

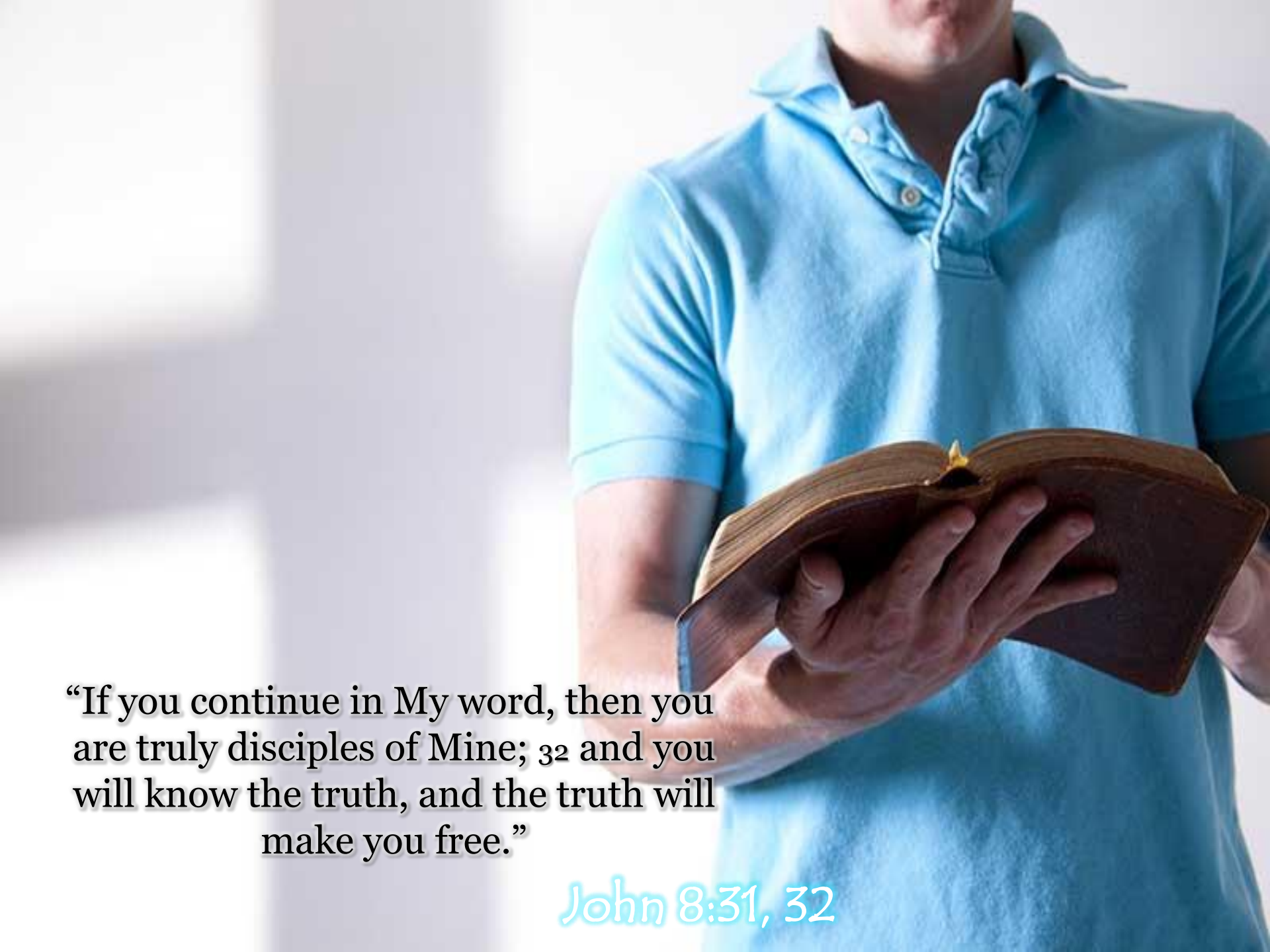
FOLLOWING JESUS

A Series of Lessons on Discipleship



Luke 6:40 –

"A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher."

A man wearing a light blue polo shirt is holding an open, thick book with a dark brown cover. He is looking down at the book. The background is a bright, out-of-focus indoor setting with white walls and a window. The text is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

“If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

John 8:31, 32

A man wearing a light blue polo shirt is holding an open, thick book with both hands. The book has a dark brown cover and many pages. The background is a bright, out-of-focus indoor setting.

TRUTH

1. Truth **confuses** more people than realized.
2. Truth is more **important** than you might think.
3. Truth is **easier** to find than you might imagine.



“and you will *know* the truth”

I. There is whole lot of **confusion** about truth.

Five common approaches to truth...

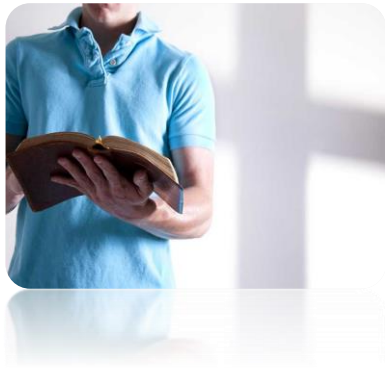
1. NON-ABSOLUTE: There are no *absolute* truths.

Therefore all is relative.

If *true*, then this statement negates itself.



Only one-third of all adults (**34%**) believe that moral truth is absolute and unaffected by the circumstances.
[Barna Research]



“and you will know the truth”

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Five common approaches to truth...

1. NON-ABSOLUTE: *There are no absolute truths.*

2. SCIENTIFIC: *Truth is what science tells us.*



Gravitational pull is
9.81 m/s², 32.17405 ft/s²,
or 21.937 mph/s



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Five common approaches to truth...

1. NON-ABSOLUTE: *There are no absolute truths.*

2. SCIENTIFIC: *Truth is what science tells us.*

3. PRAGMATIC: *Truth is what **works**.*

One out of six teenagers (**16%**) said they made their choices on the basis of whatever would produce the most beneficial results for them; **83%** of whom said moral truth depends on the **circumstances**, and only **6%** of whom said moral truth is absolute. (Barna)



“and you will *know* the truth”

I. There is whole lot of **confusion** about truth.

Five common approaches to truth...

1. NON-A

2. SCIEN

3. PRAG

4. INDIVIDUAL: *Truth is what you make it.*



ths.

Truth is place holder:

My truth is “_____.”



“and you will *know* the truth”

- I. There is whole lot of **confusion** about truth.

Five common approaches to truth...

1. NON-ABSOLUTE: *There are **no** absolute truths.*
2. SCIENTIFIC: *Truth is what **science** tells us.*
3. PRAGMATIC: *Truth is what **works**.*
4. INDIVIDUAL: *Truth is what you **define**.*
5. LIBERTARIAN: *All truth claims are **power plays**.*

“truth claims restricts freedom”

“My word has no place in you.” (8:37)





“and you will know the truth”

II. Truth is more **important**
than most realize.





“and you will know the truth”

II. Truth is more **important**
than most realize.

If absolute objective truth does not exist...

1. No **right** or **wrong**.
2. No foundation for condemning **evil**.
3. No **heroes** to root for and no **villains** to despise.
4. No foundation for **justice**.
5. No way of measuring **progress**.
6. No basis for confronting **intolerance**.



“and you will *know* the truth”

II. Truth is more **important**
than most realize.

Characteristics of Truth...

1. Truth is Absolute: *has been, is now, and will be*
2. Truth is Constant: *never changes*
3. Truth is Universal: *true for everybody, everywhere*
4. Truth is Exclusive: *narrow & limited*



“and you will *know* the truth”

III. How did this all happen?

Postmodernism...

1. ‘Period of enlightenment’ [the “long 18th century” (1685-1815)] or simply, the age of reason.
2. Great advances in science, technology - the industrial revolution.
3. Disillusionment gives way to rebellion - convention, reason, and tradition are rejected.

“Truth is nothing more than the **invention** of fixed conventions for merely **practical** purposes, especially those of repose, security and consistence.”

Friedrich Nietzsche, 1873
“On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense”



"and you will know the truth"

III. How did this all happen?

Postmodernism...

Supreme Court in Planned Parenthood v. Casey: "At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning of the universe, and the mystery of human life."

1992, The Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy

Nationale Nederlanden Building Prague (1992-97)



Walt Disney Concert Hall Architecture Los Angeles, California

Postmodernism...





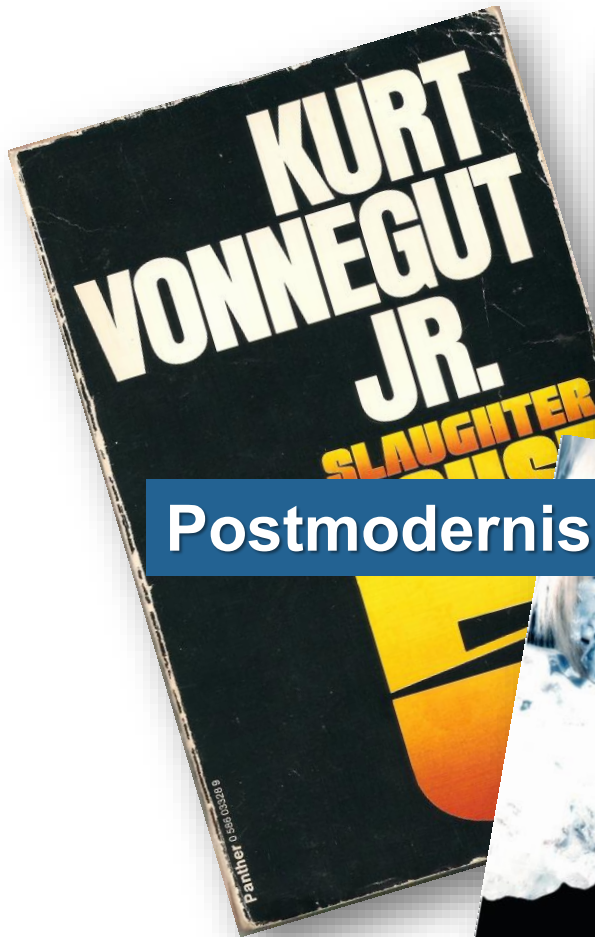
Postmodernism...



Pablo Picasso - **Violin and Grapes** - spring-summer 1912



Jackson Pollock
Number 18, 1950



Postmodernism...





April 8, 1966



“and you will know the truth”

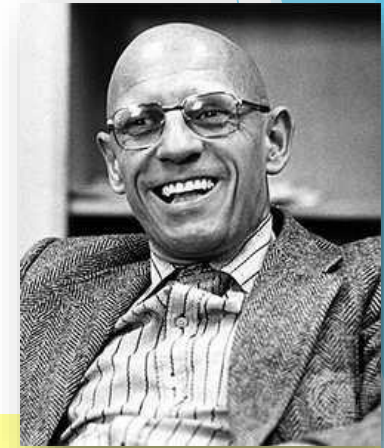
4. Truth is **easier** to find than you think.

Michel Foucault

French philosopher

“Truth is a thing of this world: it is produced only by virtue of multiple forms of constraint. And it includes regular effects of power.”

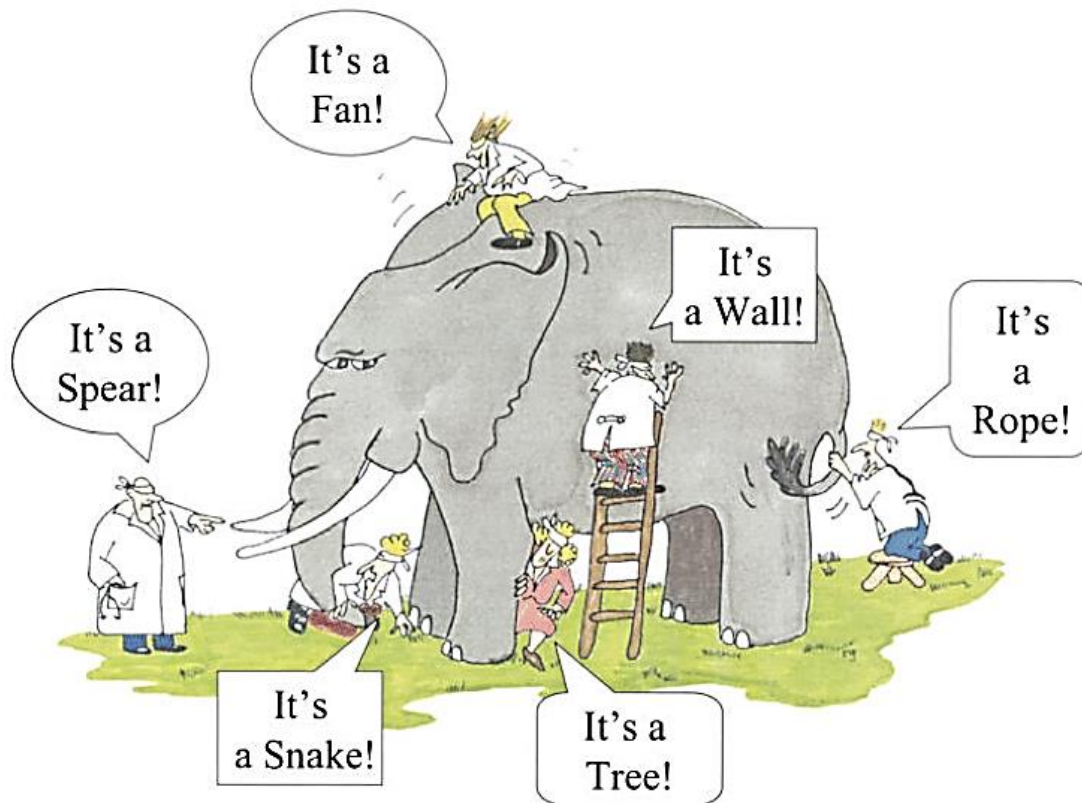
“all truth claims are actually power plays”



15 October 1926 to 25 June 1984

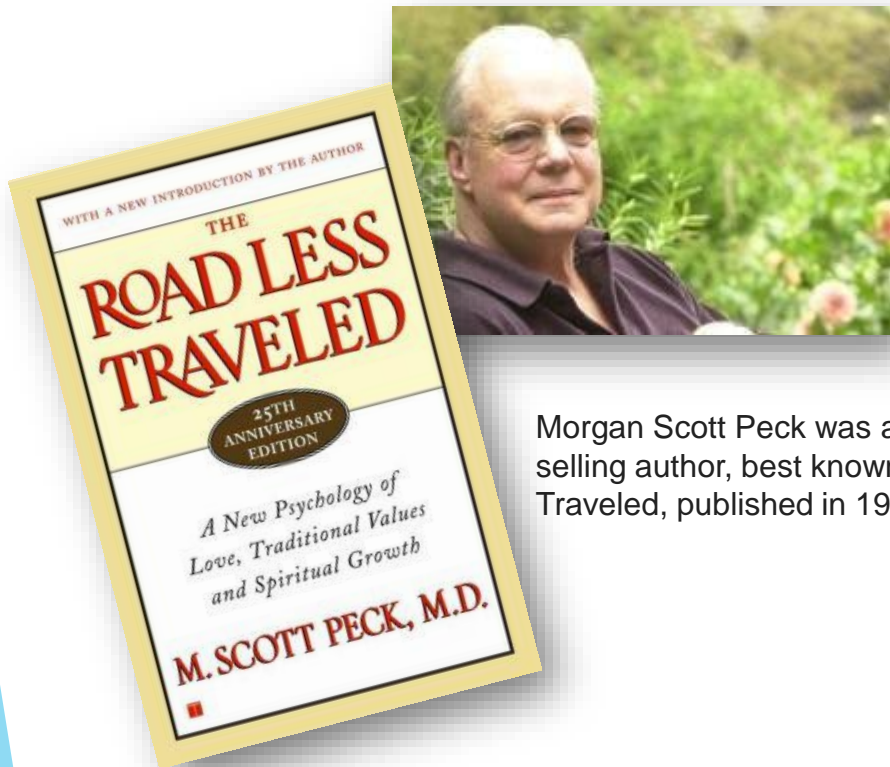
If you say all truth-claims are just power plays,
then so is your statement.

Where is the 7th Person?



Morgan Scott Peck

“Mental health requires that the human will submit itself to something **higher than itself**. To function decently in this world we must submit ourselves to some principle that takes precedence over what we want at any given moment.”



Morgan Scott Peck was an American psychiatrist and best-selling author, best known for his first book, *The Road Less Traveled*, published in 1978



“and you will know the truth”

4. Truth is **easier** to find than you think.

How can any one person know truth?

Good question. No human person can.

“O Lord, I know the way of man *is* not in himself; *It is* not in man who walks to direct his own steps.” (Jeremiah 10:23)



“and you will *know* the truth”

4. Truth is **easier** to find than you think.

Truth must come from above this realm.

Jesus Christ - *our source of truth.*

And the **Word** became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and **truth**. (John 1:14)

For the Law was given through Moses; grace and **truth** were realized through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17)



“and you will **know** the truth”

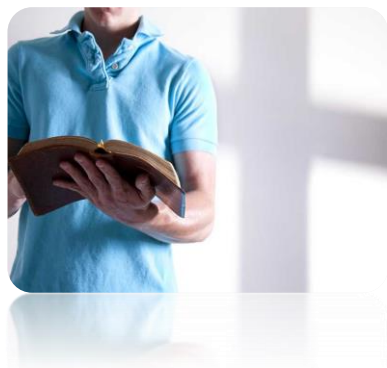
4. Truth is **easier** to find than you think.

Truth is found in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ - *is* truth and *speaks* truth.

Jesus said to him, “**I am** the way, and the **truth**, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” John 14:8

Which one of you convicts Me of sin?
If I **speak truth**, why do you not believe Me?
John 8:46



“and you will *know* the truth”

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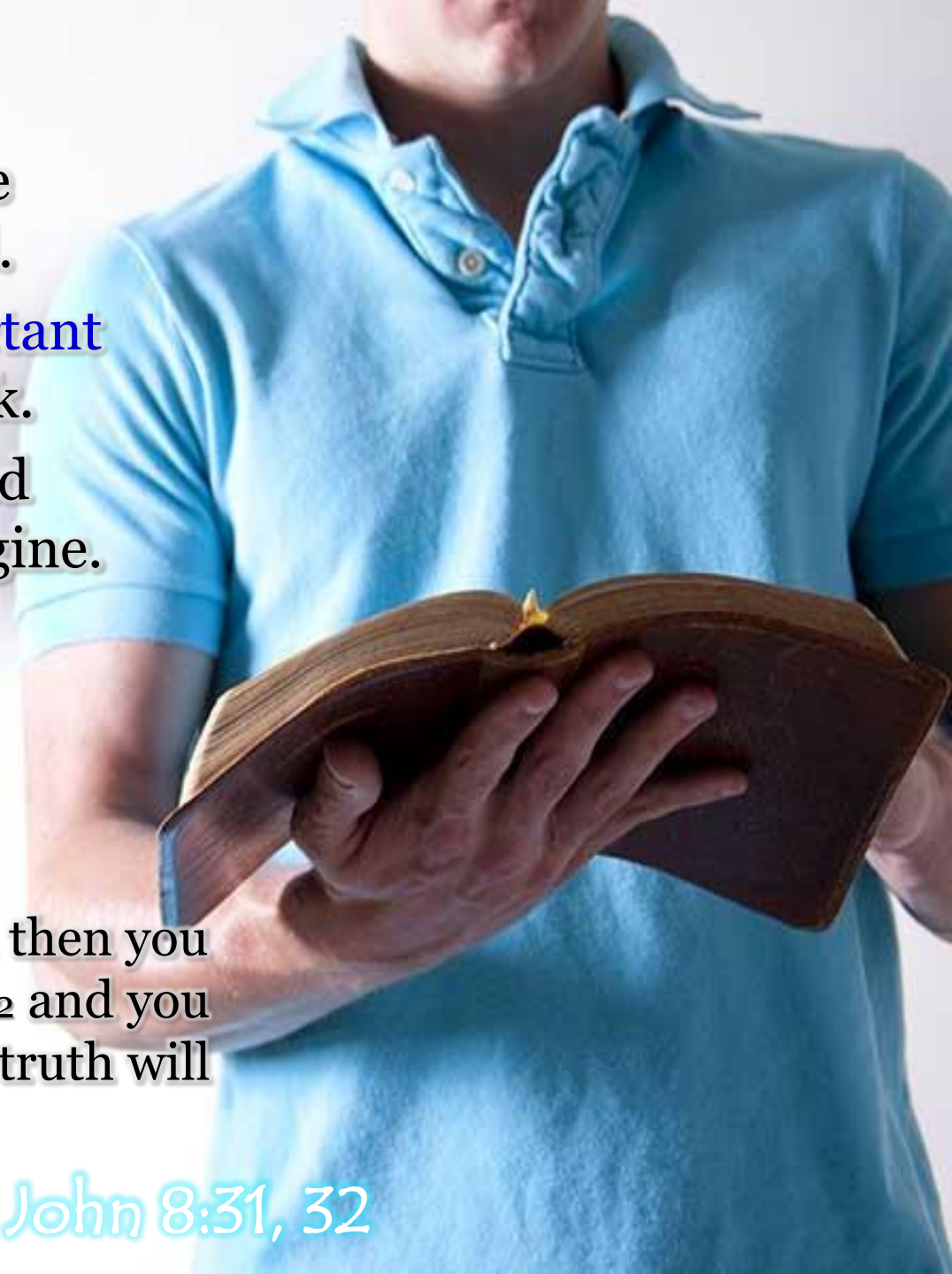
Truth is found in the words of Jesus Christ.

“If you continue in **My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will **know the truth**, and the truth will make you free.”

John 8:31,32

CONDITION: *If you **continue** in My word*

PROMISE: *.... you will **know** the truth*

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- A person wearing a light blue polo shirt is holding an open, thick book with a dark brown cover. The person's face is partially visible at the top, and their hands are holding the book open. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.
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