

What If Everything You Believed Was a Lie?

By: David Burruss

There is something quietly terrifying about the idea of building your whole life on something that was never true. Most of us would rather not think about it, because thinking about it means we have to ask ourselves the uncomfortable question of whether we are doing exactly that right now. And I want to be honest with you today, because I think that question deserves a real answer, and the only place I have ever found a real answer is in the Word of God.

Solomon wrote in Proverbs 14:12, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." Read that slowly, because it is not talking about people who are obviously wicked or reckless. It is talking about sincere people, people who looked at a path, decided it seemed right, and walked it all the way to a devastating destination. The terrifying word in that verse is "seems." It seemed right. It looked reasonable. It felt true. And none of that changed what it actually was.

We live in a world that is overflowing with voices telling us what to believe. There are traditions passed down through families that get treated like gospel even when they contradict the actual gospel. There are religions and philosophies and cultural assumptions that millions of people accept without ever once opening their Bible to check. And then there is social media, where confident people say confident things and the number of likes underneath it becomes a kind of substitute for truth. We are swimming in information and starving for wisdom, and the saddest part is that the Book with all the answers has been sitting on the nightstand collecting dust.

Jesus said in John 8:32, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." But here is what we have to reckon with. You cannot know a truth you have never read. You cannot be freed by a Word you have never opened. And if you have been leaning on a tradition, a preacher, a feeling, or a family heritage instead of the actual Scripture, you may have been sincere your entire life and still been sincerely wrong. Sincerity is a beautiful thing, but it is not the same as accuracy, and it will not save you on the last day.

Paul wrote to the church at Galatia with an urgency that still reaches through the centuries. In Galatians 1:6-9 he said, "I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed." That is striking language from a man who chose his words carefully, and the reason he used it is because the stakes were that high. A different gospel is not a variation. It is a corruption, and a corruption of the truth is still a lie no matter how beautiful the packaging looks.

I think about the Ethiopian man in Acts chapter 8, sitting in his chariot reading the scroll of Isaiah, sincere enough to be reading Scripture but humble enough to admit he needed help understanding it. When Philip asked him if he understood what he was reading, the man said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And what did Philip do? He opened his mouth, began at that same Scripture, and preached Jesus to him. Not tradition, not ceremony, not a creed written by a committee centuries later. He preached what the Word actually said, and the man believed it, confessed it, and was baptized that very hour. That is what happens when someone lets the Bible speak for itself.

The tragedy of our generation is not that people are evil. It is that people are comfortable. We have built such cozy lives around our inherited beliefs that the thought of examining them feels like a threat, and so we never do. We sing the songs we grew up singing, we say the things our grandparents said, and we assume that familiarity is the same thing as faithfulness. But God never asked us to be faithful to our grandparents. He asked us to be faithful to His Word, and those two things are sometimes very different.

In Matthew 15:9, Jesus quoted Isaiah and said, "And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." Vain worship. Worship that goes through all the motions, that feels sincere and even emotional, but that is built on human tradition rather than divine instruction. That is not a small concern. That is a soul-level emergency, because you can worship in vain your entire life and never know it until it is too late to change

course. This is why Jesus said in John 4:24 that those who worship the Father must worship Him in spirit and in truth. Both matter. Passion without truth is just emotion. Truth without sincerity is just religion. God wants both, and He has given us His Word so we can know what truth actually looks like.

The beautiful thing, and I want to make sure you hear this clearly, is that it is not too late to start reading. It is not too late to lay down what you have always assumed and pick up what God has actually said. The Bible is not a confusing book written for scholars. It is the living Word of God written for people like you and me, people who need direction and hope and a foundation that will not move when everything else does. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Not a lamp to someone else's feet. Yours.

If everything you have believed turns out to have been built on something other than Scripture, the answer is not shame and it is not despair. The answer is to do what the Bereans did in Acts 17:11, when they received the word with all readiness and then searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether those things were so. That is the model. Readiness and searching. Open hands and open Bible. The truth has always been there, patient and unchanging, waiting for anyone willing to actually read it.