



WOW: Word Of the Week

Truth

December 22, 2021

How can one read John's Gospel and not notice it? "Truth" is mentioned again and again. In the ESV, there are 93 occurrences of the word "truth" in the New Testament. Of those occurrences, 40 are in John's writings, 23 are in the Gospel of John.

The glory of Jesus' coming was revealed in Jesus—a life filled with grace and truth. Pilate asked, "What is truth?" Jesus declared himself to be truth. My desire is to know truth, to walk in truth, to help others walk in truth.

What do you want? What do you want for this world? Peace, joy, love? Truth! At this Christmas season, do not lose sight of the fact that truth matters, is of greatest value. I know this is not the message most are sending at Christmas. My wish for my family, those I love, my church, my friends and neighbors, my world—truth. When people are seeking to understand Christ and Christianity, let us never hesitate to declare that Bible truth matters. Some would say that biblical details do not matter. More and more are comfortable with competing versions of truth. Make no mistake about it: **Every truth claim eliminates all competing truth claims.** If Jesus is truth, what he says matters. All alternatives must be discarded. When we disagree about truth, we may both be wrong, but we cannot both be right.

A brief WOW cannot be an in-depth Bible study, but I hope to encourage you toward deeper Bible study. As the thought patterns of our society deny the existence of objective truth, my greatest concern is not that the society in general rejects truth. My greatest concern is that many Christians are rejecting the existence of truth, casting aside Bible truth in favor of experiences, feelings, and the teachings not firmly grounded in truth. At this season, of all seasons, my prayer is that we will want to know and understand truth. Seek truth. You will find the true meaning of Christmas when the Christmas story motivates you to seek deeper understanding, to explore afresh Jesus' life, to seek to know, to seek truth.

In one of John's last writings, he wrote about the joy that comes when others walk in truth. My son mentioned this verse when he baptized our grandchildren earlier this year. He shared the words of a song by Johnny Cash: "My Children Walk in Truth."

This is not a Christmas song. Nonetheless, if Jesus came as truth, perhaps nothing is more consistent with Christmas than to seek truth, the whole truth, nothing but the truth about Jesus. May that be our goal!

I share the chorus from the song: "My Children Walk in Truth."

*And my greatest joy is knowing that my children walk in truth,
And that they are giving you Lord of their fire and strength of youth,
Yes, I've found the greatest joy in my salvation
Is knowing that my children walk in truth.*

My Children Walk in Truth Lyrics © BMG Rights Management