



Jesus Christ, our All in all
CrossTalk's 25th Anniversary

8 - 14 Nov, 2020

Speaking the Truth, part 1

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

3 John 1:4

Christ is the Truth

- † ***'Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life' Jn 14:6***
- † ***'If someone proved to me that Christ is outside the truth and that in reality the truth was outside of Christ, then I should prefer to remain with Christ rather than with the truth' Fyodor Dostoevsky***
- † ***Saint Paul saw the truth through Christ only (Acts 9:1-9)***
- † ***The one who loves Christ has put on Christ and walks in the truth. 'My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth' 1 Jn 3:18***

#1 Speaking the truth is obeying God by following His commandments of love

- † ***Loving Christ is obeying Him. 'If you love Me, keep My commandments' Jn 14:15***
- † ***The ninth commandment of love is 'You shall not bear false witness' Ex 20:16a***
- † ***'He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him' 1 Jn 2:4***

#2 Speaking the truth starts from the mind

- † ***Elisha's servant, Gehazi, coveted in his mind the gift Naaman got and Elisha refused. This led him to lie to Naaman and pretend that Elisha had changed his mind and did want a gift after all. Naaman happily gave Gehazi silver and clothing. His lie was soon discovered although he tried to protect it by another lie (2 Kgs 5:19-27)***
- † ***'Holy and immortal Lord, sanctify our minds and purify our consciences, that we may praise you with purity and listen to your Holy Scriptures'***

prayer during the Divine Liturgy according to the Maronite Catholic rite before the readings

- † Every word and every action begins with a thought
- † We are to proactively renew our mind by reading, listening and looking at things that honor God, knowing that the mind is the battleground in our spiritual warfare
- † *'And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God' Rom 12:2*

#3 Speaking the truth is constructive

- † Every word we say is either constructive or destructive, there is no neutral
- † Peter was the only apostle to confess that Jesus is the Christ when Jesus asked them who do they think He is *(Mk 8:27-30)*
- † Jesus Christ said to Peter, *'Get behind Me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men'*. He did not let Peter get away with the inability to understand that Christ will suffer and die for us *(Mk 8:31-33)*
- † Christ held Peter accountable with mercy
- † Lies and the truth never meet, just as light and darkness never meet. *'no lie is of the truth' 1Jn 2:21b*

#4 Speaking the truth is holding ourselves accountable

- † *'He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy' Prv 28:13*
- † The devil is the father of lies. *'He [the devil] does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it' Jn 8:44*
- † Peter's plan was not to deny Christ. On the contrary, it was to go where Christ goes even to the Cross. But in reality, Peter ends up denying Jesus Christ three times before the rooster crows. Peter holds himself accountable and he wept bitterly *(Mt 26: 69-75)*
- † The truth leads to repentance the way it led Peter

Bibliography

Unless otherwise noted, all Biblical passages referenced are from the New King James Version

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one' Matthew 5:37

In my Prayer and Faith Autobiography Book

God acts

✝ Christ is the Truth

My reaction

✝ Am I abiding in Christ and speaking the truth?

✝ Am I holding myself accountable?

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick, namely Marie
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, the region, and the whole world

During this coming week, we will the Armenian Orthodox church in prayer

قانون الايمان

نؤمن بالله واحد، آب ضابط الكل
خالق السماء والأرض، كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح ، ابن الله الوحيد
المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق، مساو للأب في الجوهر
الذي به كان كل شيء
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا
نزل من السماء ، وتجسد بالروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء
وصار إنساناً وصلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
وتألم ومات وقبر وقام في اليوم الثالث كما جاء في الكتب
وصعد إلى السماء
وجلس عن يمين الأب
وسياتي أيضاً بمجد عظيم
ليدين الأحياء والأموات
الذي لا فناء لملكه
وبالروح القدس
الرب المحيي
المنتبئ من الأب والإبن
الذي هو مع الأب والإبن
يُسجد له ويُمجد
الناطق بالأنبياء والرسل
ويكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية
ونعترف بعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
وننتظر قيامة الأموات والحياة في الدهر الآتي
أمين

الصلاة الربانية

أبانا الذي في السموات
ليتقدس اسمك
ليأت ملكوتك
ليتك مشيئتك
كما في السماء
كذلك على الأرض
أعطنا خبزنا كفاف يومنا
واغفر لنا ذنوبنا وخطايانا
كما نحن نغفر
لِمَن أخطأ وأساء إلينا
ولا تُدخلنا في التجارب
لكن نجنا من الشرير
أمين