

Truth on Trial 2020-01-26

John 18:31-38a

Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." 32 This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

33 So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?"

35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."

37 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." 38 Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

Absolute truth on trial today in court of political correctness: gender, abortion, even math.

- A foundational issue in fall of man was the issue of truth. Genesis 3:4
 - Who spoke truth, God or Satan? Who should men believe and obey?
 - Jesus Christ is the truth, the only Savior. Luke 23:2,4, John 18:31-32, 36

Unjustly arrested on theological grounds (blasphemy) but Jews needed political reason because it was illegal for Jews to carry out death penalty.....subvert Rome (love enemy), opposed taxes to Caesar (false), claimed Jesus an insurrectionist king.

- Pilate saw through lies and discerned Jesus was not political threat.
 - Continued to question Jesus, not on His guilt/innocence but His identity/mission.
- Jesus made it clear He is a king, but His kingdom was not of this world. Matthew 20:25-28
 - Increasing sense of awe and dread in Pilate. John 19:6b-12, 16

Pilate 3 times declared Jesus not guilty, yet unjustly condemned Jesus to die on cross.

- injustice on men's part was pure justice on God's part because all sin has a penalty that must be paid. GOSPEL
 - Jesus was not a helpless victim, overcome by His adversaries but sinless Son of God, Creator, Sovereign God doing what purposed/promised to do.
 - Jesus' mission was revelation not revolution....testify to the truth. John 18:37

Truth finds its origin in God, its present manifestation in the written Word of God (Bible), its incarnation in Jesus Christ, its expression in the Gospel.

- God is Truth...not merely He does not lie or can't lie.... God is ultimate source of all truth. Titus 1:2, 15:26, 16:13, Proverbs 30:5a, 2 Timothy 3:16a, John 17:17 (noun)

- All Scripture is God-breathed so truthful and inerrant.

- Truth is what God says is recorded accurately not exhaustively in Bible.

- If beliefs conform to Bible = true; not conform = not true.

Jesus Himself is TRUTH because He fully God, total embodiment of absolute truth in human flesh. John 1:14, 7:18b, 14:6, 8:32

- no danger of being deceived by believing what Jesus said: He can't lie.

- Jesus is the truth, the only Savior.

Truth is universal (everyone/everywhere), eternal (not change with time), comes from outside world and gives meaning to world.

- Without Jesus Christ as standard for absolute truth and moral behavior, relativism becomes basis for moral right/wrong.

Relativism: truth is not universal/objective and depends on culture/personal experience.

- Individual is supreme with no absolutes, 1 truth for me and different truth for you.

- Relativism even argues absolute truth is immoral...leads to intolerance/prejudice.

With love Jesus invited Pilate to receive truth, but Pilate resisted and responded with modern day relativistic question "What is truth?" John 18:37-38, 10:27-28

- Is an answer to Pilate's question...absolute TRUTH was standing in front of him.

In these confusing times...truth still finds its origin in God and in His written Word of God (Bible), its incarnation in Jesus Christ, it's expression in Gospel.

- All those of the truth by God's grace believe Jesus Christ is the truth, the only Savior.