

BIBLE INSIGHT

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Tim. 2:15)

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True Truth (Part 2 of 2) by Allan Turner (<http://allanturner.com/truth.html>)

Relative Truth

Within this devastatingly bleak world view, there thrives a moral philosophy that is wreaking havoc in our modern society. This philosophy is Relativism. Relativism says that in the evolutionary and naturalistic universe nothing is fixed and definite. Nothing "governs" the universe except chance. Therefore, why should one expect to find absolutes for moral issues? The relativist says that absolutes are impossible. He says what is arbitrarily considered to be wrong today can be right tomorrow. For example, prior to 1973, abortion was considered both immoral and illegal. But then, on January 22, 1973, in one of the worst examples of legislation by judicial fiat ever exhibited in the United States, the Supreme Court, in the case of *Roe v. Wade*, decided a woman has a constitutional "right" to abort her unborn child. In this connection, it is interesting to note that prior to *Roe v. Wade*, the Declaration of Geneva, modeled after the ancient Hippocratic Oath, was recited by medical school graduates, and read, in part, "I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from the time of conception." However, subsequent editions show a modification in this World Medical Organization oath, with the words "from the time of conception" removed. Yes, indeed, ideas do have consequences!

In his much acclaimed book *The Closing Of The American Mind*, which is an insider's criticism of the failures of higher education, professor Allan Bloom wrote, "There is one thing a professor can be absolutely certain of: almost every student entering the university believes, or says he believes, that truth is relative." And why not? By the time he reaches the college level, the typical student has been thoroughly indoctrinated with presuppositions and tenets of Evolutionism/Naturalism. When he believes truth is relative, he is only following the logical conclusions of his erroneous world view. In fact, it is not all that unusual today to hear someone express the idea that a thing is true for them if they think it's true, or if it is somehow meaningful to them. In other words, they can have their truth, you can have your truth, and I can have my truth, and all these truths can be true, even though they are completely contradictory to each other. This point is illustrated by the fact that American students recently came in last on a math aptitude test taken by the students in several different countries around the world;

nevertheless, when asked how they felt about their math ability, American students actually came in first.

True Truth

Today, as in the past, "Truth is fallen in the streets" (Isaiah 59:14). Therefore, as strange as it may sound to our ears, there's a real need today to talk about true truth. True truth is not relative but absolute. True truth is true even if we don't think it's true. In other words, true truth is always true. God is true truth (Jeremiah 10:10). True truth is one of the many wonderful characteristics of God (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 31:5). In fact, the sum total of everything God says is always true truth (Psalm 119:160). On the other hand, the devil, "who is a liar and the father of it" is absolutely devoid of true truth (John 8:44). He is the father of all those who "suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18). Consequently, we can be assured the devil is the instigator of the idea that truth is always relative and that there is absolutely no such thing as true truth.

The Truth

Jesus is the Word of God who came into this world and lived among us as a man (John 1:1,14). As such, He is the personification of truth. In John 14:6, the Lord identified Himself as being "the truth." In Revelation 13:4, He calls Himself the "Amen, the Faithful and True Witness." The word "amen" is of Hebrew origin and was used to indicate that something done, said, or written was trustworthy or true. Immanuel or "God With Us" proved Himself to be trustworthy and true in all things. He came to do His Father's will, and He did that; He came to convict the world of sin, and He did that; He came to condemn sin in the flesh, and He did that; He came to establish a New Covenant, and He did that; and He came to shed His blood for the remission of sins, and He did that. It was His mission to seek and save the lost, and He, thank God, did that. What He did and said while He was here on this earth was in perfect harmony with His Father's will. He was, therefore, "the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness." Therefore, it is not without significance that when Jesus spoke, He started with "Amen, amen" "Verily, verily," or "Truly, truly" (cf. John 3:3; 5:24,25). His words were absolutely trustworthy and true because He was who He claimed to be. No other man in the New Testament ever prefaced his sayings with such words. In fact, in lieu of Paul's statement in Romans 3:4, which says, "Let God be true, and every man a liar." Would it not have been presumptuous for any mere man to so preface his words? Of course, Jesus was no mere man. In using the interjection "amen," Jesus was claiming, at least indirectly, to be God in the flesh.

The Spirit of Truth

Prior to His arrest, trial, and crucifixion Jesus told His apostles, "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak of His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak and He will tell you things to come" (John 16:13). He went on to say: "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is

Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore, I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you" (vv. 14,15). Therefore, it should not be surprising that the "sword" of the Spirit, who is Himself described as "truth," is the "word of God" (Ephesians 6:17), the sum total of which the Bible says "is truth" (cf. Psalm 119:160). In other words, the Holy Spirit, who was Himself Truth, would use the word of God, the sum total of which is truth, to testify of Jesus, who was the Truth incarnate. Now if this isn't true truth, then I don't know what would be.

"What Is Truth?"

When He stood before Pilate, Jesus said He came into the world to "bear witness of the truth" and "Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice" (John 18:37). Evidently, in a very cynical way, Pilate asks, "What is truth?" Maybe he, too, thought that truth was relative. What he did not understand was that Truth personified stood before him that day, and although he found "no fault in Him at all" (verse 38), He, nevertheless, sentenced Him, scourged Him, mocked Him, and finally crucified Him. In doing so, Pilate is not by himself.

The Truth That Makes Men Free

Unfortunately, we live in a world of Pilates who, exhibiting the characteristics of their father, the devil, "suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18). When presented with the truth, there are many today who are willing to crucify it, although they can find no fault with it. These, unfortunately, will never know the freedom that only the truth can give (John 8:32); that is, they will never be free from the bondage of sin. It is only in Christ, "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), that one is freed from sin. "Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). Do you know the truth?

Are You Getting Better? by Greg Gwin (From *The Beacon*)

Here's a challenge for you: try to find a single place in the scripture where the Lord ever encountered a person and encouraged him to stay as he was. You can't do it, can you? The Lord always encouraged people to change; to become better than they were.

Oh yes, some were already morally purer than others. For instance, Cornelius was "a devout man who feared God . . . gave alms liberally . . . and prayed constantly" (Acts 10:2). But then there were folks like the Corinthians who had been immoral, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, thieves, greedy, drunkards, revilers, and robbers (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

But regardless of their existing condition, they had to change. Why? Paul answers for us: "There is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10).

Our problem is that we have too many who call themselves Christians who have never gotten serious about making changes and improvements in their lives. They still want to act like they used to act, dress like they used to dress, talk like they used to talk, etc. The heart of the problem may be that we have failed to see ourselves as real sinners. After all (it is reasoned) we aren't nearly as bad as many others in our society. We need to stop deceiving ourselves by such useless comparisons. Unless the statistics have changed, it still remains true that "there is none righteous, no, not one". That being the case, we need to be changing, improving, for the Lord.

Inexcusable Ignorance (<http://www.gospel-guide.org/>)

The people who crucified Christ were ignorant of who He was. From the cross Jesus prayed: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34). Many prophecies from their law pointed to the coming of Christ. He fulfilled all of them. God proclaimed Jesus as His Son (Matthew 3:17; 17:5). John the Baptist, guided by the Holy Spirit, said, "And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God" (John 1:32-34). Yet, with so much evidence proving Him to be the Son of God, they closed their eyes to truth. "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him" (John 1:11). Ignorance can be the cause of dreadful, soul-condemning sin—in their case the sin of crucifying the innocent Son of God.

That we may not be ignorant of the word of God, let us do what God tells us to do: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV). Pleading ignorance will not excuse in the great judgment.

CLOSING COMMENT...

Happiness is what happens to us when we try to make someone else happy.

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QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

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