

# THE PRESENT TRUTH & SEPARATION

## Sabbath Day Remnant Church of Namibia (SDRCN)

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### WEEK 2-LESSON 2

#### SECTION 1: PRESENT TRUTH

*The Bible Truth.* The lesson examines the meanings of the two related terms: truth and present truth as they relate to man's salvation. The word 'truth' refers to the quality of being true. Isaiah answers this question and writes: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, [it is] because [there is] no light in them (Isaiah 8:20). The Bible truth is composed of the law and the testimonies. Isaiah's counsels are important for the Bible student. Matthew warns "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." (Matt. 7:15). The two verses are related. While Isaiah introduces the two sources of truth (the law and the testimonies), Matthew, on the other hand, warns against false prophets because what they teach is contrary to the law and the testimonies.

*The Law of God.* "And the Lord said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them." (Exodus 24:12). God's law are the two tables of stones, the Ten Commandment which were handed over to Moses on Mount Sinai.

*The Testimony.* "And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (Rev. 19:10). The testimony is the Spirit of Prophecy.

*The Origin of Truth.* First, let's answer the question: Where does truth originate? Christ provides us with the answer. "I'm the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6). Truth cannot be found anywhere, but in Christ. Whoever does not have Christ, does not have the truth because truth is only found in Christ. One needs to have Christ to have the truth. Any message that does not make Christ the centre, can never be true. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Truth can be found only in Christ (John 1:17) and this truth frees every sinner from sin (John 8:32). "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16). Also note that in Christ, dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Col 2:9). "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God in whom is eternal life (1 John 5:20).

The word 'true' is mentioned three times and refers to Christ as the true God and in Him only is found the truth. "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God (John 3: 18). Therefore, everyone that is of the truth shall hear (obey) Christ's voice (John 18:37). He who is growing in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, is growing in the understanding of the truth. King Solomon describes knowledge saying; "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding (Prov. 9:10). Wisdom is described as the fear of the Lord and knowledge, the understanding of the holy who is God because only Him is holy. Job, on the other hand, describes wisdom and understanding saying "And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding (Job 28:28). Therefore, man who fears God and departs from evil, is a man of wisdom and understanding. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man (Eccl. 12:13). Having gone back to heaven as is explained (Acts 1:9-11), Christ promised His followers that He will not leave them comfortless (John 14:18), but that He will send the Comforter which is the Holy Ghost (John 14:26; 15:26). The Comforter is the spirit of truth (John 16: 13) and when He shall

come, He will lead into truth the seekers of truth (John 14:26). Apostle Paul, writing of the same, says this spirit teaches man the things of God (1 Cor. 2: 10-13); he is the teacher of truth who shall explain the scriptures to man (John 5:39).

At sundry times God spoke to man through prophets (Hebrew 1:1), but in the later days, He speaks to man through His Son, Jesus Christ (Hebrew 1:2). John describes Christ as the Word that was made flesh (John 1:14). Apostle Paul in his exposition says faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17) and God pronounces a blessing on them that hear His word (Luke 11:28). When it is heard, read and obeyed (Rev. 1:3), it brings blessings. It also sanctifies (makes holy or purifies) the soul (John 17:17). Therefore, a man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God (Luke 4:4). God's word constitutes the law and the testimony (Isaiah 8:20) and it is they (law and testimony) that constitute the truth. To these David writes, "Thy law is the truth" (Ps. 119:142). When we accept the Word of God, we accept the truth which also becomes a shield and a buckler for us (Ps. 91:4). Obedience to this truth brings joy to Christ (3 John 1:3).

*Noah's Present Truth.* Noah was given present truth and he was instructed to build the Ark (Gen. 6:14). He was given its measurement and features (Gen. 6:15). Finally God instructed those who wanted to be saved to enter into the Ark. Noah complied with condition of his salvation, he entered the Ark together with his family and were saved (Gen. 7:16). The rest of his generation who refused to obey perished (Gen. 7:21). This generation had only two options; to obey the truth by entering in the Ark and live or refuse to believe the truth and to enter into the Ark and lost their lives. Their present duty was to accept the present truth of the construction of the Ark and finally to enter it because their lives could be saved by entering into the Ark. They had a present truth by believing the message Noah was teaching them which also demanded a present duty by entering into the Ark.

*Lot's Present Truth.* As was the case with Noah, God gave Lot a present truth which was meant to save his life and that of his family. He was instructed by the angel to flee from Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:12-25). His life and that of his family were to be preserved only on condition that they believe the present truth and act on it. It is one thing to believe and act on what you believe. Lot after believing the truth was also required to act on that truth by fleeing from Sodom (Gen. 19:14). Although God wanted to save Lot and his family, to be saved, they needed to perform two duties (a) believe the present truth and (b) act on what you believe is true. This was the condition of his salvation.

*The Passover.* God gave a present truth with its present duty to the children of Israel. To be delivered from their bondage, they were instructed to believe the present truth of their salvation- freedom from slavery. But, believing in the present truth of the imminent freedom was not enough, the good news of their freedom came with a present duty-of putting blood on their doorposts (Exodus 12:1-51). Their salvation depended on their obedience to that present duty. Unless they fulfilled this duty of putting blood on their doorposts, the firstborn of each family would be struck by the angel of death.

*Our Present Truth.* "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth" (2 Peter 1: 12). The word 'present truth' is composed of two words-present and truth. It is the Bible truth of the present time. Therefore, to be saved, one must be established in the present truth. The present truth now, is that which shows us the present duties of our time. "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel." (Rev. 7:1-4). Also read Revelation 14:1-7.

"Four mighty angels are still holding the four winds of the earth. Terrible destruction is forbidden to come in full. The ... winds will be the stirring up of the nations to one deadly combat, while the angels hold the four winds, forbidding the terrible power of Satan to be exercised in its fury until the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads." (Mar 175.2).

"A terrible conflict is before us. We are nearing the battle of the great day of God Almighty. That which has been held in control is to be let loose. The angel of mercy is folding her wings, preparing to step down from the throne and leave the world to the control of Satan. The principalities and powers of earth are in bitter revolt against the God of heaven. They are filled with hatred against those who serve Him, and soon, very soon, will be fought the last great battle between good and evil. The earth is to be the battlefield—the scene of the final contest and the final victory." (The Review and Herald, May 13, 1902).

"Angels are belting the world, refusing Satan his claims to supremacy, made because of the vast multitude of his adherents. We hear not the voices, we see not with the natural sight the work of these angels, but their hands are linked about the world, and with sleepless vigilance they are keeping the armies of Satan at bay till the sealing of God's people shall be accomplished." (SDA Bible Commentary 7:967).

"John sees the elements of nature—earthquake, tempest, and political strife—represented as being held by four angels. These winds are under control until God gives the word to let them go. There is the safety of God's church. The angels of God do His bidding, holding back the winds of the earth, that the winds should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree, until the servants of God should be sealed in their foreheads." (Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, 444).

"The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the strained, restless relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they realize that something great and decisive is about to take place—that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis. Angels are now restraining the winds of strife, until the world shall be warned of its coming doom; but a storm is gathering, ready to burst upon the earth, and when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.... A moment of respite has been graciously given us of God. Every power lent us of heaven is to be used in doing the work assigned us by the Lord for those who are perishing in ignorance. The warning message is to be sounded in all parts of the world.... A great work is to be done, and this work has been entrusted to those who know the truth for this time." (The Review and Herald, November 23, 1905).

## **SECTION 2: THE HISTORY OF SEPARATION**

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." (Romans 13:12).

"...light and darkness cannot harmonize. Between truth and error there is an irrepressible conflict. To uphold and defend the one is to attack and overthrow the other.

"The line of separation must be distinctly marked between the obedient and the disobedient. There must be open and avowed enmity between the church and the serpent, between her seed and his seed." *Signs of the Times*, vol 2, p 315, col 1 (August 26, 1889).

"Satan is a powerful general ... he deceives men, and seeks to obliterate the line of demarcation between believers and unbelievers." *Review and Herald*, vol 4, p 307 col 3 (June 4, 1901).

"It is Satan's work to mingle evil with good, and to remove the distinction between good and evil. Christ would have a church that labors to separate the evil from the good..." *SDA Bible Commentary*, vol 7, p 958, col 1.

"We are exhorted, 'Touch not the unclean.' Those who associate with the impure, themselves become impure. If we choose the society of the ungodly, we shall be affected by their ungodliness. 'What communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial?'" *Review and Herald*, vol 2, p 255, col 2 (October 23, 1888).

"The eternal God has drawn the line of distinction between the saints and the sinners, the converted and the unconverted. The two classes do not blend into each other imperceptibly, like the colors of the rainbow. They are to be as distinct as midday and midnight." *Testimonies to Ministers*, p 87.

"The principles of God's government--the only principles that will endure from everlasting to everlasting--are to be followed by those who are seeking for entrance into the kingdom of heaven. The line of demarcation (distinction) between those who serve God and those who serve Him not is to be kept clear and distinct." *Manuscript Releases*, vol 20, p 154.

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." (2 *Corinthians* 6:14-18).

"The Lord Himself has established a separating wall...The servants of mammon make every effort to break down the barriers, and destroy the line of demarcation between the holy and the profane. Many of the professed followers of Christ are determined to break it down, and to maintain concord between Christ and Belial. But God has made this separation, and He will have it exist." *Review and Herald*, vol 1, p 389, col 2 (January 8, 1884).

God continues to try and get His people to understand this vital issue, and states: "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" *Amos* 3:3.

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." *Ephesians* 5:11.

Just for the sin of one man--Achan--the whole church was held *responsible* (see *Joshua* 7; *Testimonies*, vol 3, p 365, 369). Also for the sins of the church leadership, the whole corporate church--membership and all--would be held responsible (see *Jeremiah* 26:15; *Testimonies*, vol 4, p 491).

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." *Revelation* 18:4.

"The more visible the line of demarcation...the more the Lord is glorified." *Spalding and Magan Collection*, p 229.

"There are two great principles, one of loyalty, the other of disloyalty....The line of demarcation between the obedient and the disobedient must be plain and distinct. We must have a firm determination to do the Lord's will at all times and in all places." *My Life Today*, p 73.

"...love is manifested in obedience. The line of demarcation will be plain and distinct between those who love God and keep His commandments, and those who love Him not and disregard His precepts." *Testimonies*, vol 6, p 91.

"Thus in every age, from the midst of apostasy and rebellion, God gathers out a people that are true to Him,--a people `in whose heart is His law.'" *Patriarch and Prophets*, p 338.

*Separation of Abraham.* "Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee." (*Genesis* 12:1).

"Before God can use him, Abraham must be separated from his former associations, that he may not be controlled by human influence or rely upon human aid." (*Testimonies*, vol. 4, p 523-24).

*The separation of Lot.* "Again the solemn command was given to hasten, for the fiery storm would be delayed but a little longer." (*Patriarch and Prophets*, p 160-62).

"We should never give sanction to sin by our words or our deeds, our silence or our presence." (*Desire of Ages*, p 152).

The thing that has been, it is that which shall be, and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new things under the sun." **Ecclesiastes 1:9, also read 3: 15.**

*The separation of John the Baptist.* "The work of John was to expose the character of the works of the Pharisees, to set their traditions and heresies in their true light before the people." (**Review and Herald, vol 3, p 135 col 3 (April 3, 1894).**)

John proclaimed that; "Their wicked works had disqualified them to claim the promises God made to the children of Abraham" and that "They had no claim to Abraham as their father, or the promises of God made to the seed of Abraham." (**Spirit of Prophecy, vol 2, p 50-52.**)

*The Separation of Christ.* "Christ was a protestant. He protested against the formal worship of the Jewish nation, who rejected the counsel of God against themselves. He told them that they taught for doctrine the commandments of men, and that they were pretenders and hypocrites. Like whited sepulchers they were beautiful without, but within full of impurity and corruption. The Reformers date back to Christ and the apostles. They came out and separated themselves from a religion of forms and ceremonies. Luther and his followers did not invent the reformed religion. They simply accepted it as presented by Christ and the apostles." (**Review and Herald, vol 2, p 48 col 2 (June 1, 1886).**)

"The Sanhedrin had rejected Christ's message and was bent upon His death; therefore Jesus departed from Jerusalem, from the priests, the temple, the religious leaders, the people who had been instructed in the law, and turned to another class to proclaim His message, and to gather out those who should carry the gospel to all nations." (**Desire of Ages, p 232.**)

So there were actually two churches existing at the same time before Christ's death on the cross! One church was Christ with His disciples and followers. The other was the Jewish church with its wicked leaders and followers.

"In these first few disciples [Andrew, Simon Peter, Philip, and Nathanael] the foundation of the Christian church was being laid..." (**Spirit of Prophecy, book 2, p 66.**)

"Then came the Jews round about Him, and said unto Him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. But ye believe not, because ye are not of My sheep, as I said unto you." (**John 10:24-27.**)

"For the rejection of Christ, with the results that followed, they [Jewish church leaders] were responsible. A nation's sin and a nation's ruin were due to the religious leaders." **Christ's Object Lessons, p 305.**

"As they (Seventh-Day Jewish Church) persisted in their rejection of the gospel, the apostle ceased to preach in the synagogue...Fearing that the faith of the believers would be endangered by continued association with these opposers of the truth, Paul separated from them and gathered the disciples into a distinct body, continuing his public instruction in the school of Tyranus, a teacher of some note." (**Acts of the Apostles, p 285-86.**)

So after Paul separated himself from the Jewish church, he began holding church in the home. The Bible records several places where Christ's church was being held in the home (see Romans 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Philemon 2; Colossians 4:15)!

"Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach." **Hebrews 13:12-13.**

*The separation of the disciples.* "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whoso readeth let him understand), then let them which be in

Judea flee into the mountains.... When the warning sign should be seen, judgment was to follow so quickly that those who would escape must make no delay." (*Spirit of Prophecy*, vol 4, p 26-27).

"There was a coming out, a decided separation from the wicked, an escape for life." (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p 166).

*Separation during reformation.* "After ineffectual struggles against her [Rome's] tyranny, the leaders of these churches [Waldensian] reluctantly acknowledged the supremacy of the power to which the whole world seemed bowing down. A considerable number, however, refused to yield to the authority of pope or prelate. They were determined to maintain their allegiance to God, and to preserve the purity and simplicity of their faith. A separation took place. Some of the protesters crossed the Alps, and raised the standard of truth in foreign lands. Others retired into the more secluded valleys among the mountains, and there maintained their freedom to worship God." (*Spirit of Prophecy*, vol 4, p 68-69).

"The men whose preaching made The Reformation could have said all that they said, and more, in denunciation of iniquity in the church, and the enormities of the Popes; and yet could have remained in good standing in that church, all their days: if they had still held that church to be the only true church, and had held themselves in conformity with her accordingly...."But as soon as there arose men with the courage of conviction and the confidence of truth and spoke out plainly and flatly that the Roman system is not The Church at all in any feature, or in any sense, then The Reformation had begun...This is how The Reformation came. And without that, The Reformation never could have come." (*Lessons to the Reformation*, by A.T. Jones, p 66-68).

"As the light and life of men was rejected by the ecclesiastical authorities in the days of Christ, so it has been rejected in every succeeding generation. Again and again the history of Christ's withdrawal from Judea has been repeated. When the Reformers preached the word of God, they had no thought of separating themselves from the established church; but the religious leaders would not tolerate the light, and those that bore it were forced to seek another class, who were longing for the truth." (*Desire of Ages*, p 232).

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*Separation in the Advent Movement.* "Those who received the great blessings of the Reformation did not go forward in the path so nobly entered upon by them. A few faithful men arose from time to time, to proclaim new truth, and expose long-cherished error; but the majority, like the Jews in Christ's day, or the papists in the time of Luther, were content to believe as their fathers believed, and to live as they lived. Therefore religion again degenerated into formalism; and errors and superstitions which would have been cast aside had the church continued to walk in the light of God's word, were retained and cherished. Thus the spirit inspired by the Reformation gradually died out, until there was almost as great need of reform in the Protestant churches as in the Roman Church in the time of Luther....The churches became corrupted by allying themselves with the world. Thus were degraded the great principles for which Luther and his fellow-laborers had done and suffered so much.

"As Satan saw that he had failed to crush out the truth by persecution, he again resorted to the same plan of compromise which had led to the great apostasy and the formation of the church of Rome. He induced Christians to ally themselves, not now with pagans, but with those who, by their worship of the god of this world, as truly proved themselves idolaters...."The Lord raised up men to investigate His work, to examine the foundation upon which the Christian world were building, and to raise the solemn inquiry, What is truth? Are we building upon the rock, or upon shifting sand?

"God saw that many of His professed people were not building for eternity; and in his care and love He was about to send a message of warning to arouse them from their stupor, and prepare them for the coming of their Lord. The warning was not to be intrusted to learned doctors of divinity or popular ministers of the gospel. Had these been faithful watchmen, diligently and prayerfully searching the Scriptures, they would have known the time of night; the prophecies of Daniel and John would have revealed to them the great events about to take place. If they had faithfully followed the light already given, some star of heavenly radiance would have been sent to guide them into all truth...." Jesus saw His church, like the barren fig-tree, covered with pretentious leaves, yet destitute of precious fruit. There was a boastful observance of the forms of religion, while the spirit of true humility, penitence and faith--which alone could render the service acceptable to God--was lacking. Instead of the graces of the Spirit, there were manifested pride, formalism, vainglory, selfishness, oppression. A backsliding church closed their eyes to the signs of the times. God did not forsake them, or suffer His faithfulness to fail; but they departed from Him, and separated themselves from His love. As they refused to comply with the conditions, His promises were not fulfilled to them. Love for Christ and faith in His coming waxed cold. Such is the sure result of neglect to appreciate and improve the light and privileges which God bestows. Unless the church will follow on in His opening providence, accepting every ray of light, performing every duty which may be revealed, religion will inevitably degenerate into the observance of forms, and the spirit of vital godliness will disappear. This truth has been repeatedly illustrated in the history of the church. God requires of His people works of faith and obedience corresponding to the blessings and privileges bestowed. Obedience requires a sacrifice and involves a cross; and this is why so many of the professed followers of Christ refused to receive the light from Heaven, and, like the Jews of old, knew not the time of their visitation." *Spirit of Prophecy, vol 4, p 194-96, 199-201.*

"I do say, if you are a Christian, come out of Babylon [the Protestant Churches]. If you intend to be found a Christian when Christ appears, come out of Babylon; and come out now!" (*Charles Fitch Sermon, "Come Out of Her, My People," July, 1843.*)

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**WEEK 2-LESSON 2 QUESTIONS**  
Sabbath Day Remnant Church of Namibia (SDRCN)

Student Full names: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Identification ID. \_\_\_\_\_  
Country of Origin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of submission. \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions.** Answer all questions within one week of the commencement of your study. Some questions will require detailed explanation. Your answers should not exceed two typed pages or four hand written pages. Send your answers through WhatsApp to 0811271961. OR to the following email: [drfmwilima@gmail.com](mailto:drfmwilima@gmail.com)

Question 1. Explain the difference between "truth" and "present truth" and give examples of each.  
Answer. \_\_\_\_\_

Question 2. What do you understand as the present truth of our time?  
Answer. \_\_\_\_\_

Question 3. Explain your understanding of the term "separation" and why it is necessary.  
Answer. \_\_\_\_\_

Question 4. How does the separation of the second angel of Revelation 14:8 differ from that of the fourth angel of Revelation 18:1-4?

Answer. \_\_\_\_\_

Question 5. Give Biblical examples when separation was necessary.

Answer. \_\_\_\_\_

Question 6. As a member of the Sabbath Day Remnant Church of Namibia, from where and to where should one separate?

Answer. \_\_\_\_\_

Question 7. Give three quotations that show that separation is Biblically supported and indeed a divine command.

Answer. \_\_\_\_\_

Question 8. To accept present truth will not necessarily save a person. One has to go a step further to comply with the concomitant duty. Explain what this means and give one example.

Answer. \_\_\_\_\_

END

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