

“COMPARING TRUE TRUTH TO GNOSTIC FAKE TRUTH”

2 Peter 1:1-11

Introduction: True Truth is not relative but absolute and stems from God Himself. Gnostic Truth is fake truth that stems from the inventions of man. **1 Tim 6:20** *O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge"--*

Gnosticism's bogus higher knowledge was grounded partly on the philosophic creed in which Greeks and Romans had taken refuge consequent on the gradual decay and breaking-up of their own religions.

They believed that they possessed a secret and mysterious and much more superior and complete knowledge than anyone. They were known as the “knowing ones”.

They further believed that there could be no connection between the highest spiritual agency, that is God, and gross corporeal matter. All of this consequently and ultimately denied the incarnation of Christ the Lord.

This most damning doctrine was the belief that Jesus had no human body and only appeared to have died on the cross. His life, sufferings and death were apparent not real: known as docetism. They were antichrists to the fullest measure.

Proposition: Come with me and find Apostolic True Truth which will aid us in our journey from “*like precious faith*” to Christian love and eventually heaven itself. Seven divine attributes will help us accomplish this.

I. LET'S BEGIN WITH “LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH”.

A. True Truth produces “*like precious faith*”. It is because of the righteousness of God our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Verse 1.** *2 Pet 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: [KJV]*

1. There is the certainty of “*like precious faith*” against the uncertainties of the false teachers.
2. Notice “God and Savior, Jesus Christ” and “Jesus our Lord” in **verse 2** are certainly a slam against the Gnostics.

B. True Truth produces “*grace and peace*” since it emanates from a “full knowledge” of God. [True Truth or full knowledge is the key word in 2 Peter] **Verse 2.**

Thayer says it is precise and correct knowledge.

C. True Truth or “true knowledge” contrasted to fake truth of the Gnostics grants us, according to His [Jesus our Lord] Divine power, everything pertaining to life and godliness. **Verse 3.**

1. Grant is a perfect tense participle which speaks of past completed action with present continued action.
2. “Everything pertaining to life and godliness.” If the divine power of Jesus grants us everything, what can the Gnostics’ false knowledge add to it? Life in **verse 3** is not physical but spiritual. One is not going to be godly where life is absent. These are emanated through “true knowledge” or True Truth of Jesus Christ. [1 John. 1:1ff]
3. It was Jesus’ glory [who He was in His being] and excellence [how He acted].

D. True Truth tells us of His glory and excellence by which Jesus has granted us His precious and magnificent promises. **Verses 3-4.**

1. These costly and greatest promises certainly were not given to the Gnostic’s of fake truth. I believe the promises dwell with the gospel promises given to us.
2. The divine nature. Is it the holiness of God? “Conformed to the image of His Son”?
3. Escaped the corruption by flight. **1 Thess 5:22** “*abstain from every form of evil.*”

II. SANCTIFICATION NOT JUSTIFICATION THROUGH CHRISTIAN GROWTH.

A. True Truth reveals seven divine attributes that can be our very own. **Verses 5-7.**

1. “Applying all diligence, in your like precious faith”, supply:
2. Apply. Christians are to contribute something alongside what Christ has done. Diligence. To make haste, to be eager, to do one’s best, to make every effort. Get to it right away.

Supply. Urgent, “to lay claim to the command” Do it now!

- a. Moral excellence. Resolution to do what God says is right.
- b. Knowledge [True Truth]. If a man is to do what God says is right, he must know what is right. He needs True Truth not lies.
- c. Self-control. The Christian controls his passions rather than letting his passions control him. Gnostics would insist that knowledge led to unbridled liberty.

Rom 8:13 “for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

- d. Perseverance. Persistence in practicing self-control.
- e. Godliness. Practicing the aforementioned day in and day out little by little his life begins to reflect what God is like.

- f. Brotherly kindness. **1 Pet 1:22** *Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,*
- g. Christian love. This love is not restricted to fellow believers but reaches out to all men. “Thinking the best, speaking the best and doing the best to the object loved”

B. We must own and grow in these divine attributes. Verse 8.

1. Moffatt says of **verse 8** that “The Christian life is not an initial spasm followed by a chronic inertia *or inactivity*. Are we increasing in the “growth list” of Peter?
2. Is there a huge difference between idle Christians and false teachers? Is there?
3. How could one be unemployed in the kingdom after finding and completely understanding the “true knowledge” of Jesus Christ in reference to seven attributes listed? The Gnostic false truth teachers were lazy as sin trying to dissuade the church from True Truth of living the Christian life for Jesus.

C. The consequences of lacking these divine attributes. Verse 9.

1. Blind or short-sighted means the slothful see through smoke filled eyes and cannot see past their feet or worldliness. They are spiritually bankrupt.
2. We forget our personal forgiveness when we refuse to apply those seven attributes.

D. The attributes must be “practiced” daily. Verse 10.

1. **2 Pet 3:18** *but grow in the grace and knowledge [True Truth] of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*
2. If you are derailed then “*be all the more diligent*” to apply the above attributes.
3. I believe that “stumbling” here is not into perdition but stumbling into sin.

E. The outcome of practicing True Truth will result in a jubilant welcome into the eternal dwelling. Verse 11.

1. “When Christ’s part in salvation has been matched by man’s proper response, this is the way to the eternal kingdom of our God” [Reese].
2. “*Enter into the joy of their Lord*” Matt. 25:21. There are degrees of rewards in heaven. Sanctification is in the eye of the apostle here, not justification.
3. When we are born again we enter the Kingdom of God here on this earth, **John 3:5** *Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*
4. When we die, having lived a life for our Lord and Savior, we will be amply invited to live an eternity in the eternal Kingdom of God and His Christ.

2 Peter 1:11 *for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.*