

The Battle for Truth?

Part 1 – What is Truth?

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INTRODUCTION

There is a battle raging all around us. It is not a battle using bullets or guns. In fact, many Christians are unaware that there is a battle or at least of its importance. The battle is being fought with words and ideas.

The battle that I am talking about has been going on since the serpent tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It is a battle for TRUTH.

This battle is being waged in politics, the news, social media, and education.

What is the end purpose of this war? Who is ultimately behind it? How are believers to find truth with so much misinformation?

That is the purpose of this study!

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What is Truth?

John 18:37-38

Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "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." ³⁸ Pilate said to Him, "**What is truth?**" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all.

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What is Truth?

This is the problem society faces today. They do not know truth.

The dictionary defines truth as "that which is true or in accordance with fact or reality."

This definition breaks down. Two people can look at a situation and come to two very different views with regard to its nature. Reality is also difficult to define!

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What is Truth?

Postmodern philosophers teach that there is no one right view of reality. Therefore, everyone can have their own view and their own "truth".

The problem here is that "truth" is based in the individual.

How they perceive the world around them. Truth becomes based in one's own opinions and beliefs. "You can have your beliefs and I will have mine," translates into "you can have your truth and I will have mine!"

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What is Truth?

Truth has also been defined as that which is in keeping with the world around us. Science is an endeavor to discover the truth about the universe around us. However, one's framework of viewing the universe is filled with assumptions which may or may not be correct. In order to know scientific truth, one has to know 100% of the information. This is an impossibility for human beings. We don't understand our own planet, much less other galaxies...

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Truth Defined

Here's a simple definition drawn from what the Bible teaches: **Truth is that which is consistent with the mind, will, character, glory, and being of God.** Even more to the point: Truth is the self-expression of God. That is the biblical meaning of truth. Because the definition of truth flows from God, truth is theological.

Truth is also the way things really are. Reality is what it is because God declared it so and made it so. Therefore, God is the author, source, determiner, governor, arbiter, ultimate standard, and final judge of all truth.

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Truth Defined

The Old Testament refers to the Almighty as the "God of truth" (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 31:5; Isaiah 65:16). When Jesus said of Himself, "I am...the truth" (John 14:6), He was thereby making a profound claim about His own deity. He was also making it clear that all truth must ultimately be defined in terms of God and His eternal glory. After all, Jesus is "the brightness of [God's] glory and the express image of His person" (Hebrews 1:3). He is truth incarnate—the perfect expression of God and therefore the absolute embodiment of all that is true.

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Truth Defined

Jesus also said that the written Word of God is truth. It does not merely contain nuggets of truth; it is pure, unchangeable, and inviolable truth that “cannot be broken” (John 10:35). Praying to His heavenly Father on behalf of His disciples, He said this: “Sanctify them by Your truth. **Your word is truth**” (John 17:17). Moreover, the Word of God is eternal truth “which lives and abides forever” (1 Peter 1:23).

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The Battle for Truth

There is a battle raging for Truth!

Only God knows everything (omniscience) and is present everywhere at the same time (omnipresent). He is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe (omnipotent).

He has declared truth (who he is and what He has done and will do).

God’s Truth declares man to be a sinner and that there is a coming judgment.

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The Battle for Truth

Satan is a flatterer. His truth (lie) is that man is good and the center of the universe. Truth is not based in God, but one's own opinion and feelings.

We see this in the beginning when he tempts Eve. He gets her to doubt God's word and then to doubt God's character. He distorts her view of God and then appeals to her emotions and guides her opinions to the wrong conclusion.

He uses the same tactics today!

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The Battle for Truth

Speaking to the Pharisees, Jesus states:

John 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Those that reject God's Truth have sided with Satan's rebellion and will share in his punishment!

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The Battle for Truth

Isaiah gives warning to those who distort Truth

Isaiah 5:20

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;
Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

This is a problem in our day also. God's Truth stands against and exposes the darkness of the lies being spread in today's culture. As a result, they call God's righteousness evil, and their sin and depravity good.

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The Battle for Truth

Paul warns of the same battle raging in the New Testament

Romans 1:18-20

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

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The Battle for Truth

Paul explains that it is not because man does not know the truth.

Romans 1:21-23

Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

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The Battle for Truth

Paul goes on to list the consequences for rejecting God's Truth.

Romans 1:24-27

Therefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who **exchanged the truth of God for the lie** and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. ²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. ²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

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The Battle for Truth

Paul goes on to list the consequences for rejecting God's Truth.

Romans 1:28-32

And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

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So What ...

Since such a great battle surrounds us in our culture, we need to make sure that our "minds" are anchored in **God's Truth**. The Bible should be the truth filter that all that we hear, think, and believe passes through. To take a stand for God's Truth will not be popular in our current culture, but it is the right and necessary thing to do. "All it take for evil to triumph, is for good men to do nothing."

We must understand that we do not live for the approval of man, but to live our lives holy and upright before God!

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