

TRUTH IS ABSOLUTE

In John 18:37,38 we find Pilate asking Jesus, (NKJV)"Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say {rightly} that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." (38) Pilate said to Him, "**What is truth?**" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him {at all}." Pilate asked a question of Christ that many are asking today - "WHAT IS TRUTH?" Unfortunately, many have settled for a POOR SUBSTITUTE for truth! And some contend that TRUTH IS RELATIVE - that is, truth is whatever YOU believe it to be. It is interesting to note that those who will advocate this in religious matters will *NOT* accept it when it comes to *BUSINESS!* If someone tells them that they are receiving *ONE GALLON OF GASOLINE* for \$3.39, they expect to receive *ONE FULL GALLON!* But what if some gas station was pumping 16 fluid ounces and calling it a *GALLON?* How many people would say, "*WELL to HIM TRUTH is a 16 fluid ounce Gallon!*" The *TRUTH IS* that *ONE GALLON* contains 128 fluid ounces! Whether people want to accept it or not, they believe that **TRUTH IS ABSOLUTE - whenever they agree with it!** But since the Bible presents **TRUTH AS ABSOLUTE-** we must find out WHAT it is and how it relates to us today.

What Is Truth?

The word TRUTH as it appears in the pages of the New Testament comes from the Greek word, "G225. aletheia {al-ay'-thi-a}" which means "the manifested veritable essence of a matter." Webster defines the word as: "the state of being the case: FACT (2): the body of real things, events, and facts: ACTUALITY...the property of being in accord with fact or reality...fidelity to an original or to a standard." But this does not tell us where to turn for TRUTH in matters religious. We find that Jesus prayed to the Father in the Garden, as recorded in John 17:17 (NKJV) "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." Thus, according to Jesus, God's Word is TRUTH! However, Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Jesus then, is the very EMBODIMENT OF TRUTH! Paul observed in Ephesians 4:21 that "...the truth is in Jesus." Since Jesus appointed His apostles as the ones to reveal ALL TRUTH (John 16:13), we must conclude that the BIBLE contains the TRUTH, which is in fact THE

WORD OF GOD! (John 16:14,15) Thus we conclude that the Bible is our SOURCE OF TRUTH TODAY, and as such, it is AUTHORITATIVE in all matters today!

Truth Makes Man Free

Jesus said in John 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." This makes truth extremely important to all responsible human beings. Being made FREE by KNOWING THE TRUTH, does NOT mean being free to do as you please! But it DOES mean FREEDOM from the bondage of SIN! Consider here Romans 6:16-18 "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness? (17) But God be thanked that {though} you **were slaves of sin**, yet you **obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered**. (18) And **having been set free from sin**, you became slaves of righteousness." Those who LIVE IN SIN are SLAVES OF SIN! But those who OBEY FROM THE HEART the DOCTRINE or GOSPEL of JESUS CHRIST, are set FREE FROM SIN! Notice here the CONDITION upon which they became FREE from sin - OBEY FROM THE HEART! James 1:22 "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." In regard to the FREEDOM we enjoy from sin in Christ, Paul says in Galatians 5:13 "For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not {use} liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." Those who have realized FREEDOM from the bondage of SIN in CHRIST, realize that, as Paul said in Romans Chapter 6, they have become servants of Righteousness - and they have an obligation to serve one another as Children of God!

Truth Also Divides

While TRUTH will make one FREE, by its very NATURE, it will divide! Jesus KNEW that it would, and He said in Matthew 10:34-39 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. (35) "For I have come to `set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter in law against her mother in law.' (36) "And `a man's foes will be those of his {own household}.' (37) "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. (38) "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. (39) "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it." Whenever TRUTH is taught, MEN are ALWAYS DIVIDED!

Some will BELIEVE, others will NOT BELIEVE! And so it is today, that we see those who will not stand for the TRUTH of God's Word are naturally DIVIDED from those who WILL STAND! And we DARE NOT compromise TRUTH on ANY POINT in an effort to stop division! The DIVISION which exists in the religious world today, yes even that which exists between us and erring brethren, IS WHAT CHRIST CAME FOR! **"I did not come to bring peace but a sword."** (Jesus Christ!) Whenever we choose to compromise the TRUTH for the sake of UNITY, we become DIVIDED FROM CHRIST!

Truth Guides the Christian

A guide is one who directs others, and this is precisely what the TRUTH, which is revealed in the pages of God's Word, does for man today! The BIBLE serves as a book of DIRECTIONS or INSTRUCTIONS for the Christian on how to live in THIS LIFE, and prepare for the life which is to come! Jeremiah expressed the thoughts of all who respect the Bible as God's Word when he wrote in Jeremiah 10:23 "O Lord, I know the way of man {is} not in himself; {it is} not in man who walks to direct his own steps." Without GOD'S TRUTH revealed in the pages of the Bible, MAN would be LOST AT SEA without a COMPASS or a SAIL! David said in Psalm 119:105, "Your word {is} a lamp to my feet And a light to my path." In 2 Timothy 3:14-17 Paul expressed these thoughts to Timothy: "But {as for} you, continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned {them}, (15) and that from childhood you have known the **Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.** (16) All Scripture {is} given by inspiration of God, and {is} profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." Also in 1 Timothy 3:14,15 Paul told Timothy: "These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, {I write} so that **you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**" The CHURCH is the PILLAR {stulos {stoo'-los}; a post or column supporting the weight of a building.} AND GROUND {hedraioma {hed-rah'-yo-mah} a support, bulwark or stay, (figuratively) basis.} OF THE TRUTH - and Paul said that the things he WROTE would teach them HOW TO CONDUCT THEMSELVES IN THE

CHURCH! So we can see that the TRUTH supplies EVERYTHING we need to guide us in every aspect of our lives!

We Will be Judged by The Truth

Most important, with regard to TRUTH, is that it will be the standard for judgment in the last day! Jesus said in John 12:48 "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him - **the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.**" By necessary inference, this would include ALL that Christ caused to be revealed through the apostles and prophets of the first century! The STANDARD by which the gas station determines the proper number of ounces for a GALLON OF GASOLINE is set by the Government. The STANDARD by which we can tell whether one IS or IS NOT a CHRISTIAN is the WORD OF GOD! And whenever someone does not measure up, we cannot simply say that TRUTH TO THEM is something DIFFERENT from what we read in the BIBLE! TRUTH IS ABSOLUTE and TRUTH IS UNIVERSAL!

The Day of Judgment is Coming For Us All

Hebrews 9:27 "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." We cannot expect to PULL THE WOOL over GOD'S EYES about the kind of lives we have lived! Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God [**the truth we have been discussing**] {is} living and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." GOD has appointed JESUS as the JUDGE in that day. Acts 17:30,31 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." And when that time comes, we will ALL give an account of ourselves, and how we have LIVED with respect to the STANDARD OF JUDGMENT - which is THE TRUTH! Romans 14:12 "So then each of us shall give account of himself to God."

Are you living today as truth directs? Or are you living in obedience to your own stubborn will, trying to convince yourself that truth is whatever **you** believe it to be? Are you prepared to try to convince God that your standard of truth was more important than His? If not, why not obey the truth today? Consider well these words from Romans 2:8,9 "...to those who are self seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness -

indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek."

Gailen E. Evans