

*Philippians 4:8*

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true,  
whatever is honorable, whatever is just,  
whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,  
whatever is commendable,  
if there is any excellence,  
if there is anything worthy of praise,  
think about these things.*



## **Truth, Beauty, and Goodness, part 1**

Truth, beauty and goodness are called the three great realities, three great foundations on which everything else is built, the three great fountains from which everything else flows. When these are found lacking life becomes a cesspool of lies, ugliness, evil, sin, darkness and death. The events of the last week and year make glaringly obvious how much we need a return to truth, beauty and goodness. God is the source, Jesus is the perfect embodiment and the Church is the guardian of truth, beauty and goodness. This week's devotionals will help us think on these things as the verse above calls us to do.

### **Scripture**

Reflections in Scripture on things that are new. New is a gift from God. Some of the best promises in Scripture are described as new.

*Psalm 15:1-2 O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill? He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart;*

*Psalm 25:5 Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.*

*Psalm 43:3 Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me;  
let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!*

*Psalm 86:11 Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.*

*Psalm 145:18 The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.*

*Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.*

*John 1:14 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*John 8:31-32 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

*John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

*John 15:26 But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.*

*John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.*

*Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.*

*1 Corinthians 13:6 Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.*

*Ephesians 4:15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,*

*Ephesians 4:25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.*

*1 Timothy 3:15 The household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.*

*1 John 5:20 We know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.*

*III John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*

## **Song**

*Psalms 59:16 But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

### ***Teach Me, O LORD, Your Way of Truth***

Teach me, O Lord, your way of truth,  
and from it I will not depart;  
that I may steadfastly obey,  
give me an understanding heart.

In your commandments make me walk,  
for in your law my joy shall be;  
give me a heart that loves your will,  
from discontent and envy free.

Your word sheds light upon my path;  
a shining light, it guides my feet;  
your righteous judgements to observe,  
my solemn vow I now repeat.

Your wondrous testimonies, Lord,  
my soul will keep and greatly praise;  
your word, by faithful lips proclaimed,  
to simplest minds the truth conveys.

I thirst for your commandments, Lord,  
and for your mercy press my claim;  
oh look on me and show the grace  
displayed to all who love your name.

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## **Prayer**

*II Chronicles 7:14 If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Holy Father, we call on you the God of all truth. We pray in the name of Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life, who became flesh to dwell among us, full of grace and truth. We ask for the help of your Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of truth, who opens our hearts to the truth.

Thank you for your Holy Word in which you have revealed your truth to us. Continue to open our eyes and ears to your wisdom and understanding. Grant to us that fear of the Lord that is the beginning of all wisdom and knowledge.

Father, enable us to seek your truth each day, and may your truth overcome all our fears and confusion. Enable us to strive for truth in all we do and say, that our thoughts, words and actions may be a reflection of your Spirit in us. Enable us to cherish truth, in the knowledge that you are the author of all that is true, beautiful and good.

Father, enable us to share your truth with others who are lost, confused, weary, or suffering. Enable us to teach and pass on the truth to our children and grandchildren.

Father, gird around us your belt of truth to protect us from the enemies lies and deception, for he is the father of lies and there is no truth in him. Draw us increasingly to your Word and give us a renewed hunger and thirst for your truth, that we might resist worldly lies, evil and the evil one. May your Word keep us from temptation and falling, as your Word protected Jesus during His temptation.

In this dark world and during these evil days, make us and your Church salt and light, a beacon of light in the darkness, and may you uphold your Church to be the pillar and foundation of the truth in this world.

Holy Father, restore truth, beauty and goodness in our hearts, in our homes, in our church and in our country, for your glory, in the name of Jesus. Amen.