

Turning the Crap of Life, Into the Fruit of the Spirit Truth: Let me live my lie in peace.

“Does this make me look fat?” “I really want to just be friends.” “I just don’t love you anymore.” Does the truth really help? Do you ever remember being told the truth and feeling good about it? “Well, let me tell you the truth” never seems to end in something positive or uplifting. So, do we really want to know the truth or like the movie says, “you can’t handle the truth”.

John 8:31-32

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Usually we just pick out the verse of scripture that says, “and you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.” But there is a great deal more. Jesus is speaking to the people, telling them that if you abide (the word in the original text is Meno which means to stay or have a relationship with) in My word, you are my disciples (a learner or pupil). From this requirement, we must have a relationship with the word of God abiding in it while being a learner. Notice, a learner is someone who is always learning. When you think of a student, you immediately think of someone wanting to learn something. That is the call Christ makes to those following Him. That we must at all times be a learner of His word. Why? Because the next part of His words are the tough ones.

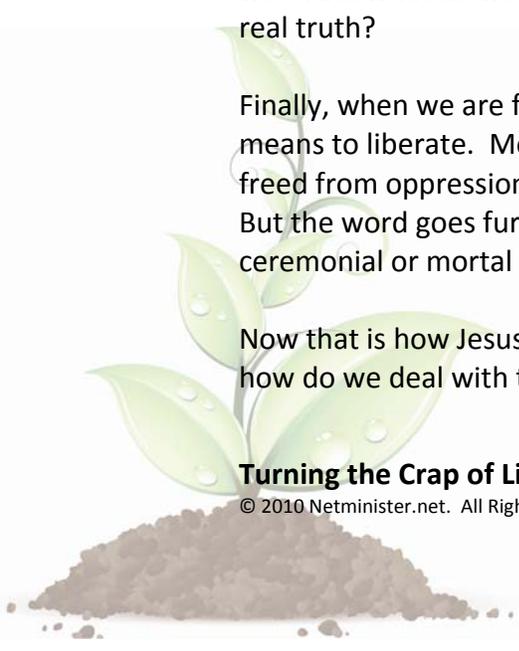
If you abide in His word, and if you are a learner, then you will know the truth, meaning the truth, not a truth. It is the definitive answer. In society today, we shy away from this kind of truth. After all, thinking in black or white is considered a closed-minded idea. Everything these days we are told is a shade of grey, meaning that there is no single truth. There is your truth, my truth and someone else’s truth and to each of us, our truth is ours. We don’t have to agree but we have to “respect” other truths. Or do we? And what do we do when we don’t like what the truth is? Especially when it is the real truth?

Finally, when we are free we are freed completely. The word for free is a word that means to liberate. Most people know that word, we use it to describe a people that are freed from oppression – usually of a dictator or foreign power that is oppressing them. But the word goes further to describe a sense of exemption from the rigors or moral, ceremonial or mortal liability. In other words, freedom that is complete and total.

Now that is how Jesus puts it to us. So how do we deal with the truth He provides and how do we deal with truth that isn’t something we want to hear?

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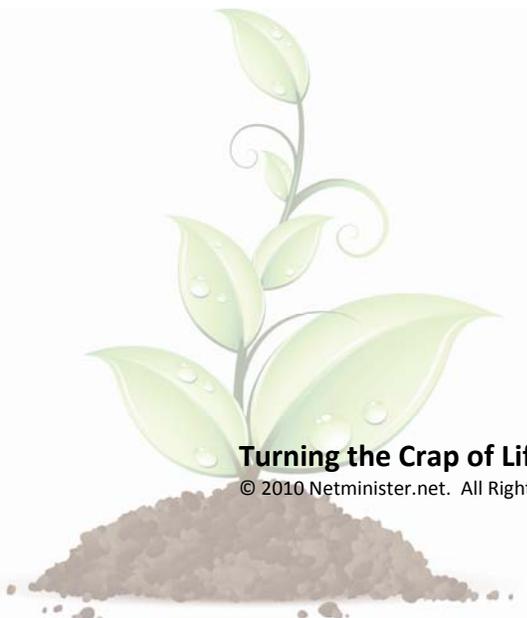
The truth is the truth, regardless of how we feel

1 John 3:18-23

18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

Even when we don't feel like we are working in the truth, the word of God is the truth. Regardless of how we feel, how our heart feels. But we also know that we must not just love in word or tongue but in truth.

Final Analysis: Rarely do we really want the truth. It is tough to take, it forces us to change our lifestyle and it causes us to be accountable to someone else, Christ. But we can accept the truth of God's word by trusting that even though we don't truly understand the whole, we can know that His truth is always the right thing for our lives.



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