

University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

October 19, 2008

What is Truth?

John 18: 37 "Pilate therefore said to him, *Are you a king then?* Jesus answered, *You say that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Every one that 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 in him no fault [at all].*"

To Pilate the question "**What is truth?**" may have been a question with no clear answer. To us it is not a question with no clear answer; **God's word is truth.**

John 17: 17 "Sanctify them through your truth: **your word is truth.**"

We must understand that what the New Testament teaches is **the truth about serving God today**. What the Holy Bible says is **the truth about everything about which the Holy Bible speaks**. **Truth is important because it is real.** The truth is what we will face in judgement. Truth is eternal. Nothing can destroy truth. Truth is sometimes temporarily obscured, by things that are not true, but eventually truth will become evident. Truth will win. Truth will expose and destroy every false thing. Truth is what is there when everything is known as it actually is and the revealing of the truth has destroyed everything that is false.

If a life, a business, an economy, a religion, a society, a government, a nation or an association is based on concepts, practices or beliefs that are not true it will face eventual disaster when what is not true is exposed by the truth becoming known. The only way to avoid disaster is to discover what is not true, replace it with the truth and make whatever changes must be made to function according to truth because only truth can stand. Anything that may only function if the truth is not known is doomed to fail because the truth will be known. Any truth is part of the whole truth. All truth supports truth and no truth contradicts any other truth. Every truth is destructive to everything that is not true. In the battle between the true and the false the true eventually wins. Every truth is the ally of every other truth. Lies have no allies that are capable of long protecting them against the relentless onslaught of truth. The allies of lies soon become the victims of lies. Those who love the truth always find themselves on the winning side.

As an example, because of what the Bible says on the subject, no godly person ever thought that greed was good. Regardless of what face greed was given by the world no knowledgeable Bible believer ever thought that greed was good.

James 4:1 "**From where [come] wars and fightings among you? [Come they] not here, [even] of your lusts that war in your members?** 2 **You lust**, and have not: you kill, and **desire to have**, and cannot obtain: **you fight and war**; yet you have not, because you ask not. 3 You ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may **consume [it] upon your lusts**. 4 You adulterers and adulteresses, know you not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. 5 Do you think that the scripture says in vain, *The spirit that dwells in us lusts to envy?* 6 But he gives more grace. Wherefore he says, *God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.* 7 **Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil**, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse [your] hands, [you] sinners; and purify [your] hearts, [you] double minded."

1 Timothy 6: 6 "**But godliness with contentment is great gain.** 7 For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 9 But **they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.** 10 For **the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**"

Greed is not good; greed is one of many roads to destruction as was proven very dramatically in the 1920's and now. According to the Holy Bible, the outcome of greed is short frustrating boom, big collapse and eternal regret. According to history the Bible view is the truth. Preachers do not have to prove that, history proves that. Because of what the Bible says about greed no godly person has ever built any part of his or her life on the concept that greed is a good thing to be motivated by. The godly know that the word of God is truth and because of that know the truth about greed because they know what the Bible says about greed. Their concepts of commerce and exchange are the Bible concepts of "value given for value received" that day in and day out really work because they are honest straightforward, no hidden agenda, no sudden day of reckoning concepts. In their dealings they are partners in success, for the mutual good of all participants not greed driven predators of unfortunate victims. The Bible concepts followed by the godly are not will-o'-the-wisp, something for nothing, "fake it till you make it" greed driven fantasies that must fail the moment the targets know their true designs.

For the same reason the godly know the truth about many of the things that the world finds most confusing, lying, stealing, fornication, selfishness, love, honesty, fidelity, honor, truthfulness, drunkenness, responsibility, maturity, child rearing, marriage. **The Holy Bible gives answers and they are true answers.** At the end of every day Bible believers are ahead of the rest of the world in living meaningful and satisfying lives. In their day to day choices they **choose the truth** and those day to day **choices of truth** lead them one step at a time to a light filled place where lovers of lies can never go. God has intended that to be so.

What is true succeeds, what is false, fails, although at times that outcome may not always be immediately apparent. Life on earth in flesh is first and foremost, a test to see to see whether or not we humans will willingly serve God, even in the face of strong temptations to do otherwise, just because He is God and **it is right for us to serve Him.** As a means of temptation what is false often seems to succeed for a while but the success is always temporary. **The success of any lie only continues until the truth becomes known.**

When the truth about any lie that has enjoyed longstanding and zealous support is suddenly and irreparably demonstrated by colossal catastrophe, the scenes are invariably exactly what we are witnessing in world finance right now. **Remember God always said greed is not good and God knows.**

Remember To Pray For

Sarah Phillips, cancer
 David Alford, heart problem
 Carol Bach
 Marian Lyda
 Edith Tirey
 Waldine Childress
 Jeanette Lindsey
 Lucy Hale
 Ruben Amador's daughter
 Pamela Clayton
 Newborn baby of Nate & Tricha
 Shannon
 Ella Wells, and her family
 Debra Craig
 Dallis and Alma Isaacs
 Lorene Pagan
 Freddie Ward
 David and Chessie Harwell
 Donna Caldwell
 Mabel Greene
 Tony Tyree
 Ruth Brundige
 Cindy Miller
 Christie Ellis
 Shirley Lewis
 Brady Gibbons
 Gail Hunter
 Larry Flannery
 Donnie Joseph
 Cheryl Spear
 Lanny Hiller
 Charity and Abdiel Pallafox
 Helen Stephens
 Chris Handshoe
 Chris and Jen Dooley
 Jeffrey Howerton
 Addison Pervine
 Carl Stripplehoff
 Tom Kemp
 Freda Blakey

Thoughts

Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

Logic: What can the God that created the heaven and the earth, not do?

- Think of the distance covered by the heaven, the things that are there but not visible, the rules that must be known and followed for things to happen to let it all be here and function. Think of the waves of light and of sound. Think of electricity and of magnetism. Think of inertia and of weight. Think of heat and of cold each at its extreme limit and at every level in between and what happens to every element at every level of hot or of cold.
- The heaven and the earth clearly demonstrate that the God of the Bible knew and used all of this and everything else in creating the heaven and the earth.
- What can the God that created the heaven and the earth, not do?
- Inspire the writers of the Bible?
- Foretell the future?
- Flood the earth with water?
- Cause a virgin to bear a Son?
- Create the heaven and the earth in six morning and evening days?
- Heal illness?
- Raise the dead?
- Destroy the heaven and earth with fire?
- Punish those who refuse to obey Him?
- Reward those who do obey Him?

In view of what the heavens and the earth demonstrate it is unreasonable to argue that there is no God.

Romans 1: 20 "*For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*"

It is also unreasonable to argue that God cannot do whatever He chooses to do with the heaven and earth He created.

It may sometimes be hard and unpleasant to do the right thing, but be assured that as hard and unpleasant as it might be to do the right thing, if we fail to do the right thing, it will be much, much harder and much, much more unpleasant to spend the rest of our lives remembering that we did not do the right thing.

Because God loves us we do not get everything we want.

If we knew what God knows we would not want everything we want.

One of the multitudes of things we should thank God for is that God does better for us than we could ever do for ourselves.

We may best show our appreciation to God by willingly obeying His inspired word, the Holy Bible.

Notes

Informational meeting will be at 4:30PM next Sunday

The Sunday after next-
 November 2-7

Gospel Meeting

Speaker: Frank Walton

Topic: Faith in Action

The Practical Epistle of James

Sunday services at the regular time

Weeknight services will be at 7:30PM

Why should I study the Bible if I am already a Christian?

Because I need to be able to explain the word of God to others and my answer needs to be ready BEFORE others ask me.

1Peter 3: 15 "*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and [be] ready always to [give] an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*"

According to the inspired apostle Peter it is the responsibility of every saved person to be always prepared to help every other person who is interested to know what the Holy Bible teaches. That is why I should diligently study the Bible for the rest of my life on earth.

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9:45am

Worship Service 10:45am

Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies for all ages 7:30pm

Monthly Song Service

First Friday 7:30pm

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Church of Christ

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**COME STUDY THE BIBLE
 AND WORSHIP WITH US**

HELP GOD'S WORD GROW

LEARN IT • OBEY IT • TEACH IT