

Connecting Minds

"These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31)

The Gospel of John

Chapter 18:37,38a

"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. Pilate said to Him 'What is truth?' And when he had said this he went out."

We continue to look at Jesus' very important answer to Pilate's question about being a King and the nature of this kingdom. He has described His kingdom as being a kingdom that bears witness to the truth. In Jesus' day, many Greek philosophers had lived their entire lives in search of truth. Remember the phrase of Plato - "It may be that someday there will come forth from God a Word who will reveal all mysteries and make everything plain." James Boice writes that Pilate "was aware, as were all Romans, that the Greeks had excelled in precisely this field and yet had failed to solve the ultimate philosophical questions."¹

And so, when Jesus said "I should bear witness to the truth..." Pilate is probably quite skeptical about the truth. This is powerfully indicated by the fact that he leaves immediately after asking the question. He doesn't stick around for the answer. He's probably heard too many "answers" to the question of truth and one more doesn't interest him. Pilate sees Jesus as being just another philosopher, who thinks He's found what the truth is. However, when Jesus says that He is testifying to the truth, He is not testifying to a philosophy. No. He is really witnessing to Himself. He isn't witnessing to some abstract principle or thought. He is declaring Himself because He is the Truth, capital T.

This is important, for our world views truth mostly as being either unknowable or as something we create. They see truth as being relative to the time, culture and situation. Truth evolves. What is true yesterday isn't true today and what

¹An Expository Commentary: The Gospel of John, vol. 5, James Montgomery Boice, pg. 1440

is true today may not be true 20 years from now. In fact, today truth is what the most powerful voice says it is. Even Winston Churchill saw through this when he said this about the truth, and the way people react to it: "The truth is incontrovertible. Panic may resent it; ignorance may deride it; malice may destroy it, but there it is."²

But if Jesus is the truth and if Jesus bears witness to the truth, then there are implications involved in this that deal with the nature of the truth. The Bible says "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever..." (Hebrews 13:8). This means that the truth does not evolve. It is the same always. Jesus words also tell us that truth is objective and knowable – "that I should bear witness to it..." Basically Jesus is saying, "I am revealing it to you. You can know the truth and it doesn't change."

Having said that, we still need to know how to receive this truth. There are several helps that the Gospel of John gives us in this regard. First, where does truth come from? We've seen in these verses that it is revealed to us from God - "I have come... that I should bear witness..." (John 18:37). Second, how do we find that revelation? Jesus says "Your Word is truth..." (John 17:17). We have this revelation in the Bible, the inerrant and infallible word of God. Third, how can we understand this word? Jesus promised "The Spirit of Truth... He will guide you into all truth." (John 14:13). We rely on the illumination of the Holy Spirit to bring the revelation alive to our spirits.

TableTalk

Do you believe that all truth is found in Jesus Christ? This doesn't mean that we can't study the universe and learn something the Bible doesn't reveal. Nor does it mean that we can't learn about the history of the First World War and know the truth of it from history books. But our perspective on the universe and history is lacking if we don't understand that God made the universe through the work of Christ and that God governs all history, including wars and pandemics.

Read these verses: Psalm 8, Colossians 1:15,16 and Acts 17:22-34

² The Character and Greatness of Winston Churchill, Stephen Mansfield, pg. 143