

# The Nature of Truth

John 18:36-38

Introduction:

- A. Like Pilate, many ask “What is truth?”
- B. There are many kinds of truth.
  - 1. Scientific truth.
  - 2. Mathematical truth.
  - 3. Historical truth.
  - 4. Grammatical truth.
  - 5. Moral and spiritual truth – truth affecting our relationship with God.
- C. The Bible deals with the latter, but does not contradict the others.
- D. Our study is about the nature of moral and spiritual truth – its characteristics:

Discussion:

## I. Truth is Knowable (John 8:32; 1 Tim. 4:3)

- A. Many, like Pilate, throw up their hands and say, “What is truth?”
  - 1. Think truth is so elusive, no one can find it for sure.
  - 2. Think truth is so subjective, each one must define his own version truth.
- B. If truth is unknowable then much of the Bible is useless nonsense.
  - 1. People are condemned for not loving and obeying the truth (Gal. 2:5, 14; 3:1; 2 Thess. 2:10)
  - 2. People are expected to come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Tim. 3:7; Heb. 10:26)

## II. Truth is Revealed (John 16:13).

- A. Cannot know the truth about God nor the truth of God without revelation (1 Cor. 1:21; 2:7-13)
- B. God’s will and purposes remain a mystery without revelation (Eph. 3:3-8)

## III. Truth is Narrow (John 14:6; Rom. 3:4)

- A. Truth by definition is narrow – everything else is not true.
  - 1. Applies to all kinds of truth – Scientific, Mathematical, historical, etc.
  - 2. Especially applies to spiritual truth (cf. Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 8:4-6; 1 Cor. 12:20).
- B. The way to heaven is way of truth - the narrow way. (Matt. 7:12-14)

## IV. Truth is Consistent (cf. 1 Cor. 15:12-14)

- A. If one proposition is the truth, then the opposite cannot be.
- B. Therefore, “one church is as good as another” cannot be true.
  - 1. Ill. What if one church embraced all the contradictory doctrines of Protestantism?
  - 2. Yet, the same doctrines spread among the churches considered ok.

## V. Truth is Essential (2 Thess. 2:12)

- A. Without the truth, cannot be free (John 8:32)
- B. Without obeying the truth, cannot be saved (Rom. 2:8-11)

Conclusion:

- A. Not only is the truth essential, consistent, narrow, revealed and knowable – it is doable (1 Jn 1:6)
- B. We must do (obey) the truth to be saved or to be a Christian.
- C. We must continue to do (obey) the truth (Gal. 5:7)