

Light and Life: Jesus in the Gospel of John

Today's message: What Is Truth?

John 18:37-38a (ESV)

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?**"

"truth" =

*Truth is true—even if no one knows it.
Truth is true—even if no one admits it.
Truth is true—even if no one agrees what it is.
Truth is true—even if no one follows it.
Truth is true—even if no one but God grasps it fully.*

- Paul Copan, *True for You, But Not for Me*

3 Flawed Responses to the Truth:

Peter Knew the Truth, yet He _____ Him.

The Pharisees heard and saw the Truth, yet they _____
_____ Him.

Pilate met the Truth, yet he _____ Him.

"... the mind was designed not to defend what we want, but to discover what is ultimately true, which should shape our wants and satisfy them more deeply with God. The purpose of the mind is not to rationalize subjective preferences, but to recognize objective reality and to help the heart revel in God."

— John Piper, *The Pleasures of God: Meditations on God's Delight in Being God*

4 reasons why a commitment to *OBJECTIVE, HISTORICAL, UNIVERSAL* truth matters so much:

1. Because Jesus ...

John 18:37b (ESV)

"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."

2. Because it is our responsibility as the church to ...

1st Timothy 3:15 (ESV)

... the household of God, which is the church of the living God, **a pillar and buttress of the truth**.

3. Because wrong beliefs ...

Ephesians 4:17-19 (ESV)

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the **futility of their minds**. ¹⁸ They are **darkened in their understanding**, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to **practice every kind of impurity**.

4. Because ultimately, the truth ...

Romans 1:18-20 (ESV)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness **suppress the truth**. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. **So they are without excuse**.

John 8:31-32 (ESV)

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and **you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free**."

Jesus is TRUTH.

What is my response to Him?