

# PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## *Thus Saith the Lord* **THE (WHOLE, NOTHING BUT) TRUTH**

By Jeff Sweeten

"Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?" We often hear this in courtrooms prior to testimony because a false witness can do untold damage to the innocent, from the abstract personal reputation to the literal human life (Deuteronomy 19:15-21); God values truth, and this "oath" recognizes this fact. Telling the truth is more important than emotions, relationships, financial standing or anything else that might compromise it. Notice:

(1) One can "know **the truth**"; Jesus said so (John 8:32). These days, "my truth" and "your truth" can flatly contradict and many give this irreconcilable difference absolutely no concern. This defies logic! To hold this position, one must be either ignorant or dishonest. (2) It is only with **the whole truth** that one discovers the real truth. A partial truth can be a subtle lie. "The sum of thy word is truth" (Psalm 119:160) only applies when all the relevant data is applied. (3) Any addition, subtraction, replacement or redaction of the truth corrupts the truth. The Pharisees were masters of disguise in this regard, and bickered among themselves constantly over their man-made doctrines, whereas Jesus called for **nothing but the truth**. "Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, This people honoreth me with their lips; But their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, Teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men" (Matthew 15:8-9).

When one surveys the religious landscape in America, it might be ironically applicable to have those who preach their variegated traditions of men to put their hand on the Bible (and so few actually use it as their only source of authority for faith, Romans 10:17), and swear an oath to "tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth." One can be confident that all of the division we see in the multitude of religions would disappear. "Is Christ divided" (1 Corinthians 1:13)? Of course not! Is God "a God of confusion" (1 Corinthians 14:33)? Perish the thought!

Frankly, the sum total of the spiritual disunity we experience in this city, county and country is nothing less than "truthlessness." God's children are set apart by truth (John 17:17); it unifies them (John 17:19-21). The question is: do we really value the truth?

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!**

**SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Bible Study**

**WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130**