

“WHAT IS TRUTH?”

by Dub McClish
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Pontius Pilate asked our Lord the question of our title (**John 18:38**). Perhaps we will never know whether Pilate was sincere or sarcastic. However, there is no excuse for anyone who has read the New Testament to have any doubt whatsoever that Jesus recognized the existence of absolute, objective, immutable spiritual Truth. Neither is there any doubt about its identity: “THY WORD IS TRUTH,” Jesus said in His prayer to the Father (**John 17:17**).

The prevalent human philosophies have for some time denied the existence of objective truth in any realm (not only in religion). By their dictum, all things are relative (except, of course we may safely assume; their dictum that all things are relative). It is a matter of great concern to lovers of Truth when brethren become infected with such relativistic, situational, and humanistic philosophies and begin spewing out their doubts from pen and pulpit upon trusting and often naive brethren. A case in point is the following quotation from one of the young liberals among us on the subject of “Truth” (edited for lack of space). Seldom have I seen so large a number of egregious errors in so small a space:

Truth is resilient.... Truth does not confine. Truth does not call us to violate our hearts. Truth does not crush spirits.... Most of all, truth never holds up a “stop sign” to inquiry. Truth gives birth to new ideas.... Innovation is the child of truth.... Truth is not to be feared, but enthusiastically embraced, no matter where it carries us....

This brother either does not know the meaning of this most glorious, exalted, and honorable word, truth, or he desires to rob it of its essential significance and power. Is God’s Word “resilient” (i.e., pliable, flexible, alterable, elastic plastic, etc.)? He obviously believes we can make of the Truth whatever we want to, but the Holy Spirit consistently warns us against any alteration (**Galatians 1:6-9; Revelation 22:18-19**; et al). Contrariwise, Truth does confine. It both includes and excludes. We are not Jesus disciples if we are not confined by His Word the Truth (**Luke 9:23-26; John 8:31-32**; cf. **I Peter 1:22**).

To say that “Truth does not call us to violate our hearts” is blatant subjectivism and abject emotionalism (a trademark of Pentecostalism, romanticism, and New-Ageism, to name a few). Truth does sometimes “crush” the human spirit, as the scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees, Ananias and Sapphira, Elymas the sorcerer, and a host of others involved in evil deeds and false doctrine could testify. Paul “crushed” the Jews with the Gospel Truth in almost every city he entered, so much so that in many cases they chased him out of town and even followed him to do him mischief.

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Have liberals never read (or do they just conveniently forget) that Jesus said that He “CAME NOT TO SEND PEACE ON THE EARTH., BUT A SWORD” and that He came to “SEND DIVISION” (**Matthew 10:34; Luke 12:51**)? It was the crushing, cutting Truth on Pentecost that caused some of Peter’s hearers to ask what to do to be saved (**Acts 2:37**).

A stated aim of the author of these witless false statements about Truth is to promote “new ideas,” “change,” and “innovation.” Innovation is admittedly the child of truth in certain fields of study (e.g., technology, machinery), but in others, it is not. Truth prevents rather than produces innovation in such disciplines as mathematics and history. Likewise, in religion, the Truth of God’s revelation forbids innovation (**Matthew 5:17, John 8:31-32; Galatians 1:6-9; Revelations 22:18-19** et al). He thereby advertises that he is a change agent.

Yes, we should go wherever the Truth leads us, and by his assertions about *truth* (as mindless as they are dangerous), it is evident that something besides the Truth is leading him. According to him, we can change, add, subtract, and alter the Word of God at will because it is “resilient,” This fellow belongs on a state university philosophy faculty rather than in a pulpit, masquerading as a Gospel preacher.