

Eternity Daily Bible Study

Searching For The Truth

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Number: 01

Topic: Searching For The Truth

Bible Verses: John 14:6; 18:37,38; 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

Date: 6th September 2011

In this series we will look at the topic of "*Searching for the Truth*" in a world full of deception. However unlike Pontius Pilate, it helps to ask the question "What is truth?" and actually expect an answer! After all if we are to "walk in the truth" it would help if we knew which path we were supposed to be taking!

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Truth and is also full of grace and truth:

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

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.*

The truth is in Christ. Jesus is the ultimate reality in the Universe. The worlds were made by Him and through Him and for Him; and in Him all things consist and are upheld by the Word of His power (Colossians 1:15-20, John 1:1-3, Hebrews 1:1-3).

The reason why any created thing exists is "for the glory of Jesus Christ, the Son of God". So after you have asked all your "Why?" questions the real and eventual answer is "because of Jesus".

Now there is a functional aspect to truth. If you live by the truth you live better, you are not deceived, you live in the light and you can see where you are going in life. Truth makes life work well, whereas lies destroy life.

Jesus makes life work well, forever. He is our salvation, sanctification, glorification and our wisdom, redemption and our eternal life. (Romans 6-8, 1 Corinthians 1)

So the knowledge of Jesus is the most functional form of the truth. Other knowledge does not work as well or as powerfully. It cannot save us.

The General Theory of Relativity is very complex and powerful but it does not save your soul, make you holy or give you eternal life! No one ever studied physics and got off drugs as a result. But many people have read the gospels and got off drugs as a direct result of being saved. Jesus makes the incredible qualitative difference in our existence that no mere philosophy or scientific theory can.

So one way to define truth is: *The truth is that knowledge which enlightens us, saves us, and gives us inner freedom, functional wisdom and agape love, so that ultimately we live in the light and become the image of God in Christ.*

And one way to define a lie is: *The lie is that knowledge which deludes us, damns us, enslaves us, makes us foolish, and leads us into hatefulness, darkness and destruction, so that ultimately we become self-deceived sons of the Devil.*

Pontius Pilate played politics for so long and was so hard that eventually there was no concept of "truth" left in his life:

John 18:37-38 (EMTV)

37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this reason I have been born, and for this reason I have come into the world, that I should testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." 38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

Facts separated from Christ can become lies. Much of the recent Christian self-help literature about "applying life-principles" is in this category! While teaching biblical principles and making the occasional reference to prayer, there is generally little or no serious mention of Jesus, or of Heaven or Hell or saving grace or reliance on the Holy Spirit or the need for sanctification and godly virtue. It is cross-less Christianity!

Such self-help literature is a lie. The framework of such writing is all wrong. It becomes all about personal destiny and the materialistic dream. Basically God is just there to make our life in this world comfortable and successful. It is God serving our covetousness, and covetousness is idolatry! (Ephesians 5:3-5).

1 Corinthians 8 verse one tells us that "knowledge puffs up but love builds up". So the wholesale acquisition of bible trivia is not quite the same as "walking in the truth"; if the only result of that knowledge is becoming proud and puffed up and drawn away from being in the image of God in Christ.

Truth is eternal and has an eternal perspective. The truth prepares us for eternity and causes eternal qualities to be manifest within us:

John 17:3 *And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.*

Truth makes us like Jesus while lies make us like the Devil, who is the deceiver of nations and the father of lies:

John 8:44 *You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you desire to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has not stood in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar, and the father of lies.*

Thus, when the Devil takes over a person, a church, a city, a nation or even the world, then it becomes deceived, deluded and destroyed. This will happen on an immense scale in the Last Days:

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (EMTV)

9 *The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, **10** and with all deceit of unrighteousness among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. **11** And because of this, God will send them a strong delusion, in order for them to believe the lie, **12** so that they all might be damned who did not believe the truth, but delighted in unrighteousness.*

Not believing the truth leads men and women to go after unrighteousness and results in their eternal damnation. So, the opposite of the truth is a “delight in unrighteousness”. Loving sin leads to self-deception, which leads to us walking away from the truth, which leads us straight into trouble.

A student who loves to skip class and hang out in the refectory soon deceives himself with excuses such as “the classes are boring and the professor is inept” or “I’m really smart, I can study at the last minute and still do well”. However they soon start failing exams. If they don’t wake up, but continue lying to themselves, they may go from bad to worse and even end up in bad company or on drugs.

The truth is not just a set of facts. The truth is a pathway to life, eternal life! That is why Jesus says: “I am the way, the truth and the life”. Following the truth which is in Christ, puts us on a path, and that path brings us eternal life.

The truth leads to the light and to life. Lies lead to darkness and to death. But in today’s world the truth is obscured, lost and hard to find. We need to search out the truth and to hold on to it for dear life. For it is the truth that will save us; hence the reason for this series of studies.

Blessings,

John Edmiston
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