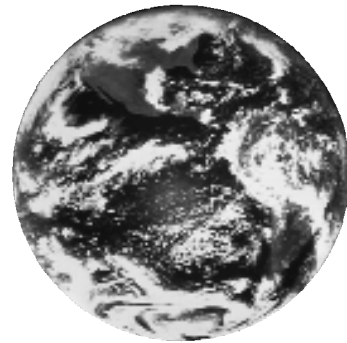


The Truth
You Know
You Know

Jesus Verified
in Our Global Culture



N. Kenneth Rideout

THE TRUTH YOU KNOW YOU KNOW: Jesus Verified in Our Global Culture
by N. Kenneth Rideout

Copyright ©2005 N. Kenneth Rideout. All rights reserved.

This edition distributed by:

NDX Press
div. of Child Sensitive Communication, LLC
PO Box 40269
Nashville, TN 37204-0269
1-615-383-8845, www.ndxpress.com

Editor: Karyn Henley
Layout: Kristi J. West
Producer: Ralph Henley
Cover Photo: comstock.com. Used by permission.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE ©1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

Scriptures marked NIV quoted from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®.
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Scriptures marked RSV quoted from THE REVISED STANDARD VERSION, Old Testament Section, © 1952; New Testament Section, First Edition, © 1946; Second Edition, © 1971 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

Scriptures marked NRSV quoted from THE NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION, © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

Scriptures marked NKJV quoted from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW KING JAMES VERSION © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.

"He Paid a Debt He Did Not Owe" w/m by Ellis J. Crum, Kendallville, IN, 1979.
Arr. © Copyright 1979 "Special Sacred Selections," by Ellis J. Crum, publisher; Kendallville, IN, 46755. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. All arrangements with these words or this theme are illegal unless authorized by owner.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without prior written permission.

Printed in the U.S.A.

ISBN 0-9743197-9-1

A free, down-loadable study guide is available online for those who want to use this book as a course of study. You can find it at: www.TheTruthYouKnowYouKnow.com

Table of Contents

Acknowledgement	v
Introduction	ix
Before You Read Further	xv
PART ONE	1
1. The Truth You Know You Know	3
2. Truth: Two Languages and Two Dimensions	9
3. The Image of God in Every Person	17
Interlude: The Indonesian Banker	22
4. The Blinding of the Human Heart	25
Interlude: The Thai Village	34
5. The Common Denominator	39
6. The Wrath of the Law	53
Recap to This Point	65
Interlude: The Sheik and the Leper	67
7. If Only There Were a Mediator	69
Interlude: The True Story of the Tiger King and His Helmsman	84

8.	From Sons of Men to Sons of God	87
9.	Christ Unrealized and Christ Realized	97
10.	Identifying Christ in the Hearts of the World	103
	Interlude: Philosophies in a Nutshell	121
11.	The Equation of Faith	123
PART TWO		143
	Interlude: The Final Exam	145
12.	How Truth Verifies Itself	151
	Vignettes	168
13.	Cultural Barriers	171
	Interlude: Hill Tribal Village	182
14.	The Barriers WE Build	187
	Interlude: Discovering an Unknown God	209
15.	Telling What You Know You Know	211
Appendix A: Further Reference Material		221
Appendix B: An Example of Witnessing Through Dialogue		232

PART ONE

CHAPTER ONE

The Truth You Know You Know

Beijing, Communist China
Summer, 1981

A dry, burning breeze blew into the city from the Gobi Desert as I wove through crowds of people, all dressed in faded navy, gray, or black. I was making my way to the Beijing Medical University where I taught English. My class consisted of 50 doctors and nurses, both men and women, ages 32 to 60. These were some of China's most intelligent people. As such, they had endured much suffering during the destructive fury of the Cultural Revolution, which had spread death and cultural ruin throughout China. One of these doctors, described by the others as the best surgeon in China, had told me he had spent the last eight years walking the rice paddies barefooted. Another had said that the Red Guards had taken her husband and children away. She had not seen them for over ten years, nor did she know where they were even now.

But by 1981, China was beginning to emerge onto the world stage from the bleakness and fear of the Cultural Revolution as a new leader attempted to bring the nation into an era of openness. Teams of English teachers from the West had been invited to upgrade education. So here I was in a hot, colorless city. The authorities, who knew I was a

Christian but not that I was a missionary, had said I would be allowed to give a Christian witness. But no public gatherings would be permitted.

With this knowledge, I entered my classroom each day and faced this special group of doctors and professors. Their white shirts and blouses were wrinkled. Their drab trousers and skirts were faded. On their feet, they wore rubber thongs or well-worn, unpolished leather shoes. Yet in spite of their humble clothing, they had a keen intellect and self-esteem. These amiable doctors and nurses possessed a wholesome respect for their station and accomplishments, and perceived their comrades to be compassionate benefactors of the Chinese.

I assumed that all my students were currently Communist, or had been in the past, for they had spent their lives under atheistic communism. Religious witnessing had been forbidden, and Christians had been marked as ignorant and primitive. In fact, just a few years earlier, learning English or even showing any Western skills with music would have resulted in death or imprisonment. But now the Chinese were being encouraged to study English. They were allowed to question Westerners freely, so they were full of questions, endlessly asking about everything. It seemed that their curiosity about me was never quenched.

One day, one of the doctors asked, "How do you prove God?"

"You do not prove God," I said. "You *know* God. We prove things in the physical world by experimenting with measurements, weights, chemicals, heat, light, and so on. But you cannot put God in a test tube or measure His dimensions. God is Spirit. Things of the Spirit dimension need no proving, because God's Spirit bears witness to our spirits. God's Spirit confirms the truth of His love and His being."

After some silent thought, the doctors said, "We don't understand."

"Should you lie, rob, murder, or cheat me?" I asked. "Should you take my wife by force? Should you rape my daughter?"

"No!" they answered.

"Are you sure?" I asked.

"Yes," they all said. "We are sure."

"Prove it," I said. "Prove that these things are wrong."

Everyone was silent.

"I agree with you," I said. "We all agree that these things are wrong. I am an American, and you are Chinese. Our language, culture, and political systems are different. Yet on this most important issue for relationship among all people, we agree. There is no need to prove it, for we all know it. It is a self-evident truth, universally understood. Things of the Spirit need no proof, for our Maker has written His image of love and moral righteousness upon every human heart. All over the world, regardless of nation, language, or creed, men and women, adults and children, educated and uneducated, all alike know that such behavior is bad. Each person knows what is good."



Things of the Spirit need no proof.

Our Maker has written His image of love and moral righteousness upon every human heart.



Then I asked another question. "If I love you so deeply that I would die for you, would I lie, rob, murder, cheat, or mistreat you in any way?"

"No," they said. "You wouldn't."

I placed one of my index fingers over the other, forming a cross. "If I loved you like this, so that I would die for you after you put nails into my hands and feet, pierced my side with a sword, or pressed a crown of sharp thorns into my brow, would I ever murder or rob or cheat you?"

Without hesitation, they said, “No.”

“Do you have to prove that?” I asked.

Again they answered, “No.”

“What kind of a world would it be if we all loved each other with such love?” I asked.

“It would be a great world,” they said.



**Love fulfills all moral and ethical responsibilities
toward one another.**



“We all know that it would be a great world if we loved each other with the love our Creator has given us,” I said. “We believe it, because it is true. God has put within us the knowledge of His love. Whoever our Maker is, He has made us with a common knowledge: Love fulfills all moral and ethical responsibilities toward one another. We do not have to prove it; we know it. This kind of love implies the personal. That’s why we say, ‘God is love, and love is personal.’”

Love That Proves to be True

This explanation of God’s love, which the Chinese doctors pondered that day, is so simple that a little child can easily understand it. Yet it is also profound. We believe God is love, because He has written the truth of His love in the hearts of all people. We not only feel love, but we also see it when people are kind and compassionate toward us. This love is the absolute of mankind’s ability to exist in self-fulfillment and in personal relationships. Its multiple facets hold all that distinguishes us as both relational and rational human beings. We know we must love truth, morality, humanity, integrity, responsibility, honor, respect, righteousness, and life — our own as well as others’. To the human heart, such love continually proves itself to be true.

Summary: Chapter 1

You don’t have to prove God; you know God.

All people agree on basic universal moral law.

Perfect love fulfills the whole moral law.

This kind of love is personal.

The highest description of God is Perfect Love.

God is personal.