



Largs, Scotland

# Truth

## (2 Timothy 4:2-4)

Have you noticed that you can talk about any topic under the sun, but talk about the Bible and immediately people begin to cringe. You can talk about the weather, sport, television, films, fashion, science and technology and so on. What is it about the Bible that has the effect of quickly ending a conversation? In an age where cults are given religious status and its more respectable to believe in aliens and Star wars than it is to believe in God, it's little wonder that people have no time for Truth. You hear phrases like "Truth! You can't handle the truth." or "The truth is out there." with scant regard for the truth. People often talk of versions of the truth, as if we have a choice about what Truth is. Isn't it a myth that you can choose whether to believe in the Truth or not? If Truth is true then surely we have an obligation to believe it. I think Pontius Pilate summed it up when he asked Jesus "What is Truth?" (John 18:38) According to John, Jesus didn't answer the question, but then again we are told that Pilate didn't wait for an answer, In fact, Pilate asked the question in response to what Jesus said (John 18:37).

Subconsciously I believe we all want to know the Truth, but many of us hide from it, ashamed of admitting to it. We owe it to ourselves to seek out the Truth even if we don't want to admit it to others. So what is Truth? Most people think of truth as being scientific truth or historical facts. Truth that can be tested in a lab or be the outcome of a mathematical equation, but this is only one part of truth. To rest on scientific truth alone is a very precarious position to be in, since scientific theories change from time to time. Jesus said to Pilate "Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." That's quite a claim from a mere human, there are only three possible conclusions from this. Jesus was either deluded, deranged or divine. As Christians, we are people of a book, that is we get our information from a book, but we are also people of a person, that person is Jesus Christ. He was the embodiment of the Almighty God, the Creator of the whole universe. As this feeble, bleeding, battered and bruised man stood before Pilate, little did Pilate know that He had the power to destroy the Roman Empire with a single word. Truth is not an abstract thought, but it is embodied within a person, that person being Jesus Christ. We don't believe that Jesus spoke a version of the Truth, or that He just spoke the Truth, but that He is the Truth. In other words we don't just listen to His words but that Jesus as the Word of God made flesh will judge the world.

Some people argue that this is all made up and is part of some great hoax to control the people. Well the Bible doesn't pull any punches, as well as the good of the people, the Bible highlights the bad. The Bible contains rules that are practically unattainable, thus showing our sorry state for what it really is and that means everyone. The Bible contains information about the future with 100% accuracy which only the Creator of the past, present and future could know. Prophecies regarding a future Messiah which no one before or after Jesus has ever fulfilled. The fact that the disciples and Christians throughout the ages have been willing to face imprisonment, torture and death to get the message of the Gospel out because they experienced or believed the message to be true. Why would anyone do this for a hoax? There are many theories and myths being promoted today, some even claiming to be other gospels, as if there ever could be another Gospel. Choosing what to believe is a job each and every human must undertake. Choosing not to believe is itself a choice and also a belief, but choosing whether Truth is true or not is impossible, Truth is true regardless whether we believe it or not.

Some people say that Christianity stops them doing what they want to do and they want to be free to do what they want to do. Well what is it they want to be free to do? With freedom comes responsibility, there can not be total freedom. But why can we not be free to do what is right? Why can we not ask for the freedom to do what is good? Surely this is freedom as well. Why should we be slaves to evil and to evil desires? Why should we be obedient to the sinful nature? This isn't freedom, but enslavement.

All throughout the Bible, from cover to cover it is a warning about not taking God seriously. The Gospel is simple "believe and you shall be saved." Some people argue "Why would a loving God send anyone to hell?" Well God doesn't send anyone to hell, people choose to go there by rejecting the Gospel. God's hand is reaching out to each and everyone of us, whatever religion, race, whether atheist or agnostic or indifferent, God's hand reaches out to you. There is no discrimination, no distinction, rich or poor, male or female, young and old. God wants you! Will you reach out your hand and grab hold of His?

Prayer:- Almighty God, we reach out our arms to you, we reach out our hands to hold onto your hands. Hold each and everyone of your children tightly and don't let go. Seek out the lost and bring them home. Open the eyes of the blind, both physically and spiritually. Be our ever present guide and set us free from the bondage that enslaves us. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

By Philip Catherall