

SERMON: THE TRUTH ABOUT THE TRUTH

JOHN 18:37-38

(37) Pilate therefore said unto Him, Art thou a king? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king, To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth My voice. (38) Pilate saith unto Him, What is the truth? And when he said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find no fault at all.

Introduction

The Bible, though written several centuries ago, is still relevant. Yes, the Bible is relevant, trustworthy, and reliable for every generation. God's Holy Word is timely and timeless. The major issues and challenges of life do not change. They remain constant throughout changing historical eras and are prevalent in every culture. The Bible addresses these issues and challenges and provides practical solutions. Pilate, the Roman procurator of Judea, who some think was more weak than wicked, was confronted with one of these issues when he interrogated Jesus, during one of the many trials our Savior endured before His crucifixion. Pilate asked Jesus the question: What is the truth? Now let's fast-forward. Today many individuals are asking that same question. With claims and counter-claims from marketing companies and politicians accusing each other of delivering fake news, we need to examine "truth" from a Biblical perspective. The quest for truth and the certainty of knowing that what I think is the truth is "really" the truth has been an issue from antiquity. The theological and philosophical study of truth is called epistemology. So hang with me; I am going to give you a full semester's course on epistemology in five minutes and then we will spend the rest of the time talking about Jesus. In telling the truth about the truth there are four questions which must be addressed. Let's look at these now.

Exposition

Questions about the Truth

1. What Is The Truth?

An Accurate and Adequate Description of Reality

2. What Kind of Truth?

- (A) Axiomatic Truth (Self-evident)
- (B) Temporary, Chronological Truth (Facts)
- (C) Causal Truth (A > B > C > D)
- (D) Truth of Agreement
(Customs & Conventions-One Foot Equals 12 Inches)

- (E) Scientific & Mathematical Truth (Hard Science)
(Only One Right Answer- $2+2=4$)
- (F) Proverbial/Statistical Truth (Soft Science)
(True Most of the Time- A Projection of Future Activity)
- (G) Truth Of Comparison (Compared To What?)
- (H) Revelatory Truth (Directly From God)

3. Why Is The Truth?

Biblical Truth Exists Because God Loves Us

4. How Important Is The Truth?

Biblical Truth is the Most Important Truth
(All Truths Are Not Equal)

Some of the Most Important Truths

1. Jesus Was God Incarnate

(John 1:14; Galatian 4:4)

2. Jesus Came to Seek and to Save That Which Was Lost

(Luke 9:56; Luke 19:10)

3. Jesus Died On the Cross (He Shed His Blood for Us)

(Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46; Philippians 2:8)

4. Jesus Rose Again On the Third Day

(1st Corinthians 15:1-20)

5. Jesus Will Appear Again and Rapture Us Up

(1st Thessalonians 4:13-18)

6. Jesus Will Allow Us to Spend Eternity with Him

(John 3:16; John 10:28; John 14:1-4)

Closing Thoughts

Truth is not only something we believe; it is also something we are called to practice and to speak in love. Jesus and truth cannot be separated. Jesus said, I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. He also said the truth will make us free. The truth of Christ will free us from the guilt of the past and the eternal penalty of sin. In an age where truth is all too often shaded to obscure falsehood, there is no group of people who should be

more dedicated to speaking and living the truth than the followers of Christ. Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

End Note

We are admonished by Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:15 to speak the truth in love. The question: When is it appropriate to speak the truth? I don't know who said it first but here are five questions we can ask ourselves before we speak the truth in difficult circumstances.

1. Is it really true?
2. Is it helpful?
3. Is it inspiring?
4. Is it necessary?
5. Is it kind?

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