

“I AM THE TRUTH”

John 14:6

Truth! What is truth? That’s what Pilate asked Jesus. I am glad Pilate did not have the online encyclopedia, *Wikipedia*, which says concerning truth: “The term has no single [definition](#) about which a majority of professional philosophers and scholars agree.”

That statement reflects our society’s attitude about truth. Depraved minds have concluded that, if there is truth there is “no single [definition](#)” of it. Paul said there would be learning without discerning in the last days: “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (II Tim.3:7) and he adds in v. 8, “these men oppose the truth - men of depraved minds.”

God’s Son is Truth (John 14:6) and God’s Word is truth (John 17:17; II Cor. 6:7; Eph. 1:13; Col. 1:5; II Tim.2:15; James 1:18.) Unfortunately, the “professional philosophers and scholars” have substituted their wisdom for the wisdom of God and rather than accepting God’s authority on the subject, they set themselves up as the final authority.

Even before Pilate asked the question, “What is truth?” (Jn.18:38) Jesus had answered it in John14:6 saying, “I Am the truth.” There is a single definition of truth! Truth is not what humans choose to decide it is – truth is what God decides it is and God’s word on any subject is final!

The opinions of mankind do not negate the veracity of Jesus declaration: “I Am the truth.” Let us study this startling statement that Jesus made as follows:

I. TRUTH DENIED.

- **Basic fact: Truth has been and is under attack.**

That there is truth and that Jesus is the incarnation of truth has been denied down through the ages. The Internet Encyclopedia Of Philosophy informs us that: “A proposition is true if it is useful to believe. Utility is the essential mark of truth. Beliefs that lead to the best “payoff”, that are the best justification of our actions, that promote success, are truths. It may be useful for someone to believe a proposition but also useful for someone else to disbelieve it. For example, Freud said that many people, in order to avoid despair, need to believe there is a god who keeps a watchful eye on everyone.

However, it may not be useful for other persons to believe that same proposition. They would be crushed if they believed that there is a god who keeps a watchful eye on everyone. Thus, by symmetry of argument, that proposition is false.” At this point I cannot refrain from saying that the name “Freud” is very similar to the word “fraud”!

The battle against truth is a battle against God for, as Psalm 31:5 states God is the “Lord God of truth.” Satan is God’s arch enemy and enemy of Truth. Jesus said to some in His day: “the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning,

and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.” (John 8:44) This conflict, which has raged from the beginning of time, intensifies in the last times and Paul traces this opposition to truth to “depraved minds”.

You may blink at such a characterization and wonder if Paul misread his vision of this age of intellectual brilliance. However, the fact is that this paradox has already settled into the American educational system. Princeton University philosopher Diogenes Allen declared, “a massive intellectual revolution has taken place that is perhaps as great as that which marked off the modern world from the middle ages.”

Michael Horton, writing in *Modern Reformation Magazine* about this paradigm shift says, “It is a shift that shapes every intellectual discipline as well as the practice of law, medicine, politics and religion.” What is this shift, this new paradigm, called? It is called, Postmodernism. While the Postmodern era is a period of time, Postmodernism is an ideology. The ideological postmodernist says:

“There are no absolutes; there is no absolute truth or “true truth” as they term it. Truth is relative. Truth is what one chooses it to be. There are no moral standards. Nothing is verifiably right or wrong. If it is your custom, tradition or choice it is viable.” To the Postmodernist the only philosophies that are wrong are those that believe in absolute truth. They say, “true truth is a fraud.” In their view the only sinners are those who still believe there is such a thing as sin.

One Christian leader sums it up as follows: “Postmodernism begins with the idea that there are no fixed, stand-alone truths. Rather than this thing called truth coming from beyond ourselves—as Christians believe about God’s revelation—the postmodernist claims that truth is really only what we see or experience from our perspective. And when a big enough number of us see or experience something in a similar way, then whatever that is becomes truth for us.”

How can I say it plain enough, verifiably strong enough, based upon the authority of God and His Word, that there is concrete, certain, absolute truth? By quoting Jesus! “The best way to show that a stick is crooked is not to argue about it or to spend time denouncing it, but to lay a straight stick alongside it.” (D.L. Moody) So let us lay the claim of Christ alongside the crooked sticks!

II. TRUTH IDENTIFIED.

- **Basic fact: Truth is an attribute of God.**

In the Old Testament, the following verses, among others, declare that God is Truth:

- A. Exodus 34:6 – “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth.”
- B. Deut. 32:4 - “He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.”

- C. II Chron. 15:3 – “For a long time Israel has been without the true God,”
- D. Psalm 31:5 – “Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.”
- E. Isaiah 65:16 – “He who blesses himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; And he who swears in the earth shall swear by the God of truth.”
- F. Jeremiah 10:10 – “But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King.”
- G. John 17:3 – “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

The Father is Truth – Psalm 31:5 “Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O LORD, The God of truth.”

Jesus is Truth – Jn. 14:6 “I Am The Truth.”

The Holy Spirit is Truth – I Jn. 5:6 “the Spirit is the truth.”

The Triune God is Truth – Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

God is the True God, the God of Truth – that is Truth! When truth unmask wrong and wrongful thinking, those who are exposed get very nervous. Of course, most of the intelligentsia of earth discount God or do not take Him very seriously. However, those of us who know Him say a loud “amen!” to the identification of Truth as the Lord God Almighty!

III. TRUTH PERSONIFIED.

- **Basic fact: Jesus’ statement that “I Am Truth” was a claim to Deity.**

Many mere human teachers and notables had come and gone before Jesus uttered the statement “I Am Truth.” Plato, Aristotle and Socrates were among them. They taught numerous and various philosophies. However, no one of them ever made the bold assertion that they were, in and of themselves, the personification of Truth. For a mere human being to make such a statement would be the height of arrogance. But Jesus, of course, was not a mere human being. He was God incarnate! The following verses, among others, testify that Jesus is the Personification of Truth in human flesh:

- A. John 1:1 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” God is Truth; Jesus is God; Jesus is Truth.
- B. John 1:9 – “That was the true Light.”
- C. John 1:14 – “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

- D. John 1:17 – “For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”
- E. I John 5:20 – “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”
- F. Rev. 19:11 – “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True.”

Jesus Christ is God in the flesh, God the Son, the Son of God. God is Truth, Jesus Christ is Truth. The Christian will bow in adoration acknowledging Jesus Christ as the Personification of Truth, even though there are those who are “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.” And Paul continues, “Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.” (2 Tim. 3:7-9)

IV. TRUTH APPLIED.

- **Basic fact: For Jesus Christ, The Truth, to impact my life positively, I must believe, receive and apply Truth.**

We can talk about truth until we are blue in the face, as the saying goes, but we prove truth best by our walk. John R.W. Stott wrote in his book, *The Epistles Of John*:

“To walk in the truth is more than to give assent to it. It means to apply it to one’s behavior. He who “walks in the truth” is an integrated Christian in whom there is no dichotomy between profession and practice. On the contrary, there is in him an exact correspondence between his creed and his conduct. Such conformity of life to the truth on the part of his children brought John greater joy than anything else. To him truth mattered.”

Dr. H.A. Ironside was the pastor of the world famous Moody Church in Chicago when I became a student at the Moody Bible Institute there. His messages were simple yet sublime. Among other truths he uttered was this: “God forbid that we should traffic in un-lived truth.” Amen! And Amen!

CONCLUSION

The American poet, James Russell Lowell wrote: “Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne....” In this era when truth is on the scaffold let us not forget that conditions breed opportunity! What an opportunity for the True Church of Jesus Christ to be witnesses to the Truth!

Jesus said “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” and “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. (John 8:32 & 36) How do I come to know the Truth as it is in Jesus Christ and experience this freedom that He promises?

1. Acknowledge that you are a sinner!

“As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one.” (Romans 3:10).

“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

2. Believe that Christ died to pay for your sins and was raised from the dead.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

3. Confess Christ, receiving Him as your personal Savior as you commit to turning from sin to the Savior.

For “whosoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God, even to those who believe on His name” (John 1:12).

*“I am the way, **the truth**, and the life.
No one comes to the Father
except through Me.”
(John 14:6)*

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