

## TRUTH

-Ryan Parsons-

Do you get spam text messages in the middle of the night? We have been getting a barrage of them over the last few days at all hours of the day and night. It has complicated sleep and frankly made me pretty grumpy. It irritates me that so much work and investment is made into trying to deceive and defraud people through tricky schemes. However, I am happy to announce that my Netflix and Venmo (which I don't even have) have not been suspended!

Since the beginning, truth has been under attack. These deceptions and lies are orchestrated by the father of lies (John 8:44). David expressed great dissatisfaction with those who chose to follow that method of operation in Psalm 5. He says in verses 9-10:

*For there is no truth in their mouth;  
their inmost self is destruction;  
their throat is an open grave;  
they flatter with their tongue.  
Make them bear their guilt, O God;  
let them fall by their own counsels;  
because of the abundance of their transgressions cast them out,  
for they have rebelled against you.*

However, the answer is to do something other than beat them at their own game. Instead, David sings of his reverent fear for the Lord and petitions: Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness (v. 8). Later in the collection of songs, the psalmist makes a beautiful request.

Psalm 43:3

*Send out your light and your truth;  
let them lead me;  
let them bring me to your holy hill  
and to your dwelling!*

And God has done exactly that.

John 1:14

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the father, full of grace and truth.*

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (Jn. 14:6), and his truth is freeing (Jn. 8:32). Truth protects and holds everything else together (Ephesians 6:14). Truth fuels our spiritual maturity (Eph. 4:15), and it must be handled correctly (2 Timothy 2:15). God our Savior "desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4), and his church is to hold up truth above all things (1 Timothy 3:15). We should never wander away from it (James 5:19), and it calls us to complete obedience (1 Peter 1:22).

Oh Lord, thank you for sending out your light and truth through your son Jesus. May he lead us in all things and, by him, lead us to you! In every moment (but especially the difficult moments), help us to hold onto Jesus in this dark and deceitful world. We long for your truth!