

Nothing But The Truth

Self-evident truths

- “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”
– Declaration of Independence

Admission of enemies

- What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it
– Ac.4:16

Truth (1/3)

- Lit., 'not' + 'unknown' – visible, clear, known
- Truth: something that is not concealed; a fact or condition that can be seen or expressed as it really is
- Plato: “By searching for truth I strive to make myself as perfect as possible in life and, when the time comes to die, in death” (Spicq, 66)
- Epictetus: “The truth not only gives life; it gives the good life”

Truth (2/3)

- LXX: Gn.24:48, And I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, who had **led me in the way of truth** to take the daughter of my master's brother for his son.

True path ends where it is designed to go

- Paul: Ac.26:25, But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason.

Truth (3/3)

- “Truth”: in accord with what is true (BDAG); what actually happened (L-N)
 - Unbelief cannot cancel truth
 - Bertrand Russell, agnostic: ‘The world contains facts, which are what they are whatever we may choose to think about them’
 - Class of 1491: ‘The earth is flat’

I. Truth Is

Truth and a . . .

- Prophet (Nathan): 2 Sm.7:1-3 (opinion)
- Politician (Pilate):
 - Charge: Lk.23:2-3, king
 - Reality:
 - False: He had no political aspirations
 - Hypocritical: they want political Messiah

Truth and Pilate

- **33:** Pilate–Jesus (“Caesar” and Christ) –
“Are you king of Jews?” “YOU!”
- **34:** if he says ‘yes’ as Jews charge:
He is a political king ...
... if he says ‘no’ He denies He is a king in
any sense ...

He is Messianic
King of Israel

Truth matters
to Jesus

Truth and Pilate

- **35:** “*Am I a Jew?*” (contempt)
 - Pilate knows envy brought Him here
 - “What have you done?”
- **36:** Lord returns to question of v.33
 - 1) He has a kingdom (Mt.21)
 - 2) His kingdom is not of this world (John 18:10-11, He stopped violence)

Truth and Pilate

- **37:** “*So, you are a king? . . .*”
 - Yes...purpose for coming into world: to establish kingdom based on truth
 - Everyone of the truth is ‘son of truth’
 - Depends on, abides in truth ... lives under God’s guidance

Truth and Pilate

- **38:** *Pilate* doesn't ask to learn but to dismiss the claim – this Galilean peasant knows truth??
 - Pilate cared enough about truth to free innocent man (Jn.18:38-39)
 - It mattered...but not enough to wait for Lord's answer

Truth and an apostle

- John's forced conclusion –
 - Jn.19:...35, eyewitness to crucifixion and death
 - Jn.20:1-10 ... 30-31 (resurrection)
 - Jn.21:24-25

I. Truth Is

II. Truth Is Comprehended

Jn.8

³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

1. Condition: abide in His word. 17:17
2. Status: disciples indeed (truly; 1:47; 6:60, 66)
3. Promise: shall know truth. Jn.2:11
4. Blessing: truth makes free. Jn.8:33

I. Truth Is

II. Truth Is Comprehended

III. Truth Is Cancelled

Professor: no absolute truth

- Existence of one truth disproves the assertion
- Professors rob youth of truth

Preachers: whatever you believe is truth to you

- Jn.8:40, 44-45
- Jn.8:24
- Machen

People in general

- Jn.7:12, And there was much muttering about him among the people. While some said, He is a good man, others said, No, he is leading the people astray.
- 7:43, So there was a division among the people over him.
- Common people demand truth from spouse ... judge ... employer ... airline ... advertising ('truth in advertising')

People in general

- Barna – the end of absolutes: America's now moral code.
 - What is morality based on? 57% of American adults: knowing what is right or wrong is a matter of personal experience
 - The Bible provides us with absolute moral truths which are the same for all people in all situations, w/o exception – 59%

Politicians

- Many Americans have become unleashed from reality
- “We risk being the first people in history to have been able to make their illusions so vivid, so persuasive, so ‘realistic’ that they can live in them” – Daniel J. Boorstin, 1961

Entertainers

- If the 1960s amounted to a national nervous breakdown, we are probably mistaken to consider ourselves over it. . . . The beginning of the end of reason – Kurt Andersen

Entertainers

- The Jews did not debate the issue of Jesus with Pilate; they resorted to bully tactics, crowd power. Pilate feared the political clout of the Jews and their influence with Caesar more than he feared killing an innocent Man. Today, one who speaks truth is slandered. Truth is unacceptable.

I. Truth Is

II. Truth Is Comprehended

III. Truth Is Cancelled

IV. Truth Is Conditional

1. Look in right place

Jn.11

- Eastern religions...
- Cults
- Self. 2 Cor.10:12, For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise

2. Look during right period

- Mt.24:35, Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.
 - Truth lasts forever, but I have limited time on earth

2. Look during right period

- Mt.7:21 Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, Lord, Lord, did we not prophecy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name? 23 And then will I declare to them, I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.
- Adoration, action, but wrong authority

3. Look with right purpose

- Honest heart. Mt.22:23-33
- Hungry for truth. Ac.17:11. 1 Th.5:21
- Habitual love for Word. 2 Tim.2:15
- Hold truth regardless of consequences.
Lk.14:28
 - Mt.19:9, 10-12
 - Mk.16:16
 - Jn.14:6

- Give only 'good news'?

A pleasant lie is not merciful

1 Kings 13

1 Tim.4:1-2

- “You are entitled to your own opinion, but you are not entitled to your own facts”