

Pastor's Conference – October 2016 – Session 2 (When Truth Falls)

Pastor S. James
www.gracetabernaclehyd.org

Father, once again, we come to You. Before the ministry of the Word, give us hearing ears, a sound mind, a believing heart and a will to obey. We are weak but You are strong. In our weakness, may Your strength be perfected. Even now, help Your servants to remain awake. The spirit is willing; the flesh is weak. Help us, O Lord. We just rest at Your feet. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

So, the whole morning, we looked at *John 1:17*.

John 1:17

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

We are ministers of the New Covenant and Scripture says, “The *letter of the law kills but the Spirit brings life.*” And the ministry of Moses brought so much death. But the ministry of Jesus brings life. And the ministry of Jesus is contained in this one verse –

...grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

How did He have this ministry? And we also saw in the morning, what is full in us is what comes out. And Scripture says, “*He came full of grace and full of truth.*” We also saw the other two names of the Holy Spirit in the New Covenant are – He is the Spirit of truth and He is the Spirit of grace. So, the filling of the Holy Spirit does not look at the gifts; the filling of the Holy Spirit should be measured, “Am I full of grace and full of truth?” And growing in the Spirit, we said about looking at examining ourselves, judging ourselves in this tenth month, “Have I grown in grace? Have I grown in truth?” And we saw in this New Covenant, this age of grace, everything is connected with the grace of God, to the point, even the Throne Room of God has been renamed as the ‘Throne Room of Grace’. It’s all about grace. But Peter warns in his final letter; we also saw Peter warns about true grace because there is a false grace. Paul will warn us, “Do not receive the grace of God in vain.” And the writer of *Hebrews* will say, “*Do not come short of the grace of God.*” Because we hear so much about grace but there is a grace in the Bible that is true. Like I said, grace has three sides to it. I’m just quickly recapping what we did in the morning and we will go to the next part.

First, the grace of God gives me the remission of sins or takes care of the penalty of sin. Second, as you and I grow in grace, we have more power over sin. Sin cannot have dominion over us because we are under grace; not under law. That is why we see the difference in the Old and the New Covenant. Abraham lied; Isaac lied; Jacob lied; Moses lost his temper; Elijah was fearful and ran; John the Baptist in prison, even started doubting whether Jesus was the Messiah; but when Paul and Silas, when they were arrested, beaten and thrown into prison, it was an entirely different scene. They are singing and praising God. Why? Because they know they are under grace and not under the law. Grace of God gives you power over sin. And the third side of grace, we saw. He says, “I first received grace and then, apostleship. It is the grace of God that enables me to do the work of God.” The more grace you receive, the harder you will be able to work. And Paul says, “*I am the least of the Apostles but I have worked more than the other Apostles.*” He said, “*Not I, but the grace of God in me, did the work.*” Only when these three come together, we get the complete picture of the grace of God. Because these are the main three concerns of man. The fear of the penalty of sin – “How do I overcome sin? How do I do the work of God?” All three are taken care by grace and it is the very power of the Holy Spirit because He is called the ‘Spirit of grace’. But *John 1:17* did not say, “Grace alone came through Jesus Christ.” “*Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*” If we preach only grace, our Church becomes like this; if we preach only truth, our Church becomes like this. But Jesus’ ministry was very balanced. Scripture says, “*Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*” And He came, full of grace and full of truth. Perfect balance. Grace is connected with the mercy, the love, the compassion and the power of God. But truth is connected with God’s justice and His righteousness. You have to balance both. One is connected with His love, His mercy, with His compassion and His power; while truth is connected with the justice, the righteousness and the judgment of God. What we have to remember is this – if there is no truth, we don’t need grace. You can do whatever you want. If there is no justice, there is no righteousness, we don’t need grace. That’s why the balance. That perfect balance.

In Hebrew, the word both for justice and righteousness is the same – ‘zedek’; the same word. The first time we hear the word ‘righteousness’ in the Bible is in *Genesis 15:6*,

Genesis 15:6

⁶And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Abraham is outside his tent, sitting in his tent, very afraid because he had defeated those kings and rescued Lot. And God comes and tells him, “*I am your shield and exceedingly great reward.*” And he says, “What is the use? I have no children. This Eliezer will take everything.” And God tells him, “Come with Me. Take a good look.” He asks, “Can you count the stars?” He said, “No.” He said, “Your descendants will be the like the stars in the sky.” Abraham looks at himself. He is almost eighty years old or more. Maybe eighty, eighty-two, eighty-three, we don’t know. He is old; his wife is old; they don’t have children; and God is saying, “Your descendants will be like this.” He can either believe what he feels, what he has experienced or he can believe what God has said. What God says is the truth. It is not what we see; it is not what we hear; it is not what we feel; what He says is the truth. And Scripture says, “He believed.” And God says, “You are righteous.” That’s why Isaiah says about Jesus, “*When He comes, He will not judge by what He sees or what He hears but in righteousness, He will judge.*” So, truth is intimately connected with the justice and the righteousness of God. Every day, you and I have to make a decision, “Am I going to believe what I see, what I hear, what I feel or am I going to believe what Jesus says?” And every time, we believe what God says over and above our circumstances, God in Heaven declares, “You are righteous.” That is why grace and truth go hand in hand.

We saw, in the morning, briefly about the Samaritan woman. Grace is coming but truth has to be encountered. Grace and truth meet together and a Samaritan woman is able to recognize, “This is the Messiah.” What the Jew couldn’t see, what the Pharisee couldn’t see; what the high priest couldn’t see; a Samaritan, who is outside the Covenant, could see – this is the Messiah. Because when you receive the truth about yourself, God opens your eyes. Then, He goes to the Pool at Bethesda. One man has been lying there for thirty-eight years. “Do you want to get well? Pick up your mat and walk.” He picked up his mat and he walked. He did not know who had healed him. He did not even know His name. Something, Pastors, you and I need to learn about the ministry of Jesus Christ. The greatest Servant of the Living God, His own Son, often, the people whom He touched, did not know His Name. At the end of His life, when He had to be arrested, Judas had to kiss Him so that they would know that it was Jesus because He looked as ordinary as anybody else. Today’s servants of God have their posters all over the city; bigger than life; they have forgotten Whose servants they are. Learn about Him. We are just messengers. Our message is not about ourselves; our message is about Him. The Man healed and he went to the temple. Jesus met him at the temple and in *John 5:14*, He tells him something.

John 5:14

¹⁴Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”

Why? Because Jesus is saying, “Grace won’t sustain you if you don’t learn to walk in truth. If you don’t learn to walk in truth, grace won’t sustain you because I have come full of grace and full of truth.”

Why did the crowds and the disciples leave? Why did they leave? In *John 6:66*, Scripture says,

John 6:66

⁶⁶From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

Why? Was it because of grace? No, it’s because of truth. It was not because of grace they left Him; it was because of truth, they left Him. Because in *verse 60*, it says,

John 6:60

⁶⁰Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”

The teaching of truth is hard. People may leave but we cannot change truth. The problem is – we change truth to please people at the cost of displeasing God. People will receive a false grace and people will wander in their sin for years and

years. In *John 8*, a woman is caught in adultery and brought. This is literally the law grabbing a sinner and throwing at the feet of grace and truth. He is grace; He is truth. The law says, "Stone her." Jesus said, "I have not come to break the law. I have come to fulfill the law." So, He says, "Anyone who is without sin, cast the first stone." Everybody left – oldest to the youngest because the spirit of truth in Him is convicting each one and showing them their sins. And in *John 8:10-11*,

John 8:10-11

¹⁰ ***When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"*** ¹¹ ***She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I...***

Why? Because Jesus said, "I have to uphold the law. To condemn you, I need two witnesses at least. There is only one. I will not break the law. I will uphold the law. I don't condemn you. Go, receive grace. Take truth along with you. I do not condemn you. Go!" That is grace.

...sin no more."

Grace and truth always go together. This is the ministry of Jesus. *For the Son of Man did not come to condemn but to save.* If you sin again and keep sinning again, grace won't sustain you if you don't walk in truth. Jesus said, "*I am the way.*" Jesus said, "*I am the truth.*" Jesus said, "*I am the life.*" There is a way to life; only one way and Jesus Himself describes that way. In *Matthew 7:13-14*, Jesus describes the way. He says,

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ ***"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. "*** ¹⁴ ***Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.***

Jesus said, "*I am the way.*" Jesus said, "*Difficult, narrow is that way.*" He said, "*Very few will find it.*" Do we believe it? No, we don't believe it because we have made that way so broad, anybody can come in. But He Himself said, "*Very few will find it.*" The question is: if Jesus came with full of grace, grace upon grace, why is the way so difficult? There is a way; at the end of it is life, life eternal. Why is it so difficult? The problem is not with grace; the problem is, on the way, from here to life, there is this fellow, who is sitting in the middle, who is called 'truth'. "*I am the way; I am the truth; I am the life.*" He said, "You have to encounter truth." Our problem is never with grace; our problem – can we handle truth?

There was a rich young ruler. In *Luke 18:22-27*, it describes that Jesus saw him; he's a nice guy.

Luke 18:22-27

²² ***So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."***

Now, Jesus doesn't tell this to everybody. He knows each one what you are holding on to. Some people, He will say, "You can keep everything. You can keep your house; you can keep your five cars, all your bank balance. Just say sorry to your wife." You won't do that. You'd say, "Lord, if You want, I will give four of my cars and I will give ten lakhs from my fixed deposit." God says, "I know that and I don't want that. Just say sorry." That's a very difficult thing. Don't make this into a doctrine. God knows each one what you will not give up.

²³ ***But when he heard this, he (went back very sad,) became very sorrowful...***

Did you see? The way has become very difficult. Why is the way very difficult? Because, on the way, truth said, "Get rid of your money." And he turned back and he went. Oh the disciples said, "Oh, Lord."

²⁴ ***And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful...***

Jesus is also sorrowful. He is saying, "You young man, you are holding on to your gold; I have streets paved with gold for you. I feel really sorry for you." That's how Heaven looks. You go to the road, will you take tar and make a ring and hang it all over here? Why don't you make? Because, in Heaven, you are going to walk on it anyway. And he is forsaking the

Kingdom of God for tar.

...He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." (Do you know what the disciples said?) ²⁶And those who heard it said, "(Aiyó!) Who then can be saved?"

Peter, John, Matthew, Bartholomew, Thomas, sab ke andhar jor se tadka (in each one of them, they were tempering with strength). Because they all left everything following Jesus. It is like our election. They will spend one crore in the election so that when they win, they will make five crores. Peter will say, "We left everything to follow You." John will say, "I left everything to follow You." Mother will say, "When You become King, my sons, cabinet position, please." Everybody, including the disciples, did not understand the Kingdom of God.

²⁷ But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

This is theory. Now, practical will begin. Next chapter. Do you know what is written in *chapter 19*? You know what is written in *verse 1-2*?

Luke 19:1-2

¹ Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. ² Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.

Why is it written? Because they asked, "Who can be saved? If it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of the needle, we all want to be rich. How will we be saved?" Because all the Old Covenant promises say, "I will make you rich." In the New Covenant, all the promises say, "You are already rich in Christ." Jesus said, "I will show you." He entered into Jericho, the richest man. We know the story. "I'm coming to your home for dinner." Jesus enters into his house. The Spirit of truth is convicting him. He stood up. "From all whom I have taken, four times over. Half my wealth, I will sell and give it to the poor." You know what Jesus says in *verse 9*?

Luke 19:9

⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham;

He says, "I accept your judgment. Truth has dealt with me. I am a thief. I have stolen; I give it back four times over. I am a covetous man. I will sell half my wealth and give it to the poor." He is free. Grace pours in. Why? Because righteousness and justice have been upheld. Truth of God is connected with justice and righteousness and grace is connected with salvation. When truth is welcome into that house, salvation comes in. That is why Scripture says, "Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

So, Jesus says, "I am the way, the way to eternal life." Think of a real way. The road we came to Jeevan Jyothi, narrow road. We were all coming. In the middle of the road, one truck breaks down. It is a narrow road. One truck has broken down. Now, the whole road is blocked. One person came by car, is now trying to reverse but the road is blocked. Another car comes to the stop; and the third car does not even enter. Why? Because one vehicle has broken down in the middle of the road. You know, that is what causes traffic jam. Understand the traffic jam in the lives of God's people.

Isaiah 59:14

¹⁴ Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter.

That's God's Scripture. Why? *Justice is turned back*; it is reversing. *Righteousness is standing far off*. Equity or fairness or impartiality cannot even enter into the lives of God's people. Because the righteousness of God is built on truth; the justice of God, the judgments of God are built on truth. Equity or fairness is built on truth. *God is not a respecter of persons*. They cannot enter. Why? *Because truth has fallen in the street*. What is the confusion in the world today? What is the confusion in the Church today? The same thing – *truth has fallen*. Nobody knows what is truth. Sab kuch chalega (anything will do). *Truth has fallen*, absolutely *fallen in the street*. And everything has stopped on the road. Jesus came with grace upon grace. Can we be saved? No. Why? Because *truth has fallen in the street*. Unless truth gets up, there is no salvation. Miracles, yes.

Science, yes. Wonders, yes. Salvation, no. Multitudes experience miracles. To anybody who came to Him, He asked them, "What do you want?" But if it was salvation that you were searching for; Nicodemus was not searching for a sign; he was not searching for a wonder; he did not come in the night for a miracle; he came, deep inside, with a question of salvation. And He looked him in the eye and said, "You are a teacher of Pharisees; you are a ruler of these people; you are a member of the Sanhedrin; but unless you are born again, you will not see; you will enter into the Kingdom of God." He was shaken and he went back in the night. The Samaritan woman did not ask for a miracle; she did not ask for a sign; she did not ask for a wonder; she asked for water, "When I drink, I won't thirst no more." That is salvation. Jesus said, "Go and get your husband and come. You want salvation? Then, truth has to stand up because it has fallen in your street." Oh, the multitudes received blessing after blessing from Jesus. Yet, why did they hand Him over to Pilate? Because they stumbled over truth. There is an incredible encounter with two kings. There is one king, Pilate, who represents Rome; and there is Jesus, who represents the Kingdom of Heaven. And there is beautiful encounter between the two of them in *John 18:36-38*,

John 18:36-37

³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

"For this reason I have come that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is on the side of truth," He says, "should hear My voice." Question is: do we hear His voice? Jesus said, "I am the way; I am the truth." But if truth is fallen on the street, we will not hear His voice. And if truth is fallen on the way, then we will never find our way to life. We have received grace in vain.

Think of the children of Israel. For forty years, they experienced all the miracles of God. Grace upon grace; protected from their enemies; covered by God at day; lighted by God in the night; morning by morning, their meals came; their clothes never wore off; their sandals never wore off; neither was any feeble or sick among them. Yet, Scripture says about them, in the New Covenant, it says, in *1 Corinthians 10:1-5*, Scripture says this –

1 Corinthians 10:1-5

¹ Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, ² all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. ⁵ But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

All scattered in the desert.

Jude 1:5

⁵ But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

God knows how to get people out of misery; God knows how to destroy them also, after He has got them out. Were they destroyed because of grace? No. Because of truth. Truth has fallen in their lives. If you look at what Paul is telling, apply it to our own lives. We also believed in the Lord Jesus Christ once; we also came out of this world; we also got baptized in water; we also got baptized in the Spirit; we also drank from This (the Word) but is God pleased with us? When truth comes, is it standing or has it fallen? If truth is fallen in our lives, justice turns back; righteousness is far away; equity cannot pass. If I am not declared righteous, how do I enter into the Kingdom of God? That's why Jesus said, "*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.*" See, this is the problem, the problem we face – we preach 'Christ is the way'; we don't preach 'Christ is the truth'. When we preach only 'Christ is the way' and not tell them 'Christ is the truth', we have made the narrow way broad.

Truth is fallen; righteousness cannot enter and *Hebrews 1:8-9*, this is what the Father says about the Son and His Kingdom.

Hebrews 1:8-9

⁸But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

The scepter of His Kingdom is righteousness. If truth is fallen on the road, righteousness cannot enter. Over and over again, the Holy Spirit, through the Apostles, writes to those in the Church. The *Letter of Galatians* was not written to the world; it was written to the Christians; The *Letter of Corinthians* was not written to the world; it was written to the Christians; *Revelation* is not written to the world; it is written for you and me, who are saved. But the message is the same. It has got nothing to do with grace; it's not about grace; it's about truth now.

Galatians 5:19-21

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

"Yes, you received grace for the remission of your sins; Now, if you don't apply grace and overcome sin, I am warning you," He says, "you will not inherit the Kingdom of God."

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

⁹Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals (how do they ordain homosexual Pastors and bishops?), nor sodomites, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Are we one of these? *Revelation 21:8* – this is the final end of the Bible; only one more chapter is left. *Chapter 21, 22* and it is done. In *chapter 21* also, He is telling.

Revelation 21:8

⁸But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Do you believe this? All liars – do you believe this? At the end of the Service, many will come; they don't have a Church; they are not a Pastor; they have never preached in their lives; they will come for offering saying, "I am a Pastor", because they have no fear of God. And they believe, "Why, Lord, don't I have a breakthrough?" Because truth has fallen in the way; justice, equity and righteousness are outside." I know a senior Pastor; not here, in another state. Mighty man of God. He knows the Word like nobody. He can preach like nobody. He has miracles in the ministry like nobody. From the time I have known him till today, he has no money. Never. Do you know why? Because he will borrow and never return. God is a righteous God. He says, "You preach. Signs and wonders also will be there. But breakthrough for money is not going to come as long as truth has fallen on the ground." Everywhere, truth has to be applied. You need to realize if, for years and years, you have not experienced a breakthrough, you need to go before God and say, "Lord, show me where truth has fallen because this is not Your Kingdom." "Yes," Paul says, "I know how it is to be abased." But he also says, "I know what it is to abound." You need to know both. You will need to know both. You need to know how to tighten your belt; you need to know how to loosen your belt. Both are the Kingdom of God. It is not to walk with your tightened belt all your life. Then, truth has fallen on the ground. Question is: can we handle the truth? There is a problem. *Isaiah* says, "Truth is fallen on the street." But truth is a Person. Truth may fall on your street but Truth does not die. He never dies. You cannot kill truth; it cannot be killed because Jesus says, "I am the truth." So, if you don't deal with truth, you will die; truth will not die. On the other hand, if you die for truth, you cannot be killed. That is why, about the first man who was killed for truth, Scripture says, "Even though Abel is dead, he still speaks." Because truth doesn't die. You cannot kill truth. We will have to, one way or the other, encounter truth and make peace with truth.

Second thing you need to realize about truth – truth never changes because God never changes. And God said, "I am truth." The previous verse we saw in *Corinthians*, remember in *Corinthians*, two verses back; we went to *Revelation*.

1 Corinthians 6:9

⁹...nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

The Supreme Court of the United States of America has legalized homosexuality. Many large Churches have ordained homosexual Pastors. The Court can change; the Church can change; but truth will never change because God does not change. This is true, not only about this; this is true about everything – God does not change. The Word of God is truth; it never changes but the only thing that can sanctify you and me is the Word of God and it has the power to change you and me, if you and I believe and obey.

Truth does not die; truth does not change; and the third, most terrible thing – without truth, there is no way to life. *“I am the way; I am the truth; I am the life. No one can go to the Father other than through Me.”* We stumble over truth. Grace upon grace, He has come. And Jesus said, *“I have come to give you life, life in abundance.”* Then, where is the problem? The problem is with truth. We struggle with truth. Truth must be preached. Whether popular or unpopular, whether accepted or rejected, whether liked or hated, truth has to be preached; you and I cannot compromise on it. The truth of God is a double-edged sword. Even while preaching, even if it cuts you, you still have to preach it. Don’t preach only the truth that doesn’t cut you; you have to preach all the truth, even if it cuts you. Then only, you can save yourself and your hearers because there was only one Person who was perfect, who could preach the whole truth; that was Jesus. But the others who came after Him were not perfect but they preached the truth. While they preached the truth, it cut them. But because it cut them, they were saved by the same truth. The way, the truth and the life are the same Person. It is not that, *“I am the way; He is the truth and that one is the life.”* No. Then, if I don’t answer, you can go to him. Then, if he doesn’t answer, you can go to him. That’s what Catholics do. If Antony doesn’t answer, Michael will do. No, it doesn’t work that way. *“I am the way; I am the truth; I am the life.”* It is the same Person. It is not two people; it’s the Trinity in one Person. You cannot skirt.

In *John 16:13*,

John 16:13

¹³However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

The Holy Spirit comes. He is the Spirit of truth and He will lead you to all truth. To those who believe Jesus, do you know what Jesus told them in *John 8:31-32*?

John 8:31-32

³¹Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. (stay in My Word. Continue in My word. When you continue to abide in My word,) ³²And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Truth always makes you free. That is the quality of truth. Absolutely makes you free. The beloved Apostle John, in his second Epistle, in 4 verses, speaks so much about truth.

2 John 1:1-4

¹The Elder, To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth, ²because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever: ³Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. ⁴I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.

Walking in truth. The next Epistle, he will say again in 3 *John*,

3 John 1:4

⁴I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

It’s very important because everything in our salvation begins with truth.

James 1:18

¹⁸Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

We are born again by the Word of truth. Otherwise, we were not born again; we just changed our religion. That's why the RSS call the Christians, 'rice and curry Christians'. *Rice and curry dedo; koi bhi Christian ho jaya (you give them rice and curry. Anyone will become a Christian.)* But if one is born of truth, you go to Kerala, there are at least sixty Christian Muslim preachers. Muslims who became Christians, powerful preachers. Every one of them will say, "If we ever die in Kerala, it won't be because the Muslims killed us; it will be because the Christians killed us because we preach the truth of the Gospel and show the lies which preachers preach." That is the problem with truth. *Truth is fallen on the street* because if truth is not preached, you and I will not know the way. If the way is not known, we will not know life. That is what it means to fall short of the grace of God and fail the grace of God. That's why we have to look into these things very carefully. In *Hebrews 12:15*,

Hebrews 12:15

¹⁵looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

Don't die with bitterness in your heart. Don't die with unforgiveness in your heart. You may end up at the wrong place. Those are the major issues of life. That is why I said, "A poor man living in a poor hut can still reign in life because he has overcome the issues of the heart." The outside issues are not going to keep anybody from the Kingdom of God. Poverty is not going to keep you outside the Kingdom; sickness is not going to keep you outside the Kingdom; issues of the heart will keep you outside the Kingdom. That's the truth. Lazarus was poor; he was sick; he had sores all over his body; dogs used to lick his sores; poor and sick. His heart was right. When he died, angels came to take him to Heaven. Poverty doesn't keep people outside the Kingdom; sickness doesn't keep people outside the Kingdom; but the issues of the heart do. That's what the writers of all the Epistles are trying to tell us and that's what Jesus was trying to tell the people, "*Don't worry about what to eat, what to drink or what to wear. Don't worry. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.*" Righteousness and justice are connected with truth. All the other things are added. Don't worry. These are the major issues of life.

The *Book of Genesis* has fifty chapters. Starting from creation, ending with the death of Joseph. So many people there but thirteen chapters are about Joseph and his brothers. Why? Because God is speaking to us. These are types. Every time the brothers come to Joseph and they go back, their sacks are full, full of rice, full of wheat and full of silver; but nobody is happy. "Aiyo!" Why? "Why are you not happy? Joseph has blessed you, blessing upon blessing; why are you not happy? Why are you miserable? Why are you afraid to go back to Joseph? Because you have never acknowledged truth. In each of your streets, truth has fallen down." When did it fall? Twenty-two years ago. It is still fallen. Therefore, righteousness cannot come; justice cannot come; equity cannot come. Blessing after blessing makes you only miserable. Why? Because truth doesn't die. It is just fallen in your street. Again and again, they stand before Joseph but they cannot recognize him. Why? Why can't they recognize Joseph? Why can't they recognize the voice of Joseph? Because Jesus said, "Only those who stand for My truth will hear My voice." Only those who are for truth will hear the voice of truth and Joseph's brothers will not know who he is nor understand his voice until they acknowledge their guilt. At the end, Judah stands up and truth stands up. "My lord, my father is old. We lost one son. Now, his life is tied up with this son. If this son does not go, he will die. Please, one request – I will take his place. Let this boy go back." Truth stands up. Justice and righteousness flow in. You know what happens then, in *Genesis 45:3*?

Genesis 45:3

³Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence.

As soon as truth stood up, Jesus revealed Himself, "I am He. I am Jesus." They were afraid. You know what Joseph will tell them in the next verse?

Genesis 45:14-15

¹⁴Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. ¹⁵Moreover he kissed all his

brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

Oh, when truth stands up in our lives; oh, we do not know what Jesus will do. He will reveal Himself to us; He will speak to us and He will embrace us; He will kiss us because in Zephaniah, He says, *"The banner over Me is love."* Do we understand what God is actually trying to tell us?

In many of our lives, truth has fallen down and I feel sorry for you. I hurt for you. I don't know what is the truth that has fallen but God knows and you know. You need to put it right. When the time comes, go in peace.

Let me tell you something about my father. I was born in a Catholic family. My parents were Catholics; they were not believers; they did not know Christ but my father was a good man; a righteous man. Then, he started drinking. When he drank, he was a different man. He was very violent and he used to beat my mother up. Sometimes, with big rods. She had to be put into the hospital. But when he was sober, he was a different man. Then, in 1994, December 30th, I'm in Hyderabad studying here. My brother calls and says, "Father is ill in the hospital." I reached there. I was a believer by then. I sat beside him; I prayed beside him; I read the Scriptures to him. On January 10th, ten days later, he accepted the Lord. Two days later, he died. Before he died, two days before he died, my mother was abroad; my mother was in Dubai with my sister. She came back. When my father was in the last stages, he could not speak because there were tubes through his nose, mouth, everything. Before he died, he told one thing to my mother, "Come and lie beside me." And he held her. He was asking for forgiveness. He held her and he died. He made peace before he died. Church, these are the important things of life. It is not wealth; it is not money; it is not how many houses you have; do you have peace with God? That's what the *writer of Hebrews* says, *"Pursue peace with all men and holiness with God."* Otherwise, you will not see God. This is the Gospel, the Gospel of God, the Gospel of grace, the Gospel of truth and truth should stand up in our lives.

"What is truth?" asked Pilate. Truth was standing before him. What is truth? *All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God* – that is truth. *But all have salvation through Christ Jesus* – that is truth. *If we repent and we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you will be saved* – that is truth. If you continue in the truth, *the truth will set you free* – that is truth. Truth is that nothing can separate you from the love of Christ Jesus. Truth is with *fear and trembling, to work out the salvation of God.* The truth is that He is coming back for a pure and a spotless Bride. The truth is that – He is coming back for a Bride who has prepared Herself. The truth is that – He has given us the Word and the Holy Spirit to be prepared for that Day. The truth is that – the Holy Spirit will only lift and exalt Jesus Christ. The truth is that – Jesus is coming secretly, in the clouds, for His Bride and we, who are alive, if we are part of it, will be taken in the clouds. The truth is that – there is another Coming, like lightning flashes from end to end – every eye will see and they will tremble at His Coming because no truth was found in their inward parts. And even every Jewish eye, those who pierced Him will see and they will grieve. The truth is this – when He is coming again, He is not coming to save; He is coming to judge. The truth is this – *it is appointed unto every man to die once and after that, it is judgment.* Truth has to stand up again behind every one of our pulpits. You have to be a priest under the order of Melchizedek; not a priest under the order of Aaron because that's a failed priesthood. Because that's a priesthood that will give to the people what the people want; makes golden calves and give it to them. Right now, there are two priesthoods working – those who give people what they want; their Churches may be packed because they are being given what they want. There is only judgment there when the Day comes. There is another priesthood represented by Moses, who will stand up and say, "Whoever is on the Lord's side, come to my side." The other man went only once into the Holy of Holies to do atonement; yet, the other man walked in and out of the Holy of Holies and God spoke to him face to face. Which ministry do you want? – A people-pleasing ministry or a God-pleasing ministry? With all the miracles, all the signs and all the wonders, if there is no preaching of the truth, Scripture says, *"God was not pleased with them."* And our whole idea is to please God. The writer of *Hebrews* says, *"Without faith, it is impossible to please God."* Faith is connected to the Word; the Word is the truth of God. Let me tell you in other words – without truth, it is impossible to please God. To love God, it is very easy; to please God is another matter. It's not talking about loving God; it's talking about pleasing God. And in this life and the ministries that God has given to us, Jesus said, *"Straight is the gate; narrow is the way. Difficult is the way, the way to life. Few will find it."* Be part of that few who find it because in that way stands truth. Truth has fallen. By the time you go back home today, let it stand up again. In your lives, in your homes, in your Church, in your ministry, be bold and say, "Lord, I want to stand up." Like Zacchaeus, be bold. "This is what I am. I want to make peace with You." Salvation will come; justice will come; righteousness will come; grace will come; abundance will come because that is the way of God.

So, this afternoon, this tenth month, we began with that verse – examine yourself whether you are in the faith. The only answer is this – is Jesus found in us? Has He grown? Have I grown in truth? Have I grown in grace? Is my hope sure? If Jesus were to come today, do I have the assurance that I will go with Him? That's the blessed hope and that hope should be a real hope. Peace for the past; grace for the present; hope of glory for the future. That is our life. Shall we stand up? Shall we pray?

Closing Prayer:

Hallelujah, Lord. Hallelujah, Jesus. Hallelujah. Great is Your mercy towards us, Father. Your lovingkindness towards us, my God. Day after day, my God; Lord, we come boldly today, my God, unworthy vessels as we are, my God; but we thank You today for the Blood; we thank You for Your Son, Jesus; we thank You that one more time, we can look at the Cross and we can say, 'All have sinned and fallen short of the glory.' But I pray that every shepherd here today, Father, will turn, my God; will have a change of heart, my God; a change of mind, my God; a change of desire, my God; a change of purpose, my God; because we know Your thoughts are not our thoughts; Your ways are not our ways; just like the Heavens are higher than the earth so are Your ways higher than ours. And Father God, I pray, today, my God, that You will touch their tongues today, my God; touch their hearts today; touch their minds today. Give them clean hands and a pure heart. Let them learn to depend on You and You alone. Let them look up to the hills; from where cometh their help, my God? Lord, it comes from You, my God. Let them not put confidence in flesh, my God. Let them put no confidence in man or woman or children but put all their trust in You, my God. Touch every heart today, my God. Father God, touch them today, my God. Touch now, my God. Touch, my God. One touch, my God! They need a touch from You, my God. Like David did, let them enquire of God. Let them consult of You; let them enquire of You; let them ask of You, my God, in the Name of Jesus, my God. "If My people who are called by My Name will humble themselves, repent and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear and I will answer and I will answer and I will dwell among you." Lord, You increase while they decrease, my God. Kill pride in them today, Father. Kill pretense in them today, Father. Kill hypocrisy in them today, Father. Kill flesh, my God, today. Let God arise and our enemies be scattered, my God. Oh Father, I pray, they will repent today, my God. I pray that there will be refreshment in their hearts and in their minds today, my God, in the Name of Jesus, my God. Fan back the flames, my God; fan back the flames. Fan back; rekindle the fire, the Lord says. Rekindle. Let that candlelight burn in you; let it burn in you. Hallelujah, Jesus. Burn for Jesus today. Burn for Him today. Let it be like fire shut up in your bones today. Hallelujah. Touch today, my God. Touch, my God. Jesus, touch them today. Every step of the way, touch, my God. O Father, clean hands, pure hearts. Let them not bow down to any idol today. Whatever the idol they struggle with today, we all have struggles, my God. But let them not bow down to it today. Let this be a refreshing moment today. Touch today. O Father, "humble yourself in the eyes of the Lord and I will exalt you." We thank You today, Father. We thank You; we love You. We love You, my God. And as they prepare tonight, my God, prepare for tomorrow; should You tarry to come and they see another day, my God, I pray that the unction of the Holy Spirit would speak to them, my God. I pray for the Pastors' families who passed away; I pray for the families and the sheep who are mourning and grieving for their Pastors today, my God. Lord, You are the Comforter; You are the Wonderful Counselor; You are the Prince of Peace; and Father, only You can comfort today. Comfort the families; comfort the sheep today, my God. We thank You for this day. We praise You and worship You. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Father, I speak Your deliverance, Your healing, Your strength into the lives of Your people. I pray they will be blessed to be a blessing, my God. You brought them here in safety, I pray that You would take them back in safety. Cover them and keep them. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Benediction:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with each one of us, Amen.