

## BIBLE 101 –CLASS 1 – TRUTH



-What is truth?

"You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." <sup>38</sup> Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

With these words Pilate exposed the real problem behind the reasoning of man. The Roman Empire with all its might and engineering could not properly engineer their way to the TRUTH. Pilate's cynicism is over shadowed only by the setting in which it was manifest. In the presence of the absolute TRUTH, the person who called Himself TRUTH Pilate is unable to see it, experience it and learn from it or be rescued by it. He washes his hands of the VERY truth his tortured soul seeks.

The English word TRUTH is transliterated from the Hebrew, Greek and ancient Babylonian languages of the Bible 225 times in 210 sections. There are eight Hebrew words and two Greek words used to describe the English word TRUTH. The most common Hebrew word for Truth is used 80 times.



## WORD PLAY

HEBREW – Old Testament

אֱמֶת - pronounced "emeth" it literally means FAITHFULNESS, FIRMNESS not failing.

GREEK – New Testament

ἀλήθεια – pronounced "aletheia" it means completely certain and completely right.



## HOLINESS

Both of these words are used liberally throughout the Hebrew, Greek scriptures and these words indicate two important aspects of TRUTH according to the Bible.

- 1- That which is always firm, faithful and dependable
- 2- That which is always and completely right. This is perhaps the best description of God's Holiness.

What is TRUTH?

- a- An answer to a question?
- b- An answer to a purpose?
- c- Is it a noun – person place or thing?

Does the mind of man have the ability to determine truth on his own?

- a- Simple truth – perhaps
- b- Complex truth – don't know
- c- Truth based on senses , pain, pleasure – perhaps
- d- Emotional truth in relationships – rarely
- e- Spiritual truth – NEVER.

HUMAN CONCEPT OF TRUTH

- 1-The actual state of a matter
- 2-conformity to fact
- 3-An indisputable FACT!

If we then claim that the Bible is the TRUE WORD of God we are making an absolute statement and all disputes against it must be challenged and defeated. If the Bible is the WORD of the CREATOR then all disputable arguments against it must be conquered.



## THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR CURRENT CULTURE.

There is no question we are the most lying culture in the history of man. What has made us this way?

## MEDIA

**1-TV** – always frames out more than it frames in. In actual reality, we are seeing a very, very small part of the actual reality by reducing our senses to sight and sound and limiting the sentence of explanations to SOUND BITES.

**2- Radio** – Always counts on the images in the listeners mind to re-create the story or circumstance. Radio also limits our senses to sound.

**3- Print** – is a WORD play of ideas. With words we can write novels just as well as we can report news. The only difference between the two is the writer.

**4- Motion Pictures** – the only industry in the world in which actors are paid BILLIONS of dollars to create worlds that do not exist that change and influence our thinking.

**NOTE:** Gaming and internet are complex variations of these mediums.

## AUTHORITY CRISIS

Currently our culture has re-created realities that do not exist except in our minds and our imaginations. We have created worlds of our own choosing and live in them. Are they real? Do these worlds on the silver screen truly help us find the TRUTH in life?

With the rise of Media every single foundation and institution of human culture has been infected with its changing virus.

We now have learned a new and improved form of idol making. We have learned to bring idols to life and live to worship them.

### **1 Tim 3:1-5**

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: <sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-

control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup> traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”

### **2 Peter 3:3-4**

“...knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, <sup>4</sup> and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.”

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH

about TRUTH?

- 1-there is TRUTH. (John 4:23)
- 2-Truth is manifest in an eternal person of Jesus Christ. (John 14:16)
- 3-That person and truth brings PURPOSE for life. (John 14:17)
- 4-Truth can and will be rejected. (John 3:19)

The Bible is clear that there is TRUTH and that this truth TRANSCENDS our circumstances, our situational ethics and every other human condition infected with evil. However, there is a clear choice to RECOGNIZE, RECEIVE and let the truth REVIVE our darkened minds.

### **2 Thess. 2:9-12**

“ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, <sup>10</sup> and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup> And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, <sup>12</sup> that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

QUESTION OF THE WEEK – for open discussion

How have the current ideas of man and the media affected the way we think about GOD’S WORD or any sense of TRUTH?

### **Reading and meditation assignment – John 1**



## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**RELATIVISM** - A theory, especially in ethics or aesthetics, that conceptions of truth and moral values are not absolute but are relative to the persons or groups holding them.

**EXISTENTIALISM** - a philosophical attitude associated esp. with Heidegger, Jaspers, Marcel, and Sartre, and opposed to rationalism and empiricism, that stresses the individual's unique position as a self-determining agent responsible for the authenticity of his or her choices.

**RATIONALISM** - the principle or habit of accepting reason as the supreme authority in matters of opinion, belief, or conduct.

**SITUATIONAL ETHICS** - a **CONTROVERSIAL Christian ethical theory** that was principally developed in the 1960s by the Episcopal priest **Joseph Fletcher**. It basically states that sometimes other moral principles can be cast aside in certain situations if love is best served; as **Paul Tillich** once put it: 'Love is the ultimate law'. The moral principles Fletcher is specifically referring to are the moral codes of **Christianity** and the type of love he is specifically referring to is '**Agape**' love. Agapē is a term which comes from Greek which means absolute, universal, unchanging and unconditional love for all people.

**ABSOLUTISM** - any theory holding that values, principles, etc., are absolute and not relative, dependent, or changeable.

**REALISM** - 1. interest in or concern for the actual or real, as distinguished from the abstract, speculative, etc.

2. the tendency to view or represent things as they really are.

**EVIL** - 1. morally wrong or bad; immoral; wicked: *evil deeds; an evil life.*

2. harmful; injurious: *evil laws.*

3. characterized or accompanied by misfortune or suffering; unfortunate; disastrous: *to be fallen on evil days.*

**GOOD** -

1. morally excellent; virtuous; righteous; pious: *a good man.*

2. satisfactory in quality, quantity, or degree: *a good teacher; good health.*

3. of high quality; excellent.

4. right; proper; fit: *It is good that you are here. His credentials are good.*

5. well-behaved: *a good child.*

**RELIGION** -

1. a set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature, and purpose of the universe, esp. when considered as the creation of a superhuman agency or agencies, usually involving devotional and ritual observances, and often containing a moral code governing the conduct of human affairs.

**GOD** – (as presented by Webster's Dictionary)

1. the one Supreme Being, the creator and ruler of the universe.

2. the Supreme Being considered with reference to a particular attribute: *the God of Islam.*

3. (*lowercase*) one of several deities, esp. a male deity, presiding over some portion of worldly affairs.

4. (*often lowercase*) a supreme being according to some particular conception: *the god of mercy.*

5. *Christian Science.* the Supreme Being, understood as Life, Truth, Love, Mind, Soul, Spirit, Principle.

6. (*lowercase*) an image of a deity; an idol.

7. (*lowercase*) any deified person or object.

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# WHO OWNS YOU?



A brief discussion by Rod Hembree.

There has been an invasion and in some cases, an abduction of the human mind and spirit. The spells cast by the “POWER IDEAS” of modern man have changed the way we think. In some ways it is GODS loss if an eternal infinite God can lose anything. I say lost for this reason. Some say that if a human being chooses to reject God that person is lost to God. Indeed when we describe those who have refused to acknowledge God we call them “the lost”.

But we were not God’s property when we were born. We were born lost to God (Rom. 3:23). We are human and human minds surrendered to sin by a deal with the devil. Satan owns us. Let me speak about ownership. The difference between God and satan is simple and profound. God, although He gave us life did not present Himself as OWNER of us. He presents Himself as Creator, Father. God not only gave us life but also free choice, free will. If you let something you own say a pet or a work animal CHOOSE whether they wish to be your pet or your work animal I think that they would not.

God let us have free choice at the beginning. But Adam and Eve chose to reject God’s care and

provision. Satan took ownership or entitlement of the human souls. This was our choice not God’s. This is why Jesus Christ came. To restore the power of CHOICE or free will. That is why we call Him the REDEEMER. However we must CHOOSE to follow Christ. Satan would never let those he owns try to choose to leave his slave crew. In fact it is very violent when some one wants to leave satan's lair. We have seen that struggle in deliverance of demonic control over someone.

Do you now see the difference between God and satan in this matter? God loves us, satan tries to own us.

In modern culture millions of people have learned to imitate satan by trying to own things or people and use them for property, money, business, personal pleasure. Here is the trick. We think when we OWN something we think we can do with it what we please. But there is a difference between owning something and caring for something. You can own without caring, but you cannot love without caring.

Often we try to OWN God’s blessings. We cannot. We try to control it and gain in it. That was Lot’s problem in the city of Sodom. The angels that were sent there desired to sleep out in the city square, perhaps to present the message of God’s presence to the people of Sodom. They didn’t seem to be aware that God was watching. What would have happened if the angels had preached God’s presence in the open square? However Lot would not have it. He herded the angels into his house. I think he wanted to get and own any blessings of God that might be in those angels! What do you think? Are you trying to own God’s blessings? Perhaps God wants us to give His blessings away to those who are enslaved by satan.

Matthew 11:21–23 (words of Jesus)

<sup>23</sup> **And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.**