

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [John 18:36-38](#).
- B. This sermon and the one to be delivered tonight, "The Truth Shall Make You Free" go together. Although they are two different sermons which can stand alone, it is best to preach this one, followed by the one just mentioned.
- C. Many sermons have been preached on this question, "What is truth?" This along with, "The Truth Shall Make You Free." This is my version.
- D. Intro story: You are listening to two people argue a particular position. After hearing the arguments of one side you agreed with it. But then after listening to the arguments of the other side you believe that too. Now, you walk away from the conversations bewildered, confused and frustrated.
- E. This scene, as described above, happens many times in religion and many people do not believe because they are confused as to what to believe. What is the truth?

I. TRUTH-IS NOT RELATIVE.

- A. Many today view truth as being relative to the situation and circumstances one finds himself in. They do not believe there is one body of truth that speaks on moral and ethical issues for all time. One great difference between the current generation of adults and the one which preceded it is that the earlier generation believed in some absolutes in moral issues and the present generation has discarded those absolutes.
- B. The present generation has a difficult time determining what is right and what is wrong. To them there are no real absolute values that really count when deciding what is wrong and what is right. In some ways the scientific and medical communities haven't helped in that recent discoveries have changed the thinking of many on various points, thus eliminating some absolutes with estimates, guesses and theories.
- C. So therefore if truth is relative; that is, if there are no standards of right or wrong, no laws, rules or regulations to govern behavior; no principles to guide men's lives, then mankind is left to do what is right in their own eyes. Without truth, an absolute system of distinguishing right from wrong then not only are all things possible, all things are permissible! Since there is no wrong, all things become right.
- D. Many historians believe this was very much the case in the first century. The people of the Roman empire were much like the people today in that they felt it was impossible to find truth because they did not believe anything to be absolute. The question Pilate asks rhetorically to X, reflects the thinking of the day. Jesus called Himself "the truth" yet Pilate does not believe in Jesus, nor His message because he doesn't believe in absolute truth; objective truth (Jn. 18:38).

II. PROBLEMS TO BE ENCOUNTERED.

- A. However, the views of those who advocate there is no absolute truth to be found have their problems with believing in relative truth.
- B. For example:
 - 1. For those who take view of the impossibility of knowing the truth how then would it be possible to condemn the demonic acts of an Adolph Hitler?
 - 2. Would you agree that it is just as good to lie under oath than to tell the truth?
 - 3. Would you argue it is just as good for someone to steal to feed their families than to work for a living?
- C. The conclusion of the above three examples is that even those who advocate that all truth is relative will agree that murder, lying and theft are wrong.

- D. But how did they arrive at that conclusion? What is there that causes us to make such a judgment, when intellectually we refuse to do so? It is with this in mind we now go into the realm of conscience. (Rom. 2:15).
- E. Even while wanting to deny that any universal rule of truth exists we live in search of that truth every day. The search for truth is an everyday experience for all:
 1. The historian and archeologist digs to find not clay pots and artifacts in the dirt, it is in search of facts that express the truth.
 2. When the scientist runs experiments, what is he looking for? Facts that lead to the truth.
 3. When a surgeon opens up the body in search of a tumor what is he really looking for? Evidence of the truth.
 4. When parents listen to tapes on child-rearing what are they looking for? Help with the truth of how to raise children.
 5. When a crime is committed against the people what are the police, investigators, and court system after? Evidence that establishes the truth to determine innocence or guilt.
 6. When cars break down or appliances won't work what does the repairman look for? The truth of what caused the malfunction.
- F. Some truth is more important than other truth. This is not so serious a problem but a problem nevertheless. There are some truths I can live without, and other truths I cannot live without. For example:
 1. I can live nicely without knowing all the truth about nuclear physics.
 2. I can live nicely without knowing all the truth about geology, zoology and botany.
 3. But I cannot live without knowing truth about personal hygiene.
 4. I cannot live without the truth about electricity, heat, cold and some of the basic physical laws of our universe.
 5. I cannot live morally or spiritually without the truth of Jesus Christ, who is the truth.
- G. You see Galileo knew the truth about the universe was renounced it under the threat of death. That truth was not that valuable to die for, but there is a body of truth worth dying for... Jesus Christ. Pilate (in Jn. 18) was so close to the truth that could have saved him, yet he didn't recognize it. He only judged Jesus according to the Roman law and found Him to be innocent.

III. DAVID'S TWO STANDARDS OF TRUTH.

- A. Scripture texts: Psa. 19:1-6; 19:7-14; Rom. 1:16-21.
- B. In Psalm 19, David writes concerning God's two methods of revealing truth. In verses 1-6, he speaks of the physical laws of the universe and how they declare some absolute truth that can be believed in.
- C. For example think of the following laws:

1. Biogenesis.	4. Gravity.	7. Mathematics.
2. 1 Thermodynamics.	5. Inverse square law.	8. Chemistry.
3. 2 Thermodynamics.	6. Action/reaction.	9. Physics.
- D. Man could have never gone to the moon and returned to the earth safely again had it not been for a set pattern of absolute laws governing the universe. These laws are immutable and a standard of objective truth in creation.
- E. But the body of absolute truth observable in nature are not complete. There are things humans need to know which are not taught in nature. And this is the reason for the second part of Psalm.
- F. In Psa. 19:7-14, David tells us that there is a body of absolute eternal truth to govern the lives of men and women in moral and ethical issues. It is God's revealed word... the Bible. (Look at text) As the physical laws are perfect in keeping the universe in motion and sustaining life, so are God's laws perfect concerning life in the ethical and moral sense.

IV. GOD'S ABSOLUTE TRUTH.

- A. God's absolute truth is found in His Son, Jesus Christ and in His Word, the Bible.
- B. The scriptures contain all truth from Jesus by the HS to the Bible writers (Jn. 16:13,14).
- C. The word of God is perfect (Psa. 19:7; Jas. 1:25) and equips man for every good work (2Tim. 3:16,17).
- D. We have been given everything that pertains to life and godliness (2Pet. 1:3).
- E. Jesus Christ is the light of the world and bore witness to the truth, because He is truth (Jn. 1:1,14,18; 14:6).
- F. This is a far different message from what the world offers. I'm so tired of talk shows and news interviews that only exchange "I think" and "in my opinion." See Mt. 28:19,20.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. This morning we have looked at the question, "What is truth?"
- B. It may be answered in the general sense by saying that truth is a system of rules, regulations, laws or principles to help men decide what is right and what is wrong.
- C. More specifically it is answered that truth is found in God's creation and the immutable laws found there and in God's word; Jesus Christ the embodiment of truth and the Bible, completely revealed truth.
- D. We invite you back tonight to answer another question in conjunction with this one; "What can the truth do for me?" The answer and the sermon are the same, "The Truth Can Make You Free."
- E. To become a Xian we must obey a form or pattern of teaching (Rom. 6:17). In other words we must obey the truth!
- F. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.