

John 18:28-37 – What is Truth?

What is truth?

Truth is on trial with Jesus' trial. Truth is on trial in our world today like it has never been on trial before. The importance of truth is so significant to God, He makes His Son the living truth of God. **John 14:6** Jesus said, "I am the truth, the life, the way." Jesus claimed to *be* truth not just have truth.

We are sanctified.

John 1:17 "For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." Jesus prayed in **John 17:17** "Sanctify them by Your truth, Your word is truth." Sanctification means to be set aside, in the previous verse 16 Jesus said of His disciples "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world."

We are set free from what?

When we are sanctified we are set free from captivity. In **John 8:32** Jesus said "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." In **Romans 6:20** Paul instructs that we are slaves to sin. In **Romans 6:22** the Scriptures instruct further that through Christ Jesus was are set free from the slavery of sin and are slaves to righteousness.

How are we set free?

1 Timothy 2:3-6 "3For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus 6who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

How will the truth "be testified in due time?"

John 14:16-17 – "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him, but you know him for He dwells with you and will be in you." The Holy Spirit ... the Spirit of truth will be dwelling in all who believe.

There is a close link between the issue of salvation and the issue of truth. **1 Timothy 6:13**, "I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate..."

What is the "good confession?"

John 18:37, "For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth."

Responding to the truth

John 18:37 "...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." This indicates "sides." One side rejects the truth, the other side listens to Christ.

How do we know which side is telling the truth? – The world tells us we must accept all beliefs as truth, stating one truth is as valid as the other in the world's view. **1 John 4:6** – "We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error."

For those who do not have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit it is that they "cannot" hear God's Word and not just that they "will" not hear God's Word – **2 Corinthians 4:3-4**, "But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe."

Theological View:

In **Psalms 148:5** the Bible states that the angels praised God at creation, literally sang praises to God at creation. In **Isaiah 14:12-17** and in **Ezekiel 28:13** these Scriptures instruct that Satan was in charge of all of the angels and led in worship. Feasibly, when Satan saw God create man he wanted to have dominion over man as well. Man was created to worship God and was given free will to do so. Satan then took advantage of man's free will and replaced God's truth with his lie.

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What ultimately will happen to those who listen to Satan’s lies?

The answer is in **2 Thessalonians 2:9-12** – “*The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹And for this reason God will send them strong delusion that they should believe the lie, ¹²that they may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*” However ... in **1 John 4:6** we read the “*Spirit of truth*” will lead us to all truth.

What the Bible says about being deceived by Satan’s lies:

- Sin deceives us – **Romans 7:11** “*For sin, taking occasion ... deceived me, and by it killed me.*”
- Sin deceives those perishing – **2 Thessalonians 2:10** “*every sort of evil deceives those who are perishing.*”
- Sin corrupts – **Ephesians 4:22** “*that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt to the deceitful lust.*”
- Sin hardens – **Hebrews 3:13** “*lest you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.*”
- Sin draws us away from the simplicity of Christ – **2 Corinthians 11:3** “*But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*”
- Every sin that besets us can be traced back to a belief in a lie – **1 John 3:10** – “*In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God...*”

Two opposing sides – God’s side-the side of truth, Satan’s side-the side of lies:

Antithesis:

<u>Truth</u>		<u>Lies</u>
Marriage covenant / unity	vs.	Contract / Division
Diversity (man / woman)	vs.	Unification (homosexuals)
Roles (husband / wife / Christians)	vs.	Hostility (I will not play those roles)
Responsibility (for our actions)	vs.	Blame
Authority (God’s absolute authority)	vs.	Rebellion (I’m my own god)
Delegation (duties – share responsibility)	vs.	Tyranny
Freedom (wholesome restraint)	vs.	Bondage
Man (created in the image of God)	vs.	Animal (evolved by random chance and extreme time restraints)

The truth of God leads to love, peace, joy, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self-control (**Galatians 5:22**). The worldview leads to the opposite – lies, illogical, inconsistent, self-destructive, suffering, regret, dissensions, anger, selfish ambitions, separation from God, captives of Satan to do his will (**Galatians 5:19-21**).

What is truth?

Ravi Zacarias – “*Truth is that which affirms propositionally the nature of reality as it is.*”

R.C. Sproul – “*Truth is defined as that which corresponds to reality as perceived by God, because God’s perception of reality is never distorted it is the perfect perception of reality.*”

How do we know truth?

First, we need a face to face encounter with the Holy God who exposes who and what we really are, “*Woe is me, for I am undone because I am a man of unclean lips.*” (**Isaiah 6:5**). Unclean lips will reveal our true self and our sinful nature and need to repent.

Second, a face to face encounter with the Holy God to expose our culture – it uncovers all of the facades and masks our culture wears – **Isaiah 6:5** “*And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips*”

Third, when we come face to face with the Holy God it turns us into world changers through making disciples – **Isaiah 6: 6-8** – “*Here am I, send me*”