

Occasional Update #8

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WHAT IS TRUTH? (John 18:36-38)

Jesus answered Pilate, "My Kingdom is not from this world. If My Kingdom were from this world, My followers would be fighting to keep Me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, My Kingdom is not from here."

Pilate asked Him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice."

Pilate asked Him, "**What is truth?**" After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against Him."

In recent years we have often heard terms like "fake news", "misinformation", "scam", "conspiracy theories", etc., and it would seem that often these words are being correctly used! They are really alternative words to deception, lies, biased or selective information, exaggeration, partial truth – which are all too common these days.

Here's an interesting thought: Apart from what we have personally experienced, almost everything we "know" comes from what we have heard, or seen, or been taught by other people. We may have read it in a book, heard and seen it on television, internet, social media; someone may have told us, and so on. With hearsay, for example, the more it has been spread from one person to another, the more unreliable it usually becomes.

But is it true? How do we know if something is true or not? What we need is "the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth" – as is required by courts during trials. There is a saying that "if something is too good to be true, it probably is!"

From what is written in John 18:38, it appears that Jesus didn't answer Pilate's question, "What is truth?" But did Pilate really want to know? Probably not!

Previously, Jesus had said to His followers, "**I am** the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6). The Way leads to the Truth, and the Truth leads to the Life.

Jesus taught the truth by word and by example, and He gave *His life* so that we can inherit eternal life – with Him forever! (John 3:16)

Jesus, praying to His Father, said, "I have given them your Word ... Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is Truth" (John 17:14, 17)

Jesus also said, "You will know the Truth, and the truth will make you free" (John 8:32)

So what is true, good, right and acceptable to God is defined by the Lord and His Word, not by public opinion or by human laws!

Paul wrote, in 2 Timothy 3:12-17, "wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work."

FOR MEDITATION AND PRAYER

Please read **1 John 4:1-3**

Heavenly Father, please help me to walk in Jesus' way – the way of truth and life. Please give me discernment and wisdom. Please help me not to share with others, things that are untrue or deceptive. Please reveal to me the truths of Your Word, and help me to walk in them.

Pray for the Nation: <https://www.pray-for-the-nation.org/occasional-updates.php> ifnz@xtra.co.nz

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