

Monday – Today’s Landscape of Truth**John 18:28-40****Today’s Class Objective/s:**

- To acknowledge that there are many types of truth in today's world
- To understand that some truths are worth knowing more than others

Today’s Quote: “What *is* truth?” – Pilate (John 18:38)**Today’s Lesson:**

1. Most things in this world have dual opposites: we can’t recognize crooked lines unless we know what straight lines look like; “up” has an opposing “down”, hot has its dual in cold, soft is not hard, etc. We would not understand the meaning of falsehood without knowing truth, and our survival depends on this!
2. Truth can be derived from various sources in our world today (e.g. observable reality, personal experience, etc.) which give rise to different “types” of truth:
 - A. Objective
 - B. Subjective
 - C. Social (consensus)
 - D. Moral
 - E. Empirical
 - F. Aesthetic
3. However, the nature of truth today is more complicated than it was in Pilate’s time. Knowledge has increased in these last days (Daniel 12:4) Generative AI engines in the past two years have accelerated this growth to exponential and even factorial levels. People are overwhelmed and confused about what information to trust.
4. Some types of truths are more important than others.
There exists truth that does not come from our physical world (e.g. spiritual truth).
There is a Truth that transcends all other truths.

Questions for Discussion:

1. How can we know for certain what is true?
2. How much “trust” we should place in these sources of truth:
 - A. Observation
 - B. Reality
 - C. Personal Experience
 - D. Do other sources of truth exist in our world?
3. It is ironic to note that the answer to Pilate’s question “what is truth?” was right in front of him in the person of Jesus Christ. Discuss how different factors could impact the way we perceive truth and reality: e.g. Bias, culture, circumstances, ignorance, motives, frames of reference, mental health, etc. Do any of these factors pose a more serious threat to our “truth survival” than others?
4. Truth can be “seized” in unrighteousness (Rom 1:18). How do we recognize when this occurs?
5. Can we always confirm/prove what is true in the here-and-now?
6. Is there a truth that applies to everyone and that holds across time, geography and culture? Is such a “universal” truth so important? Why or why not?
7. Discuss the implications and consequences of a world devoid of any universal truth.
 - A. “Everyone did that which was right in his own eyes.” (Judges 17:6, 21:25)
 - B. “All we like sheep... We have turned every one to his own way.” (Isaiah 53:6)
 - C. “Truth is fallen in the streets.” (Isaiah 59:14, Hosea 4:1)

Tuesday – Truth and Anti-Truth**2 Thessalonians 2: 1-14, 1 John 2: 18-22, 2 John 7****Today's Class Objective/s:**

- To understand Truth's enemy, his motivation, and assault tactics

Today's Quote: "Even now there are many antichrists in the world..." — Apostle John (1 John 2:18)

Today's Lesson:

1. If we know that the Bible (=Word=Logos from God) is true, then we must believe what it says: that Jesus is not merely truth but THE Truth that transcends all other truths!
 - A. The truth is in Jesus (Eph 4:21)
 - B. "I AM the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6)
 - C. Christ is full of GRACE and TRUTH (John 1)
 - D. His truth will make us free, indeed (John 8:31=32, 36)
2. Satan cares about annihilating no other truth but that found in Jesus Christ. This fact should convince us that knowing Christ, the source of saving Truth, is worth knowing above all other truths. Jesus called Satan "a liar and the father of [lies]... the truth is not in him." (John 8:44). Thus, if Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, then Satan is anti-Christ, anti-Way, anti-Life, anti-Truth.
3. Ironically, Satan cleverly uses much of the world's truth types to blind us from seeing Christ, the most important "saving" truth.
4. Satan also uses various strategies and tactics for pulling us away from the saving truth in Jesus:

A. Doubt and Fear	F. Diversions
B. Discouragement	G. Defeat
C. Delusion	H. Delay
D. Deception	I. Discord
E. Distractions	J. Other tactics

Questions for Discussion:

1. If Satan knows his fate, then why does Satan fight against Christ and God? What is his motivation?
2. Of the enemy's tactics, which ones seem to be the most dangerous?
3. In what ways does Satan use some truth to keep us from encountering THE most important truth?
4. How can we apply Jesus' methods to refute false claims being passed off as "true"?
Select a few of the examples below and discuss how you might refute such unreasonable "reasoning".
 - A. "God can't be all-loving if He allows suffering and evil."
 - B. "I believe in facts and evidence. Unless I see your God, I cannot believe."
 - C. "Church is just a religion."
 - D. "Christians are hypocrites. Why should I follow a God whose people don't do what He says?"
 - E. "With all the religions out there, I want my children to decide for themselves which one to follow."
 - F. "You have no right to judge me."
 - G. "The Bible contains contradictions. I can't trust it."
5. Jesus stated in John 8:32 that "... the truth shall ***make*** you free", but this verse is often misquoted as "the truth shall ***set*** you free". Discuss the important difference in the truth setting us free vs. making us free.

Wednesday –The Two-Edged Truth of Christ**Hebrews 4: 12-16****Today's Class Objective/s:**

- To understand the dual “edges” of the sword of Christ’s Truth
- To acknowledge that Christ’s Truth calls for a personal response to yield and believe in Him

Today's Quote: “When reading scripture, do we allow scripture to read us?”

Today's Lesson:

1. The apostle John described Jesus—the Word of God made flesh—as being “full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)
The writer of Hebrews also notes that the Word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword. So then the sword of Christ has two edges:
 - A. The harsh “Truth” edge that cuts open and exposes to light:
 - 1) This sword’s edge pierces even to the dividing asunder, exposing our motives. (Heb 4:12-13)
 - 2) Our motives are found to be wanting and condemn us. (John 3:19-21)
 - 3) We are all condemned to eternal separation from God if we believe not on Jesus. (John 3:16-18)
 - B. The healing “Grace” edge that binds:
 - 1) Christ came to seek and to save that which is lost. (Luke 19:10)
 - 2) By grace are ye saved. (Eph 2:8)
 - 3) Grace and mercy from Christ give birth to a living hope of resurrection. (1 Peter 1:3)
2. Earth’s inhabitants constantly ask questions of the world to understand the nature of the truth that surrounds them. But the Truth of Christ reverses this process and asks the world questions, like “Whom say ye that I am?”
Thus, the Sword of Truth calls for a personal response!
 - A. Will you trust your heart to the Master’s Truth blade to cut away rebellion and sin against your Creator, who made you in His image?
 - B. Are you open to receiving and cherishing the implant of the Master’s sanctifying Holy Spirit?
 - C. Do you have faith that the Grace edge of Christ will bind and heal and save? (“come unto me...”, “bind up the broken-hearted”, “come boldly to the throne of grace”)

Questions for Discussion:

1. Certain truths are more important than others in that they call for increased levels of urgent action. As an example, discuss briefly how differently you might react if each of the following cases are true:
 - A. That house is burning down the street.
 - B. That 10 million dollar house is burning.
 - C. That burning house is my house.
 - D. People are in that burning house.
 - E. My family is still in that burning house.
2. What other questions is Christ asking the world to ponder? How do we personally respond?
3. The apostle Paul writes in Romans 3 that all have sinned. Yet what, exactly, is our sin that God would condemn us to die?
4. Based on your experience, what are some reasons people reject the call of Christ to “come unto me...” ?
Discuss ways we can assist such people to be more open to the Holy Spirit’s working in their hearts.

Thursday – The Call of Truth to Pursue**Philippians 3:7-15****Today's Class Objective/s:**

- To understand that the truth of Christ also calls us to pursue higher, holier ground

Today's Quote: "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."
— Jesus (Luke 9:62)

Today's Lesson:

1. We have already seen from yesterday's lesson that the Truth of Christ pierces the human soul so that each one is called to acknowledge his sinful state and accept His Spirit's help to pursue repentance and redemption by grace through faith in the same piercing blade that convicted us. But Christ—the Way, the Truth, and the Life—also empowers us to pursue a higher plane of virtuous life in Him:
 - A. The pursuit of His example.
 - B. The pursuit of oneness with God and Christ.
 - C. The pursuit of self-denial.
 - D. The pursuit of discipleship. ("Go ye into the world...")
 - E. The pursuit of peace, joy, and forgiveness.
 - F. The pursuit of unity and fellowship among believers.
 - G. The pursuit of loving one another, the way He loved us.
 - H. The pursuit of obedience and faith.
 - I. The pursuit of humble service to others.
 - J. The pursuit of witness.
 - K. The pursuit of prayer and watchfulness.
 - L. The pursuit of sanctification.
2. Our energies to pursue the prize of the high calling of God in Christ will be compromised if we are not able to forget those things which are behind. (Philippians 3: 13-14)

Questions for Discussion:

1. While Jesus calls us to do many things, he asks that we pursue these directives with our whole heart. What are the dangers of partial commitment?
2. What exactly ***are*** those things behind that we are supposed to forget?
3. What, exactly, ***is*** the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus?
4. What internal, personal factors can impede us from following after Christ and His calls to action?
5. What does the pursuit of true discipleship look like? The pursuit of sanctification? Choose several of the pursuits listed in the first lesson point above and discuss details.

Friday – The Call of Truth to Defend**1 Peter 3: 12-18****Today's Class Objective/s:**

- To remind ourselves that the dangerous battle between Truth and anti-Truth never stops
- To appreciate how we can be joyful in the face of adversity because of God's faithfulness and promises

Today's Quote: "More people would be willing to believe what the Scriptures teach, if it didn't require any faith."

Today's Lesson:

1. Just as Christ calls each one to embrace His gospel Truth and
 - A. Deny self
 - B. Pursue Himso Satan counters with a call to embrace his "anti-gospel" to
 - A. Indulge self (because you deserve it!)
 - B. Pursue pleasure, noble activities and philosophies "that seem right to man".
2. Each believer is called to be a martyr/witness to defend the truth of Christ's gospel in the face of Satan's anti-gospel. (Jude 1:3, 1 Peter 3:15)
3. The call to be the light and salt of the earth, and to defend Christ "on the witness stand", will not come without some persecution and hardship. (2 Timothy 3:12)
4. God's Holy Spirit enables us to experience joy in Christ even while we face tribulation from the enemy. (Romans 5:3-5)

Questions for Discussion:

1. Discuss ways to present (defend) the truth of Christ in the face of competing world views and philosophies?
2. How can we help individuals see the softer "grace edge" of Christ beyond the harsh and condemning "truth edge"?
3. How can we prove to unbelievers that the Bible is true? Is there any physical, historical, or present-day evidence? Give some examples.
4. Christ's desire is that we should "go ye into all the world..." (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15, etc.) to preach, teach and baptize. Yet, how do we reconcile His great Commission request with His other directive in Matthew 7:6 to "... neither cast ye your pearls before swine..." ?
5. Paul's exhortation for us to "glory in tribulation" (Romans 5) does not come naturally to humans. Discuss ways in which we can prepare ourselves to have a joyful disposition in the face of adversity.