

Midtown Messenger

Volume 2

April 28, 2019

Issue 17

The Nature Of Truth

Ronnie Scherffius

One of the most profound questions ever posed to Jesus by mortal man was asked by Pontius Pilate, "What is truth?" (Jn. 18:38). While this question was likely asked by Pilate with a sarcastic tone it is nevertheless a question that continues to reverberate. By definition, *truth* in a general sense is "what is true in any matter under consideration as opposed to what is false." In reference to religion, the term denotes "what is true in things appertaining to God and the duties of man." (Thayer's Greek English Lexicon)

Nevertheless, in our society there are various views of *truth* especially "religious truth." Some suggest that truth can never fully be known. Others contend that truth is subjective. *Subjective truth* is a truth based on a person's perspective, feelings, or opinions. A third view of truth is that truth is relative. *Relative truth* might also be called situational truth. In other words, a thing is true based on or depending on something else. In this case, truth continually changes as it is related to people, customs, or culture.

The Bible clearly establishes that truth is *absolute*. In other words, a thing either is true or it is not true. There is no grey area; there is no middle ground. In logic this principle is referred to as *the law of excluded middle*. The law of excluded middle states that "every precisely stated statement is either true or false." Jesus said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (Jn. 17:17). If truth is subjective to one's personal perspective, feelings, or opinions, how one responds to God's word is determined by him. If truth is relative then how one responds to God's

word may be determined on the culture, custom, or situation at any given time. In either case each person, group, or nation might have their own truth. In short, man would be free to determine truth for himself! God would be left out of the equation.

Such views of truth are wholly contradictory to Scripture! Paul wrote, "For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, **let God be true**, but every man a liar" (Rom. 3:3-4). In reproof to Job God demanded, "Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. **Wilt thou also disannul my judgment?** wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?" (Job 40:7-8) Man has neither the knowledge, wisdom, nor the right to "disannul" or make void the judgments or decrees of God! Yet, when man claims to have *his own truth* in contradiction to God's revealed absolute truth, he condemns God while trying to justify himself. Again, God's words to Job are instructive: "Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who is this that **darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?**" (Job 38:1-2) Man seeking to determine truth from his own perspective or in relation to situations around him is on a slippery slope indeed. David worded it thusly, "Hold up my goings in thy paths, **that my footsteps slip not**" (Psalm 17:5).

What are some examples of man seeking to justify himself by "his own truth"? When man affirms he can enter into or remain in an adulteress relationship he is living by his

own truth (cf. Mt. 19:9). When man affirms that worshipping God with mechanical instruments or that salvation is by faith only without any act of obedience on the part of man he is seeking to justify himself by his own truth (cf. Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 7:12ff; Mt. 7:21).

Truth is absolute in nature, thus the divine warning: "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it" (Dt. 4:2). What God has said is truth (Jn. 17:17). Truth can be known (Jn 8:32; 1 Jn 2:21). When man determines truth by his own standards he changes the truth of God into a lie (Rom. 1:25). Man is responsible to do truth (Jn. 3:21) and will be judged accordingly (Dt. 18:18-19; Rom. 2:2, 8; Acts 17:31).

Reflections On Worship, From A-Z

How great to say with David, "I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord" (Psalm 122:1). Another psalm also urges, "Come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (95:6). Both verses are the attitude of a redeemed, transformed heart. Worship is not a substitute for daily living, and we may find ourselves primarily or solely focused on assembling to the neglect of Christian duty or evangelism. But, though those be true, we cannot lose sight of the importance of fulfilling God's command for His people to faithfully worship Him (John 4:24; Heb. 10:24ff). More than that, as recipients of His grace, we will *want* to come before Him with what He wants, giving Him our best from an enthusiastic heart. What can help us do that?

A-TTENDANCE (It puts us in the right position -for ourselves, each other, and God)

B-RETHREN (There's a community, communion, and camaraderie in worship)

C-HILDREN (Is there anything sweeter than seeing and hearing them worship?)

D-ELIVERANCE (Delivered for a few moments from the profane, delivered for a lifetime by the Prince of Peace)

E-FFORT (Hardwork, dedication, and preparation truly pay off!)

F-AITHFULNESS (Obedience, consistency, and holiness fuels acceptable worship)

G-OSPEL (Bible-centered worship highlights the best news of all time)

H-EAVEN (Worship better prepares us for it, reminds us of it, and gives us a foretaste of it)

I-NTEREST (See "attendance" and "faithfulness"; At some level, you can't fake this)

J-ESUS (We lift Him up, obey Him, and center everything around Him in every service)

K-NOWLEDGE (We seek to know God more and understand Him better, in part, by worship)

L-ISTENING (To God, through His Word, and each other, through the various acts)

M-EMORIES (Young or old, each occasion provides an opportunity to make more of them)

N-OTHING (What's more special, important, fulfilling, and encouraging)

O-PPORTUNITY (Different places and times have been forbidden from what we *get* to do multiple times per week)

P-ARTICIPATION (Not just in the door and in a seat, but actively taking part)

Q-UALITY (Not measured by voice quality or dynamic speech, but the very best we can with what we bring)

R-ESPONSE (Each time we assemble to worship, we are responding to God and His gospel)

S-ACRIFICE (You cannot properly define worship without it; It may be a sacrifice to come, but it must be an offering when you do)

T-OGETHERNESS (Worship means fellowship and building our common bond)

U-RGENCY (Feeling a pressing need to be here, and then to act on what we hear)

V-ISITORS (These take note of how much worship means to us; They can see and sense it)

W-ONDERFUL (God knew we needed worship, and that can touch us deeply)

X-RAY (Worship should lay our hearts bare and show us ourselves)

Y-OU (The presence of everyone, including you, spells the difference!)

Z-EAL (Passion and enthusiasm is observable, by others and, most of all, by God!)

Maybe we cannot fully grasp all of why God wants us worshipping Him, but He, as our Creator, knew we would need it to draw us closer to Him and each other. Let's never let anything occupy a higher place in our hearts!

-Selected-

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of April 28, 2019

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Sammy Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Mark FitzSimmons
Fruit of the Vine: Doug Jobs
Offering: Bryce Dolan
Assist: BJ Davis, Scott DeDear, Manny Flonnory

Sunday Evening: Mark FitzSimmons, Doug Jobs

Prayer

A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson
P.M. Closing: Young Men

Ushers: Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Bryant Siegel

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Bryant Siegel

Greeters:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Prepare Communion: Jeffres

To Our Visitors: We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.



Congratulations to Ashley Purswell and Caleb Garrison who will be getting married on July 13, 2019 in Wharton. The invitation is posted on the hallway bulletin board.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Ken Marie, who will be having surgery for kidney stones soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr. 30: Men's and Ladies' Bible Classes @ 10 am
May 7: Last Men's and Ladies' Bible Classes @ 10 am
May 11: Singing Workshop with Andy Baker 9am-6:30pm

AREA EVENTS

June 9: Camp Hensel begins
June 23-28: Servants Academy @ Southwest
July 21-26: Peach Valley Youth Camp

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Caley Hunter (1), Jack Fielder and Allen Clifton (4)

Happy Anniversary: Clifton & Jackie Rutherford (1)

There will be a singing workshop with Andy Baker on Saturday, May 11th from 9-6:30pm. There is a food sign up sheet on the hallway bulletin board.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Mickey Tissue
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of April 21, 2019

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Bible Class..... | 85 |
| A.M. Worship..... | 140 |
| P.M. Worship..... | 61 |
| Wednesday Bible Study..... | 83 |

Offering \$8,484

THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

Each week will focus on reading a portion of the New Testament, each reading will only take 30 minutes:

Mark 3-Mark 9



SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

GO PAPERLESS!

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MidTown Church of Christ

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