

## “He Will Guide You Into All Truth”

✠ **no private interpretation (vv.12,13)**  
✠ **bringing glory to God in Christ (vv.14,15)**

In the name of our Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – dearly beloved of God:

The famous philosopher Nietzsche is quoted as saying, “The only absolute truth is that there is no absolute truth.” Most Christian denominations agree. Even conservatives claim some teachings are “fundamental,” and others not. “What is truth?” Pilate asked. “***I AM...the Truth,***” Jesus says.

But isn’t the tension between truth and fiction what makes spy shows so intriguing? In the late great “24,” the President was elected for her solid principles. But she sacrifices most of them for a world peace treaty based on lies, betrayal and violence. “What is truth?” screams our culture.

That’s why we need this Sunday of THE HOLY TRINITY. You can know **All Truth**. God says, “**He Will Guide You ....**” God’s Word is clear. Leave Nietzsche and Pilate in the grave. There is...

✠ **no private interpretation (vv.12,13)**

Most pastors and theologians today would rather be carpenters than machinists. They want to carpenter around with God’s Word, shaving off a little here, sawing off a chunk there. Carpenters like to leave ¼” gaps to fill with caulk. Machinists work in thousandths. Carpenters have convinced most Americans that “all religions are the same; just different interpretations.” They demoted the Bible to a book of myths and legends. But even Bible believers get hung up on **private interpretation**. Bible class discussion is what they feel the text says to them, not what it actually says. In his book, *Biblical Interpretation – The Only Right Way*<sup>1</sup>, retired seminary Professor David P. Kuske, calls this “the devil’s lie.” It’s based on the premise that the Bible is unclear as if no one can really know what it says.

Yet here on the night He was betrayed, Jesus tells His disciples: “***I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.***” Earlier “***to the Jews who had believed on him Jesus said, ‘If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; and you will know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.***” (John 8:31f KJV updated) God did not leave us to fumble around in the dark to find our own way. God’s Word is clear.

Think how foolish it would be for everyone to have his own **private interpretation**. Let’s say you inherited enough to build a new house, a “model home” in Florida. You drive through swamps and marshes to a run down garage along the highway. “What’d I say?” the builder calls. “Lots of water here, eh?” “Where’s my model home?” you ask as your temperature rises. “Right in here!” He heads through the open garage door. “You fit my home in here?” “Didn’t you say you wanted a ‘model home’? It was easy. I took the specs you sent and interpreted the feet in centimeters. Here you go. Ain’t she a beauty?”

No one would fall for that, right? Only religious people talking *about* the Bible instead of reading the Bible. Or they just read books *about* it. Check the latest issue of *Forward in Christ*. Julia Olene writes, “I was raised in the Methodist church. If the doors of the church were open my family was there. As a young girl I went to various Bible study classes at my church but always came away confused. There were classes on interpreting the Bible and biblical theology that also left me questioning. When I would read the Bible, it just didn’t seem to compare with what I was being fed at my church, so I never really dug deeply into the Word. I always felt that I was never going to be good enough to be saved and

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<sup>1</sup> Impact Series from Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee, WI. Order at 800-662-6022.

that my sins were too many for God to forgive.” Years later she studied the Bible in order to teach her children, but “I could not understand...why I was told some things did not apply to today’s world. It seemed clear to me that the Bible was the Word of God, but some in my denomination were saying that not everything in the Bible was true.” Things were no better for her and her second husband in the Episcopal church. Finally the Lord led them to a WELS church in Universal City, Texas. “Since that time my hunger for the Word has been fed both from the pulpit and in weekly Bible studies. I am still amazed every Sunday to hear the true Word preached faithfully. That was 17 years ago, and I still thank God for guiding me and my husband into a place where we can feast on the Word of God.”<sup>2</sup>

God is love. His Bible book of books is a love letter inspired through prophets who also did not have their own **private interpretation**. This must be really important because Peter writes in his Second Epistle: *“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”* (1:20f NIV) **No private interpretation** – not for the prophets and not even for the Holy Spirit. This is truly amazing because the Holy Spirit is also called God (Acts 5:4). Yet Jesus says that *“when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears....”* In our North Circuit Pastors’ meeting, Pastor Bentz compared the Holy Spirit to the President’s Press Secretary who listens in on all the important meetings at the White House, then tells the public press what he hears. The Holy Spirit is equal to the Father and the Son, yet He relies on their councils in heaven to reveal God’s will and even the future, as much as God’s people can bear at the time. Do you see? **No private interpretation** means...

### **bringing glory to God in Christ (vv.14,15)**

Here’s another reason to believe the Bible and praise the Holy Trinity. Neither Father, Son nor Holy Spirit seek to glorify themselves. In Lent we learned how Jesus glorified the Father by submitting to His will to suffer and die on the cross for our sins. In John 17, Jesus will pray about how the Father glorifies Him: *“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.”* (John 17:1 NIV) And here Jesus says the Holy Spirit *“will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.”*

Father, Son and Holy Spirit own all knowledge and blessing together. They share in each other’s work for a very important reason. Do you know why **bringing glory to God in Christ** is so important to the Holy Spirit? Do you realize why He is so determined that He grabs hold of the Truth in Jesus and repeatedly proclaims it loud and clear? One reason: You! If you want to know the truth, God put that desire in your heart. He will cradle and protect the flame until He stirs it into a warm fire as He did with Julia Olene. God made Himself visible in Christ and glorifies Him in order to bless you.

This intimate relationship of dear children to their dear Father is unique to Christianity. None of the world’s religions even imagined God would sacrifice Himself to save stubborn, rebellious sinners. Non-Christian creeds picture you at the bottom of a well with god shaking his finger: “You got yourself into this. Now get yourself out.” Only our Father in heaven sent His only begotten Son to rescue us from guilt and make us His own. He lifts us up to His loving heart. **Glorify to God** means saving you and me.

With the Triune God there’s no reason to run from the Truth, not for you or your children. You can look honestly at your mistakes and sins as a parent, confess and receive forgiveness in Christ. Now live guilt free and raise your children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Forgive and honor each other because Father, Son and Holy Spirit love and honor us undeserving sinners. They adopted us into the family of the Triune God by Holy Baptism. Sent by the Father and the Son, the dear Holy Spirit **“Will Guide You Into All Truth.”** Listen closely. In God’s truth press on to glory. Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> “Confessions of Faith,” by Julia Olene. *Forward in Christ*, May 2010, pp.14f.  
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