

I will admit that I might have misdirected you for a moment. But I hope it makes a point. And I hope I will never speak that way regarding my commitment to Christ and His church. The sad thing is that there are a number of church members that these words would describe quite well. I sincerely hope these words would never describe you.

I want us to think about the words of Jesus from Luke 9:23. "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

Would you agree with me that Jesus wants more than a casual commitment from us?

Written by; Max Dawson, July 17, 2023

Article taken from; Pontiacs, Points, and Proverbs (a weekly blog about cars, morality, and spiritual truth).

## Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.  
Jacksonville, FL 32220

### Times of Worship

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Study / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

[www.mariettacoc.com](http://www.mariettacoc.com)



### Truth: Part One

#### Knowing the Truth

"And you will know the truth and the truth will make you free" (John 8.32 NASB1995)

Paul wrote to the Colossian brethren "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principals of the world, rather than according to Christ" (2.8). One of the deceptions society faces today is confusion about truth. What is truth? Can we define it? Can we know it? These are all questions some people have trouble answering today. Unfortunately, the problem is not exclusive to the religious world, and stems from a philosophy called "postmodernism." In short, it is the idea of no objective truth, instead opting for relativism which believes there is no single truth that is true for everyone, and feelings and intuition tell us more than reason and evidence.

What does Jesus say, "you will know the truth" (John 8.32). First and foremost we must recognize that we can know truth, because Jesus says as much. Truth is not amorphous or fluid, and therefore can be defined. Also, what is true doesn't become untrue through time. Two plus two will always equal four. A water molecule will always be made up of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom. Truth also does not vary from person to person, we are all subject to the same truth.

So then, how do we know truth? There must be a standard by which we can know what is true from what is false. Psalm 119.160 says, “The sum of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.” It is God who set the standard and defines truth, not man. Therefore, God’s word makes known truth from error, and right from wrong, and not man. The only way for a person to know truth is by looking at God’s word. Everyone, whether they know it or not, is subject to the truth of God’s word. Mankind should be striving to live by the truth of God’s word, the standard He has set forth. But that is not the case. Many have forsaken God’s way and have opted for their own way instead. Any person who tries to make their own path apart from God, will not lead to life everlasting (Proverbs 14.12).

The reason many people have a problem with truth is because it is hard and fast, therefore many are unwilling to conform to it. Instead they try to bend truth to fit the ever changing social climate. Many would rather be guided by their feelings, and what society deems acceptable than face the hard realities of truth. Just because a person doesn’t like the truth, doesn’t make it any less true. Sometime the truth will make us uncomfortable, sad, and cause us to question our past decisions, but that is how we know the truth is working. And if we are receptive, the truth will make us change (Acts 2.14-41).

Feelings change over time and therefore cannot be the determining factor for truth and error, and right from wrong. Feelings can guide us in the wrong direction. Feelings can cause a person to act irrationally. On the contrary, the Psalmist says “every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.” God’s word changes not, and will last for eternity. Trying to follow the “truths” of the ever changing social climate, which determines truth based on feelings and emotions will keep one enslaved to sin. Obedience to the truth of God’s word will set one free from sin.

Written by; Derek Steen

### “I Guess I Am Just Not A Very Good Member”

I would like to be a better member. At least that's what I keep telling myself. But I just never seem to do any better.

I did attend one of our regular gatherings last week. When I got there, I wondered if some of the folks thought I might be a visitor. They might have thought that because I had not showed up in a while.

I don't attend regularly. And its not because I don't like the people. They are nice enough, I suppose. When I miss they try to contact me, but I don't always respond.

I think the reason I don't attend regularly is because I am not truly committed. I have to be honest in confessing that. I just can't find it within myself to give my all. There are lots of other things in my life that just seem to be so much more important. My heart is somewhere else. I admit that I give much more time to those other things.

When I showed up last week, the folks all seemed to be glad to see me. I liked that feeling of being welcomed. But it is not going to affect me. Why not? Because my heart is not really in it. Sure, I enjoy the benefits, but I just cannot bring myself to give it my all.

I hope they don't remove me from the membership list because of my lack of commitment. I really do intend to do better someday. But not now. I hope they will understand that I have good intentions. But if they do remove my name from membership...oh well. It wasn't really the center of my life anyway.

Those are my thoughts about being a member of the local Corvette club. They keep trying to encourage me to attend all the meetings and special events that they put on.

You did realize, of course, that I was talking my Corvette club membership, right? Surely you didn't think I was talking about membership in the local church!

Continued on back...