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reflect what you are thinking,
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- I would like more tracts like this
to read and study.
- I would like someone to come to
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This tract presented to you by:

SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

by Tom Rainwater



“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8).

Jesus promises that if we sincerely look for truth, He will provide it. Jesus is the source of truth (John 1:17; 14:6), but He requires that we make the effort to find it. We have to ask, seek, and knock.

“...for He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6).

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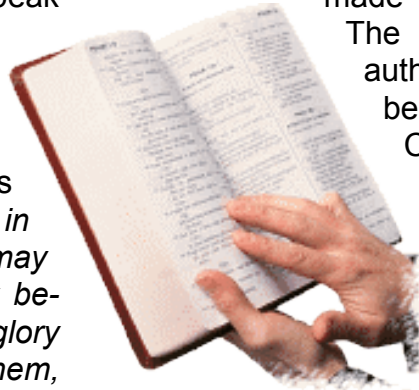
Searching isn't always easy since many religious groups claim to speak truth but teach different doctrines.

Jesus cannot be happy with the existence of all these denominations. He prayed that all believers *"may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me, and the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one."* (John 17:21-22).

In that prayer Jesus identified the only thing that could unite believers: the truth. *"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."* (v.17).

Praying for the apostles, Jesus said, *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one..."* (v.20,21).

Jesus is clear: the truth is found in God's word. Only by reading the Bible will we find it (2Timothy 3:13-17; 1Peter 1:22-25). Unity among believers comes from believing and obeying that same truth. Substituting our own traditions and beliefs in place of God's word brings division (1Corinthians 1:10-13) and condemnation (Matthew 15:1-20; Galatians 1:6-10).



Truth doesn't originate from man-made religious organizations.

The only person who has authority to tell us what to believe and do is Jesus Christ. He said to His apostles, *"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name*

of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:18-20).

Since Jesus has *all* authority in matters of religion, we have none. He has the right to command and make laws; we do not. We must simply submit and humbly follow Him every step of the way (Matthew 7:21; Galatians 3:20).

Jesus wants His word taught to everyone in the world. Why? Only His truth can save us from sin. He has the words of eternal life (John 6:68; 1John 5:11-13).

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1Timothy 2:3-4).

What has He told us to do?

(1) Believe in Jesus as the Son of God. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16).

(2) Confess our faith in Him. *"For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* (Romans 10:10). (See also Acts 8:36-37.)

(3) Repent of our sins. *"I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."* (Luke 13:3,5). (See also Acts 2:38; 17:30-31).

(4) Be baptized in water to wash away our sins. *"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."* (Acts 2:38). (See also Matthew 28:19; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3-7).

Then we are simply Christians (Acts 11:26), added by the Lord to His church (Acts 2:47), to live in righteousness and hope (1Peter 1:13-21).

Let's embrace the truth Jesus provides for us in His word and obey Him. Eternal life awaits us.

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