



## LESSON 9: WE REJOICE IN JESUS CHRIST, THE TRUTH

# The Truth Shall Set You Free

Our relationship to God and Christ is through a community—the Church. The Church—is the pillar of truth, Christ’s Body—provides the means for us to live a godly life and to be truly free.

*How do you define truth?*

### PRAYERS

#### OPENING PRAYER—THE TRISAGION:

“In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Glory to You, our God, glory to You! Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things, the treasury of blessings and Giver of life: come and abide in us. Cleanse us from all impurity and save our souls, gracious Lord. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3) Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.”  
*(My Orthodox Prayer Book, p. 4)*

#### CLOSING PRAYER—POST-COMMUNION HYMN:

“We have seen the true light and have received the heavenly Spirit. We now have found the true Faith, by our worshipping the undivided Trinity Who has saved us.”  
*(Divine Liturgy Hymnal, p. 70)*



*How do you define truth?*

**1 Timothy 2:1-4:** First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, requests, and thanksgivings be offered to God for all people; for kings and all others who are in authority, that we may live a quiet and peaceful life with all reverence toward God and with proper conduct. This is good and it pleases

God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to know the truth. What is Truth? Vs. Who is the Truth?

#### Mother Maria of Normanby:

“Truth for us is not a system of thought. Truth is not created. Truth is Christ. Christ is the truth. Truth is a person. Truth is not limited within our appreciation of it. Truth transcends us; we can never come to the full comprehension of Truth. The search for Truth is the search for the person of Christ ... Truth is the Mystery of the person of Christ; and, because it is a person, the Mystery is inseparably linked with the event; the event of the encounter. Mystery and event are one ... The Mystery, for the Orthodox mind, is precise and austere reality. It is Christ, and it is to meet Christ.”

### PARTICIPATION

Explore Old Testament and New Testament passages on truth found in a concordance.

Create a litmus test of truth, by which you can determine what elements of a situation are true; what are clearly not true; what are false or exaggerations.

Visit the web site of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America: [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org).

Visit the web site of the Standing Council of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in America: <http://www.scoba.us>.

Read pertinent selections from the Bible.

To know, grow and go in Truth, we can:

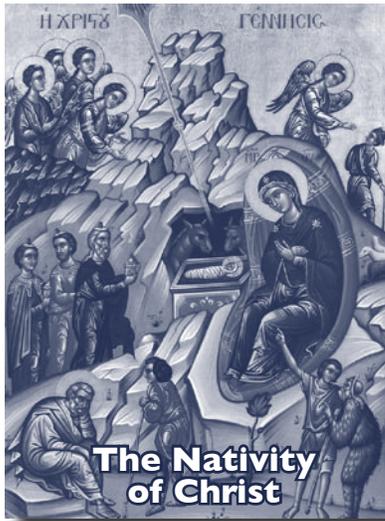
### PASSAGES/PRACTICE/PATRISTICS

**John 14:6:** I am the way, and the truth, and the life,” Jesus answered. “No one comes to the Father, but by me”.

**1 Timothy 3:15:** But if I delay, this letter will let you know how we should conduct ourselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

**John 4:23-24:** But the time is coming and is already here, when by the power of God’s Spirit people will worship the Father as he really is, offering him the true worship that he wants. God is Spirit, and only by the power of his Spirit can people worship him as he really is.

- Confess our sins every night at evening prayer.
- Ask forgiveness from family and friends before receiving Communion.
- Practice the Sacrament of Confession with a Father Confessor or Spiritual Father.
- Review the Confessional Prayers in *My Orthodox Prayer Book* (pgs. 87-107.)



“He cannot have God for his father, who refuses to have the Church for his mother.”

St. Augustine

DEFINITIONS ACCORDING TO:	TRUTH	LIE
DICTIONARY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The state or character of being true.</li> <li>2. That which is true [= being real; genuine, not counterfeit].</li> <li>3. Conformity to fact or reality.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An untrue statement intended to deceive.</li> <li>2. Anything that deceives or creates a false impression. ...</li> <li>3. To expose as false.</li> </ol>
LIFE/PRAxis	Freedom	Imprisonment
CHURCH	Jesus	Satan

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