

Truth Matters

Truth

- “To hear truth and not accept it does not nullify truth” – anon.
- “Men will never fly, because flying is reserved for the angels” !!
- 81% believe in God (down from 87% in 2017; 92% in 2008) – Gallup poll.
- “*Younger, Liberal Americans Least Likely to Believe in God*” – ibid.
- 47% of Americans believe Bible is the inspired word of God – ibid.

I. Society's Confusion Is Not New

Mt.13:13-15

- Jesus is not saying that parables are designed to conceal truth, and thus keep people out of the kingdom...
 - But some attitudes block the ability to understand them.
- This ability is given to honest disciples (*learners / followers*, Jn.8:31f.)
- It is not the result of human cleverness
 1. Some did not see what they saw...??
 2. Plain teaching puzzled them (14). (Is.6)

Mt.16:13-14

- Today the question would receive more answers, more bizarre than these
- Why did the twelve know? (v.17)

Acts 8:30-31

- Preconceived notions hinder truth.

Acts 17:22-31

- Paul disdains their altars, quotes their poets, appeals to their common sense...
- BUT: most of these wise men *after the flesh* didn't get it...or want it.

In a time of universal deceit – telling the truth is a revolutionary act – George Orwell

I. Society's Confusion Is Not New

II. The Cause of the Confusion

Eccl.7:29

- Man is to blame: though created upright [original righteousness; disposed to obedience] he
 - Sought out [premeditated plan]. Not satisfied with truth.
 - Many schemes (devices): includes clouding of moral issues by...
 - a. False reasoning
 - b. Renaming sin
 - c. Deceptive appeals

False views of truth

- Truth cannot be known (agnosticism)
 - States an absolute truth. [Is this a truth? If so, he cannot know this truth]
 - A self-defeating proposition. [Must know enough about reality to affirm nothing can be known about reality]

False views of truth

- Just believing something is true doesn't make it true (fideism) – faith alone
 - Denies power of unaided human reason to reach certitude
 - 1 Co.3:18

“People almost invariably arrive at their beliefs not on the basis of proof but on the basis of what they find attractive”

– Blaise Pascal.

False views of truth

- Experience determines truth
(experientialism)
 - Circular reasoning uses experience to prove truth of experience. Job 4
 - Experience must be interpreted.

False views of truth

- If it works it must be true (pragmatism)
 - Only proves what works.
 - Lies may 'work,' but are 'untrue.'
 - Jn.8:44...

False views of truth

- We must be tolerant (religious pluralism)
 - Tolerance once meant putting up with something you believe is false
 - Now it means to accept every belief as true
 - NT: Jesus was crucified
 - Koran: Jesus was not crucified
 - Both are true??
- Ro.1:25

False views of truth

- Truth is what is truth to you (relativism)
 - Nazis believed they should kill Jews
 - Young Muslims are trained to hate / kill
 - Should this be a crime?
 - Do we legislate morality?
 - Jn.14:6, the truth... [*opposed to false*]

False views of truth

- Philosophy that denies or rejects some or all aspects of thought or values [truth, knowledge, morality...] – (nihilism) – (nothing)
 - Values are worthless.
 - Nothing is knowable.
 - There is no universal truth
 - [Is this true??]

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II. The Cause of the Confusion

III. We Can Understand Scripture

John 7:17

- If anyone wants – honest desire to obey God
- To do His will – scrutiny (close examination; careful inspection...)
- He will know concerning the doctrine –
Jn.8:44
- If of God...
 - An honest searcher, Jn.1:46-49. Lk.8:15
 - Even the greatest signs could not cure prejudice, Jn.12:37

Acts 17:11, noble

- **Attitude** – openness, honesty, sincerity, Lk.8:17.
- **Approach** – knowing OT is word of God... 1 Th.5:21.
- **Application** – did something about it.
 - Some agree with truth but do nothing

2 Co.1:13

- Some misunderstood Paul – 1 Co.5:9-10
- Some accused him of insincerity – He answers: ‘what you read is what you get.’

Eph.3:3-4

- We have our own copy – no excuse for ignoring our reading

Ph.3:15-16

- Paul assumes that every Christian wants to learn / obey apostolic teaching.
 - How? Hold what we already know
- God will supply any deficiency.
- Condition: honestly use what we have.

“The gospel truth”

- A completely true statement: the absolute truth.

“The truth is incontrovertible.
Malice may attack it and ignorance
may deride it, but in the end, there it is”
– Winston Churchill