

LIVING WATER

The Official Newsletter of Southside Church of Christ

LIFELONG PURSUIT OF TRUTH

by Trent Hogland

Two thousand years ago the most significant question ever, possibly, was asked. Bring your mind to the trial of Jesus Christ as we let John paint the picture.

Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." Pilate said to him,

"What is truth?" (John 18:37-38)

Many agree that Pilate was not genuinely seeking an answer with this question. It was rather a rhetorical question. A philosophical disposition that reveals his worldview. A world in which truth did not exist, or at the very least, could not be found. You might even hear dismissiveness or mockery in his voice, upset that Jesus dared to speak with such confidence about truth. Pilate was a postmodernist living in premodern times, and more importantly, he reveals he was not a genuine truth seeker. I mean, the truth was right in front of him!

Had his intention been sincere, he would be chasing a noble thing. *"Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.*

She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed". (Proverbs 3:13,17-18)

It is mankind's responsibility, his obligation for the life he has been blessed with, to seek and find the truth. You owe it to yourself to discover your purpose here on earth. The purpose of life itself. This adventure is the essence of the human experience. To seek wisdom and truth is having the humility to recognize you don't have all of the answers in life.

But there is very good news regarding this pursuit, Taylor explained this good news to us in the most recent article. We now have the ultimate source of truth, we have the mind of Christ. Who is truth itself. No longer do we have to guess and assume things to be so, like "lost sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:36-38). Man's wisdom will no doubt have you lost; it is full of lies, deceit, selfish ambition, and confusion. It's tainted with superstition which led men to worship "THE UNKNOWN GOD" (Acts 17:23). We don't have to settle for this anymore. We now have the purest and the most raw form of truth, the pillars of truth, the universal and eternal truth, we have God's truth. Which is the only truth. We are now sheep with a shepherd, who is the strongest leader and master of all time, lighting up our path to heaven, to our Father. Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

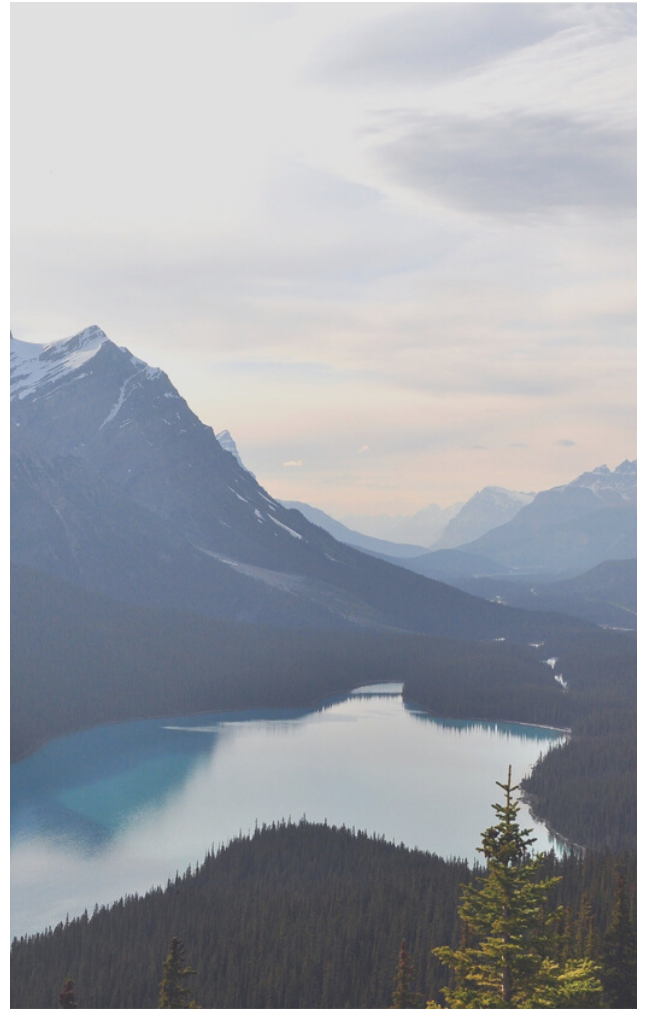
This collection of books we know as the Holy Bible, breathed by God himself, is indeed the complete revelation of God's will for mankind. That said, just because all has been revealed does not mean we should cease this pursuit of truth. Although the truth is one coherent and non contradicting truth, it is filled with innumerable truths. God's truth is revealed in such a way that it keeps you busy your whole life. Christianity is a perpetual practice, a constant state of transforming into the image of Christ. If I tell you that you have the mind of me, then it wouldn't take you very long to unravel all of my thoughts and feelings, I'm just a man. I have a beginning and an end. But when Jesus says we have HIS mind, we realize his divine nature demands a lifelong pursuit of this infinite mind. Even at the end of our life here on earth, we will not yet have reached full comprehension of an eternal God, not even close! David sets a great example for correctly dealing with this.

"One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple." (Psalm 27:4).

God, His glory, and His will are all delivered in a way that continually reveals itself to genuine truth seekers. Which means we should strive to be just that. Genuine truth seeking is applying each truth as you come to it, conforming to the truth. A Theologist once said "We therefore must pursue wisdom wherever it can be found, going to the ends of the earth if necessary. And just when we think we've found wisdom, we will have hopefully gained enough wisdom to know how much wisdom we still need in applying the knowledge that fills our minds" Seek the truth, find the truth, bear the truth, repeat. Jesus gives us the ultimate incentive for us to dedicate our lives to this cause.

*"So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you **abide** in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you **free**."* (John 8:32)

Let's be lifelong truth seekers, and allow Jesus's truths to forever uphold our freedom.



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