one of the best known and most parodied lines from recent films, “You can’t handle the truth!”

“Darkness” is present in the world. Jesus is, however, “the Light of the world” (John 8:12) and He overcomes that “darkness.” If one “will know the truth” (v. 32a) of Jesus’ teaching, he or she “will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life (v. 12). John 8 contains Jesus’ proclamation of light and truth, based upon an act of forgiveness.

Truth is a topic that many people love to discuss yet some believe it to be relative, meaning something may be wrong for someone else but not for them. If truth were flexible, then morals also would be arbitrary. Truth is whatever corresponds to or harmonizes with the manner in which God created the world as it really is. Falsehood is anything contrary to God’s reality. According to Scripture, the word “truth” means the Word of God (17:17). Not everyone can handle the truth, yet the triune God enables disciples of Jesus Christ to know it. By his grace, Jesus promises enablement to each and every disciple of his so that person is able to know and live the truth (cf. 16:12-15).

TRUTH AND FORGIVENESS

(John 8:1-11) The account of the woman caught in adultery, who Jesus forgave, is called The Pericope de Adultera. The passage contains the well-known declaration, “He who is without sin among you, let him *be the* first to throw a stone at her” (8:7). Despite the popularity of the passage, the best and earliest manuscripts do not contain John 7:53—8:11, which is why modern translations (such as the NASB) bracket the narrative. The pericope certainly does not appear to be original to John’s Gospel yet there is little reason to doubt that the event truly occurred. The fact that John 8 begins and ends with the possibility of a stoning does support its authenticity.

The account of the adulterous woman demonstrates the out-working of justice and mercy without condemning or condoning a sinner. As both *the* light and *the* truth, Jesus offers grace in forgiveness to repentant sinners. His teachings emphasize that while forgiveness is available, true repentance is evident in a change of behavior and heart. Acknowledging sin and turning from it are important. Salvation is not faith plus works; rather, a person who is truly justified by faith alone will produce good.

Jesus confounded his enemies as He taught so they departed for the moment (7:53). Having gone to the Mount of Olives for sleep (8:1), Jesus rose early to resume teaching (v. 2). His enemies returned with a woman caught in adultery yet, in an unrighteous manner, they did not bring the man (vv. 3-4). The dilemma was if Jesus said to stone the woman, He would contradict his reputation for being forgiving and gracious (3:16-21) and would be acting contrary to Roman law. A refusal to stone her would indicate disregard for the Law of Moses (v. 5).



Capitol Commission Bible Study

1st Tuesday (5th of August) from 12 Noon – 12:45pm, 318 CLOB (& Zoom)



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Jesus knowing He was being tested, “stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground” (v. 6), perhaps as a reminder of the manner in which God wrote the Ten Commandments (Exod 31:18). When his enemies persisted, Jesus stood to confront them as unfit subjects to enforce the Law’s sentence (John 7:7). Jesus returned to writing, which not only freed his opponents from his convicting eyes but also to consider their own guilt (vv. 8-9). Jesus addressed the woman respectfully with a call to “sin no more” (vv. 10-11).

AS BOTH *THE LIGHT AND THE TRUTH*, JESUS OFFERS GRACE IN FORGIVENESS TO REPENTANT SINNERS.

TRUTH AND LIGHT

(John 8:12-30) Verse 12 contains the second of seven “I Am” declarations from Jesus. Similar to water (4:7-24) and bread (6:26-58), light is essential for life. Light was an important symbol during the Feast of Tabernacles (also known as the Feast of Lights) because of the many ceremonies involving various kinds of lighting in remembrance of the pillar of fire that guided Israel during the Exodus. Knowing the importance of the symbol, Jesus applied it to himself and indicated that his light would endure forever.

One should not be surprised that Jesus was misunderstood by those blinded from their sin (v. 13). Jesus indicated how He was uniquely qualified to give testimony concerning himself because He judges righteously (vv. 14-16). God the Father is the second witness to Jesus (vv. 17-18). Jesus knows his Father while the Pharisees did not (vv. 19-20). The religious leaders insulted Him when Jesus prophesied his coming departure to glory (vv. 21-22). To follow Jesus on earth is to be with Him in heaven. If a person has no desire to follow Jesus on earth, he or she certainly will not go to Jesus in heaven (vv. 23-24).

Jesus depended upon his Father in everything that He spoke (vv. 25-27) and for all He does (vv. 28-29). Despite the evident opposition of the religious leaders, “many came to believe in Him” because his life was consistent with his message (v. 30). All who trust in the light of Jesus can say as He did: “And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone” (v. 29a).

TRUTH AND FREEDOM

(John 8:31-59) A disciple of Jesus is one who perseveres through faith in his word (v. 31); to them, He promises freedom (v. 32). Saving faith is trust in Jesus himself, not just the things He did or some thoughts concerning Him. The concluding verses of John 8 reveal how “the truth will make you free” as opposed to having a counterfeit faith that may seem alluring yet does not make one acceptable before God such as through relationships, religious beliefs and/or practices, or self-righteousness. Faith in Jesus either frees a person from sin’s enslavement or that person remains in bondage (vv. 33-36).

A constant precedent of sinning indicates bondage to sin. Slaves are not regarded as God’s child and thus not a member of his family (vv. 37-47; cf. Gal 4:7). A person’s spiritual parentage is what determines his or her nature and ultimately their eternal destiny. The new birth (John 3:3, 5-8) makes one a child of God.

Jesus made the remarkable assertion that He and his Father are one in nature so that to live as a child of God is to love Jesus (8:42). “Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also” (1 John 2:23). Only a relationship to God as Father prevents spiritual blindness (John 8:42-43) Acting contrary to God’s Word – even in the name of religion – proves a person to be “not of God” (vv. 44-47). The true disciple is one who believes the truth of Jesus and obeys what God has revealed.

Jesus’ opponents insulted Him even more (vv. 48, 52-53) and yet again misunderstood his identity (v. 57). He resumed in emphasizing his relationship to the Father (vv. 49-50) and in describing true discipleship as keeping his word (v. 51). As opposed to appealing religiously to spiritual forefathers, Jesus taught that self-righteousness is worthless for receiving God’s grace in salvation. He then made a remarkable and unmistakable assertion of his equality with the Father (vv. 54-56, 58-59; cf. Gen 22:1-18; Exod 3:14; Heb 11:17-19). Jesus is *the* object of faith who makes the difference in eternal life. The greatest need of humanity is God’s grace in Jesus Christ.

Thank you for the privilege in providing you with the Capitol Commission Bible study. If we can serve you in any manner, please talk with us, or contact by email or phone.

About Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission exists to minister gospel hope and spiritual strength to legislators, staff, lobbyists (i.e. the entire Capitol community). The focus of our ministry is people as opposed to politics, and thus to be a spiritual resource to the legislature. Our ministry strategy is expressed by pastoral *presence*, the *proclamation* of the Bible, and fervent *prayer* for every legislator.

God values civilization. The Hebrew word *shalom* (“peace”) testifies to the Lord God’s desire for society. When peace describes society, it refers to a prosperous and wholesome civilization. God has a high standard for governing authorities, referring to them as his ministers (Rom 13:4). He desires their salvation and for them to have knowledge of his truth (1 Tim 2:1-2). Our passion is the same as the Lord God, which is why Capitol Commission provides hope “behind the scenes” through a ministry of presence.

The gospel “is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” (Rom 1:16). The Bible provides equipping “for every good work” (2 Tim 3:16-17). Capitol Commission state ministers value prayer because we exist as a ministry to people. God hears and answers prayer! “The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much” (Jas 5:16b).

Capitol Commission is a charitable and religious nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Capitol Commission is supported by the generous gifts of businesses, churches, and individuals. Capitol Commission is not state funded; rather, those with a heart for the Capitol community fund it. State Ministers are full-time missionaries in maintaining a pastoral presence on Capitol Hill. To support this work, checks can be made payable to “Capitol Commission” and mailed to the following address: P.O. Box 7, Flowery Branch, GA 30542-0001. Online donations can be made at <http://www.capitolcom.org/donate> (Under the “Fund,” click “Active State Ministry,” then under “Sub Fund” click “Georgia – Ron Bigalke”).



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NEXT CAPITOL COMMISSION BIBLE STUDY:
Tuesday, 19th of August @ 12 Noon