

# PathLights

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path"  
Psalm 119:104*

February 12, 2017

## Truth Has the Correct Answer

by Frank Himmel

Jesus said, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:31-32). On another occasion He prayed, "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth" (John 17:17).

God's word, revealed orally by His Son Jesus and in written form by Spirit-inspired apostles and prophets, is the truth. It is all we *know* about God's view on any subject; anything else is presumptuous speculation. No matter what the question is, truth has the correct answer.

*What worship does God accept?* If we answer based on a worshiper's enthusiasm and sincerity, on sights and sounds as measured by human standards, or on our personal preferences, we may well be wrong. Many at Corinth were (see 1 Corinthians 11, 14). The right answer is, worship that is in spirit and truth (John 4:31-32), worship which meets the criteria laid out in the New Testament.

*Who is saved?* If we answer based on a man or woman's sweetness and kindness, their good morals, or even their religious zeal, we may well be wrong. Saul was (Acts 26:9-11). The right answer is, those who are dis-

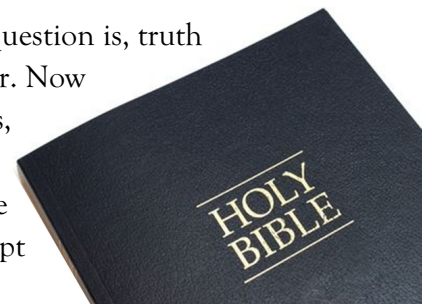
ciples of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:47), disciples as defined by the Bible criteria for becoming one and living as one.

*Who would make a good elder, deacon, or preacher?* If we answer based on friendship, family ties, hard work, business success, likability, or past experience (good or bad), we may well be wrong. The right answer is, those who meet God's criteria, set forth in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and elsewhere.

*In what circumstances may one divorce and remarry with God's approval?* If we answer based on someone's present situation or what seems fair or out of sympathy or what most people think or potential hardships, we may well be wrong. The right answer is the Lord's answer, recorded in Matthew 5:31-32, 19:3-12, and other passages. It is one who divorces for fornication. For all others, remarriage constitutes adultery.

*What should we wear?* If we answer based on fashion trends, physical appeal, comfort, or image, we may well be wrong. The right answer is, clothing that befits godliness (1 Timothy 3:10), clothing that allows character, not our bodies, to be our means of attractiveness (1 Peter 3:3-4).

No matter what the question is, truth has the correct answer. Now we must ask ourselves, will we take the time to search out the Bible answer and then accept it when we find it? ■



# Must-haves

by Frank Himmel

Advertisers sometimes suggest their product is a must-have, that somehow we will not be able to function without it. Such claims are often grossly exaggerated.

The author of Hebrews mentions several must-haves in the spiritual realm. These really are essentials.

*Atonement* is a must-have. “And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (9:22). God, by His grace, provided this must-have. We are cleansed by Jesus’ blood.

*Faith* is a must-have. “And without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him” (11:6). Faith is our trust in God and His word. Later the author warned, “See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking” (12:25).

*Sanctification* is a must-have. “Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see God” (12:14). We are sanctified or set apart to God in Christ. If you are not in Him, you need to aggressively pursue the salvation that only He offers. The word also refers to conduct in keeping with being set apart to God. We cannot claim Christ while continuing to live in sin. “For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification” (1 Thessalonians 4:7). ■

# Doers of the Word



by Frank Himmel

“But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does” (James 1:25).

James’s conclusion follows a simple illustration. Just as it does no good to look at a mirror and then ignore needed adjustments, Bible reading accomplishes nothing if we do not apply what we learn. Jesus said, “... Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it” (Luke 11:28).

Doers of the word are *honest* – with the word and with themselves. They are willing to admit it when they need to change. They are *balanced*, unwilling to dismiss obvious deficiencies as offset by strengths. They are *consistent*, applying the word in every aspect of life. They are *persistent*, steady and growing over time. They are *active*; they make opportunities, not excuses.

The bathroom mirror reveals what others see when they look at us, and most of us do what we can about that. What are we doing about our reflection in the mirror of God’s word? ■

## Service Leaders for the Week

	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Wednesday Evening
GREETER	Howard Moore	Carlos Garcia	John Baucom
SONG LEADER	Gary Hagler	Bruce Williams	Albert Harrison Sr
OPENING PRAYER	Greg Winget	J B Williams	
LORD’S SUPPER			
BREAD	Steven Turner	Steven Turner	
CUP	Ron Cunningham	Ron Cunningham	
CONTRIBUTION PRAYER	Albert Lee Harrison		
SERMON/INVITATION	Frank Himmel	Frank Himmel	Josh Baucom
CLOSING PRAYER	John Baucom	Don Rapp	Adam Wilson