

WHAT IS TRUTH?

October 11, 2026

INTRODUCTION

Are you guys doing good this morning? Yes. Amen.

I was going to type down my notes a little bit, but I couldn't. Anyway, we're going to talk about something very important especially in this day and age. I guess they've already spoiled it but we're going to talk about truth, alright? It sounds like a simple question: what is truth? The word truth is one of those things that we all know is a good thing, right? We want kids to tell the truth. When people are telling you a story, you say, "Tell me the truth. Tell the truth." When people testify on a stand, they say, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?" Sometimes there's a Bible there and they say, "I do," and so we know truth is a very important thing but at the same time, our society and even us have adopted this word and changed what truth really means. What does it actually mean for something to be true? Is it something that we discover? Is there a truth out there? Like The X-Files, the truth is out there and we go and find it, or is it something that we determine for ourselves and invent in our own heart and then live by it, right? So we have to really put this into perspective because truth, if you're not using it properly, can be very dangerous if mishandled, if you know what I mean, right? And so today we're going to ask the question, what is truth? And this is not a new question.

PILATE ASKS THE QUESTION

In fact, it was asked almost 2000 years ago by a man named Pontius Pilate. You heard of the guy? We know Jesus had begun His earthly ministry and he was great. We read about him in the Gospels, all the wonderful things that he did. But he was betrayed and he was brought to the religious leaders, and then eventually, they said, we need this guy, but we can't do it. I know a guy. We're going to take him to Pilate and Pilate's going to do the deed for us. So, they take him to Pilate and Pilate is like, what do you want? Like, what is this? Like, what has he done? He is trying to figure out what Jesus has done wrong, right? So, he invites Jesus back into his governor's room, I guess and this is where we pick up our story. So, if you want to return to John chapter eighteen. And we'll start reading in verse thirty-three.

John 18:33-38 (ESV)

33 So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" 35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." 37 Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." 38 Pilate said to

him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him.”

So Jesus, answering Pilate, says that He came into the world to bear witness to the truth, right? And Pilate asks the question. He asked the right question: “What is truth?” Right? This is literally the question we are asking today. But before we ask ourselves, what is truth?

WHY DOES TRUTH MATTER?

A more important question would be, why does truth matter? Because sometimes people would tell you that it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter what's true because “what's true for you is not true for me”, right? Have you ever heard that? Yeah and here's the thing, truth matters because truth affects what we believe, right? If you believe something to be true, you believe it, right? The thing is that these beliefs form what we call our worldview, right? Young adults, we talk a lot about having a biblical worldview, right? These beliefs form your worldview. This worldview that you have, the way you believe things are in the world, determines the actions that you take. If you believe something to be true, you're going to take an action and guess what? When you take action, actions have consequences. Right? Yeah. And that all stems from what we believe to be true. See, and the thing is, is what we believe to be true is not as important as the truth itself. For example, let's say, I'm going to be crossing a bridge, okay? And I sincerely believe that bridge is strong enough to hold me. I know I believe it because I actually take the action to cross the bridge because if I didn't believe this bridge was strong enough, I wouldn't have crossed that bridge, right? You follow me? So, I crossed the bridge based on my belief that it is strong enough to hold me but my belief does not determine whether it is actually strong enough to hold me. It could have been a faulty bridge. I crossed it anyway.

So my sincere belief in what I think is true doesn't necessarily dictate reality. But you understand: our belief in something to be true is important because it dictates our actions but if you sincerely believe something to be true, that doesn't change what truth actually is. Okay?

WE NEED A STANDARD

We can't just create our own truth. We need a standard.

Who knows how to read a ruler—like really knows how to read a ruler, down to the sixteenth? Tim, come up here. Landon, you can come up here too. Anyone else want to play my ruler game? They're like, ‘No, you're going to embarrass me.’

I want you to measure the width of this table. Tim, go ahead—down to the sixteenth. It's a circle; we're measuring the diameter.

One measurement was 25 and 3/16 inches. Another was 26 inches. Another came out to about 27 inches. So how big is the table? According to each person, their measurement was right. But who's actually right?

Then we brought out a real ruler. We'll call it 23 and 7/16 inches. That's the width of this table. These other rulers are faulty—I printed them myself. They're not right. You can tell because if you

line them up against one another, they're not even close. But you didn't notice. You measured with them and trusted them.

So we need a standard. I asked something very simple: measure this table. I gave each person a ruler to measure it with, and they all got an answer they believed to be true based on the ruler they were using. The problem wasn't the thing they were measuring. They were looking at the same object. The object didn't change, but the answers did, because the rulers were different.

We say things like, well, it's not right for me but it might be right for you. We do this with all sorts of topics. There's a lot of, we'll call them gray-area issues in our lives, right? We use it to measure whether something is good or bad. We use different rulers to measure success. Success for me might look different from success for you. We use it to measure relationships, right? Money—maybe I have a lot of money. Maybe someone has more, and they don't think they have a lot because they're measuring with a different ruler than I am, right? We use rulers to measure everything in our life whether it's happiness or our purpose and we even use our rulers to measure God. Right? But the thing is that we can't just pick a ruler and start measuring things because as they found out, these rulers were off. They were wrong, right?

WHERE DOES THE STANDARD COME FROM?

And it wasn't until Helms brought us out a real ruler, right? So, the question is not, “Do I have a ruler?” It's, “Is my ruler accurate?”, okay? And the only way you know whether your ruler is accurate is if you check it against the standard, and what do you think that standard is that we check it against? Awesome. So where does our standard come from? So, Christianity—we're Christians, guys, in case you didn't know that—makes a basic claim. We believe something pretty basic. That truth begins with God. Truth begins with God, right? Titus 1:1–2. right?

This is Paul writing a letter. I always love how Paul opens up his letters because he's really smart. He doesn't just say, “Dear Titus.”

Titus 1:1–2 (ESV)

1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, 2 in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began.

So, here Paul is talking to Titus and he says, look, It's important that you have a knowledge of the truth and then he takes that truth and connects it with godliness. He is tying God and truth together and then he basically says that it comes from God who never lies, alright? So, does God lie? Does God lie? No. Does God lie? No. Does God speak? Yes. Where does He speak? In His Word. Is this filled with lies? No. It is filled with truth. So, I almost don't have to preach the rest of the sermon—you understand it. The thing is that we take our rulers and we lay them up against things and we need to make sure that we're measuring it according to a proper standard, right? And this right here is our proper standard, alright?

What standard does God live by? The truth, right? And where does the truth come from? God. See, we measure our lives and our rulers against the higher standard. We measure our lives and our rulers against God. There is no higher standard than God. God sets the standard, okay? So, when

he says something, guess what? It's true. Alright, awesome. Hey, see, we're just blazing right through this. You guys are great. So, go ahead and flip with me to John 17. I'm just going to read it off my page because I already lost my place. So, this is Jesus again, same time frame. This is before He actually goes before Pilate, and He is praying. He's praying, right? So, lots of things he's praying for. He's praying for himself. He's praying for his disciples. He prays for us. Interesting. If you read Jesus' prayer right before he's being handed over, he prays specifically for us but in John 17 verse starting in verse fourteen, it says, “

John 17:14-17 (ESV)

14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Jesus is praying. Who is he talking to? Yeah, daddy. God. He is talking to God and he basically says, God's Word is truth. See, Jesus knows that the only way that we're going to be safe and that we're going to make it is to live by the truth, okay? So, Jesus is specifically praying that we don't have like, like he's not saying like, give them happiness, give them this, give them success. No, he's not saying all that stuff. He's saying, look, keep them in the truth.

Like, as if that was the only important thing. And that's exactly what he says and then he says, alright out loud, “Your word is truth.” And does Jesus lie? No. No. Of course he doesn't. So, we know that has to be true. So, God's Word is true. This is our standard. We see that also in Psalm 119:160.

Psalm 119:160 (ESV)

The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

So, basically, David is saying in the Psalms that this is truth, this is the standard, all of it. This is what we live by. And I wish it were that simple because it is. It is, honestly, it is truth. It is that simple. The thing is that because we have the standard, this is the thing that we should run to when we have a question about something, right? So, if God is true and God reveals truth, therefore God's Word is truth, right? Therefore, God's Word becomes the standard by which we measure everything else.

So, this ruler is faulty because it does not match the standard, right? And seeing the thing is, is that we don't get to just set our own standards because we live in a culture today where people love to just set their own standards. We don't get to resize the ruler. We're told to use the real ruler. I don't get to just say, “I kind of wish this wasn't a sin.” So, you just kind of stretch your ruler a little bit. Oh look, not a sin anymore,? I'll share this one quick story. Nothing against UPS but sometimes they waste my money. The lady that measures the packages and determines how much money you owe them based on the size of the package. She took the tape measure, held the tape measure with two fingers beyond the end of the tape. So, she's adding the length of her three fingers to the thing. She was adding about two inches to the box, right? I know.

I almost called her out on it but it didn't hit the threshold so I wasn't that worried about it. But I was like, man, that really matters. So, we don't get to stretch the ruler. We don't get to change the

ruler, alright? One of my favorite parts of the Bible is the beginning, right? What parts at the beginning? Genesis. Alright, let's turn there. Let's go to chapter 3, guys. Chapter three. If you want to learn about God, you should be in Genesis. There's a lot about God in Genesis.

"DID GOD ACTUALLY SAY?"

Anyway, we'll go to chapter three. If you guys are astute, this is the part where Adam and Eve have what we call the fall, where Eve is tempted by the serpent. But you've got to remember, up until this point not much has happened, but in another sense everything has happened because in the beginning there was God, right? And He spoke and things started happening. Light was created. The world came into existence. People were here. Adam and Eve were created in the garden. They had everything they needed, right? And God said, you can eat from any tree in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; you shall not eat, lest you surely die, right? So here we are. Adam and Eve have everything they need, everything they've ever known or could ever wish for. God has already spoken. A standard has already been established. And then the serpent enters the story.

Genesis 3:1-3 (ESV)

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

So, you notice Eve added a little part there that God didn't actually say. He never said anything about touching it. I always think of Adam and Eve as like little kids, because they're being told what to do, kind of like us. Here Eve has this rule in her head like, "You can't even touch it." Like, "Oh God, I'm touching it!" Anyway, that's in my brain. I'm sorry if it's not in yours.

Genesis 3:4-6 (ESV)

4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

That was the beginning of the end, guys. So, what happened? God had a standard, right? And the serpent came and offered Eve another ruler. "Did God actually say?" He offered her another standard. See, Satan could have just come up to Eve and just went all out and said, what? God's not real. God's not real. Don't even believe him. You should reject him, worship me. He could've just said that but he didn't, right? He was a lot more crafty and even the Bible says he was crafty. He didn't have get Eve to question God. He actually got her to question what he said. He didn't give her he didn't want her necessarily to change who she was worshipping. He just wanted her to measure with a different ruler than what God had offered and because he knew that was the beginning of the end and he and he basically said, you will not surely die. So then he puts that doubt in her mind. Boom. Really? That sounds great, right? I don't want to I don't want to worry

about dying. I don't want to have to worry about dying. "Tell me more about this new standard I can measure my life with.", it's like, so, obviously, the truth was contradicted and the thing is, is that Eve, she wasn't she was not necessarily thinking at that moment that she's going to just leave God, right? Because she loved God, right? She just wanted to she saw something that she wanted and she was willing to compromise what she knew to be true just a little bit, right? And if you look at the language in the passage, you can see it. It says the serpent says, you will not surely die and then it says, verse six, it says, so when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, like she saw it, she wanted it, right? She's like, I want that thing but God's ruler won't let me have it. I need one that will, right? So, she saw that it was good and a delight to her eyes. And then this is really it. The tree was to be desired to make one wise, right She did not necessarily want the fruit itself, okay? I'm sure it was delicious but the real thing is that she wanted to substitute God's will with hers. She wanted to substitute God's standard with hers. She wanted to take the ruler that God gave us and say, what? This is the one I want to go live by when that happened, and when she believed this new truth, this new standard, it changed her worldview, right?

Nothing had happened yet except what she believed had changed. When she believed that she wouldn't die, it changed everything. Yeah. Like She believed that lie, and once the standard changed in her mind, everything else follows. Her actions followed. Remember we said before, your belief dictates your worldview and your worldview dictates your actions and your actions dictate the consequences, right? So, she changed what she and it changed her worldview. She did it and it was done. Sin entered the world and the rest is history. We won't read all the bad parts, right? Because we already know about all that. We know what sin does but the thing is that she

SOMETIMES WE DON'T WANT THE TRUTH

The thing is that she, Eve knew the truth. And Adam was there. We always like to blame Eve, oh Eve's so dumb. Adam could have stopped it like at any moment but I think he also wanted it as well. But the thing is that sometimes knowing the truth is not the hard part. The hard part is not liking what the truth is right? See, the truth is not hard to find. You guys, you guys all have those rectangles in your pocket or your hand right now. Okay? You got em? You can find all sorts of information. If you have an old-school rectangle like this that doesn't run out of battery, there's lots of truth in here. It is not hard to find. We live in a country where the Bible is readily available. You could read the whole thing right now. You can carve out a good weekend and knock the whole thing out. It takes about 76 hours, I think, to read it from cover to cover if you got that kind of time. So it's not hard to find. This is the truth, right? But the thing is, is that we do not always want the truth because sometimes we don't like what it says, okay?

Amen. Alright and Paul, Paul is a great writer. We're going to turn to Romans. Go ahead and flip to Romans 1. And we're going to we're going to see what happens when people don't like the truth

You guys doing alright today? I feel like I'm losing you.

This is one of the coolest and scariest parts of the Bible. Because it's a little too hidden close to home for us

Romans 1, starting in verse 18. We're going to read this and we're going to talk about what it means, alright?

Romans 1:18–25 (ESV)

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

So, do they have the truth? Of course they do. They have it, but what do they do? "I don't want it," right? This is not an issue of having the truth. They have it, but because of their unrighteousness they say, "Get thee behind me, truth. I want to do this thing." See, God is all about making sure that we've got the truth available to us, right? It's there. They knew God. They had the truth.

Right?

Paul says, these people It is not that they're looking for the truth and can't find it. They have the truth but they suppress it and not only do they suppress the truth, they take the truth about God and they just throw it away and exchange it for a lie.

I mean, you have to ask yourself, if the truth is really a good thing, like if this is the truth that we all should live our lives by, if this is the way to God and to salvation stuff, why would anybody take this and exchange it for something else? If this is to be supremely valued above all else, why would you exchange it for something as common as sin? Right? Why do we do it? Why do we do it? Then the thing is, I mean, well, sin is the answer. That's why we do it but the thing is that this truth, have you guys ever heard of a term with like a hard truth, right? This truth comes against everything you are naturally, alright? This truth challenges your behavior. It challenges the relationships that you hold. It challenges how you spend your money. It challenges things like pride, right? Sometimes it challenges our politics. It will challenge the priorities that we have in our life and sometimes it challenges who you think you are, your identity, right?

"MY TRUTH"

Because that's so important, right? Your identity. You gotta make sure everyone knows who you are. See, the thing is that we are often looking for a new ruler because we don't like how we measure up to the other one. Because who here wants to feel bad? Right? No one wants to feel bad. No one does. So they look for a ruler where they're like, oh man, "I'm not that big at all.". I always joked that you could you can make a lot of money selling scales that lied about your

weight about five or 10 pounds. Oh man, people would love that thing. But and it could do it randomly, right? Like just, oh, just like making you good but is it the truth? Did you actually lose the weight? No, it's still a lie. So, yeah. So, we take this truth and exchange it and we start saying things like, what? I don't want that truth anymore. "Begone. I want to use my truth." We all talk about our truth. And then other people will encourage you to live by your truth. Amen. You gotta follow your truth. If it's true, like, you just gotta go. You live it. Do your thing, right? We say things like that and then we will sit here and just create an entire worldviews that are so perverted and distorted but we live inside them, right? We see this in our society today, right? Do I need to go there, or are we good? Alright, we see it in our society today. That people will take a truth and they will just manufacture a truth around them and then they'll live by it and then they get angry when people don't recognize their truth as truth because people will say, well, that can't be true because of this, this, this, and this and they're like, oh well, this is my truth. You just stay over there. You can't tell me what's true and not true. Blah, blah, blah.

And the thing is that they have invented this whole entire worldview around them based on their opinion or their perspectives and their opinions and their feelings. And let those things dictate their truth, right? Come on, we're not going into politics It is, it is, it is election season. So, make sure you're up on it and vote with your conscience. Well, no—don't just vote with your conscience. Vote with truth. How about that? And we'll say, okay. So, we'll take things and we'll make, we'll say things as if they are objectively true when they are really opinions. For example, pineapple absolutely belongs on pizza. That is the truth. That is the truth.

You don't believe that? Well, then you're wrong. I don't know how else to say it. Well, then, if you don't believe that, then you'll definitely believe this one. The Florida Gators is the best college football team in Florida.

I mean, right?

This is sports.

Well, here, let me hit you with a couple other truths. Cruises are way better than going to Disney World. Well, that one we can all agree with.

They are. They are. That is the truth. Alright. How about this? This will be good for us heading into winter. Cold weather is better than hot weather. Right?

Yeah and then when it's January and it's 28° and we're like "I could go for one of those 80° days again.". Alright, this, alright. So, alright. That those were just jokes, guys. This one's the real truth.

The toilet paper roll goes over, not under.

Does anyone actually disagree with that? Because I mean, we have pamphlets and people you can talk to after service.

Yeah, we have we have counseling we can put you through. No, okay. Obviously, alright. Obviously, guys, these are not truths. These are these are opinions, right? Obviously. But you see, like people will sit there and they'll take things that they feel very deeply and that they have very strong opinions about and they'll make statements that sound like truths, right? And then,

obviously, if you don't agree with that truth, then you just interject your own opinion and preference and that contradicts truth and now we have and so we basically cheapen what this idea of truth really is. So, if truth is relative or okay, how can I say this? If everything is true, then nothing is true. That makes sense? Alright? Because has anyone ever had the displeasure of actually going and taking a logic class in college? Logic. Where they make you study statements if this is true and then that like No one? Okay, good. Don't ever do it. It's awful. But thing is like there's just certain things and statements in this world that can't be true and this be true, right? Like there can't be the Bible or they can't be a God who created a world in six literal days and and an evolutionary account lasting millions or billions of years.

Actually, we're up to trillions of years now, right? Used to be billions of years when I was a kid but they keep extending the timeline so they keep changing it but like they both can't be true. One has to be true. One is the truth, right? Now, you can believe what you believe. But one of them is true the thing is, is that truth does not depend on how you feel about it, right? Your feelings towards the truth doesn't change the truthfulness of it. I'm blanking on that guy's name. Facts don't care about your feelings. Who's that Ben Shapiro? Yeah, Ben Shapiro has a saying that facts don't care about your feelings and that's true, right? Because I mean, there's a truth out there and it doesn't matter how you feel about it. It doesn't make it any less true, okay? And so, when you read something in the Bible, which we have already established that this is what?

Truth. If you read something in the Bible and it makes you go, "I don't know...". You shouldn't have that feeling because this is right, right? It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. What you read was correct. Now, what you have to do is go through the pain of readjusting your ruler back to what this says, alright? The world has done a really good job distorting your ruler to make it measure all sorts of things that aren't necessarily true. And so, when we read the Bible, we need to be mindful of that and ask ourselves

It's so easy to say. Well, I know God's not wrong, right? Because that would be crazy to say. I know God's not wrong but what does that mean? If this is true, what does it mean for me? Like, how am I going to adapt myself to fit this? Because there's no way I can change this to adapt to me because that would be insane if we tried to do that, Right? We wouldn't dare change the Word of God to fit our opinions or our feelings based on society but what guys? This is happening more and more often and I won't say it's a new thing. It's been happening ever since there was truth. There's been people distorting the truth. We just read about that in Genesis, right? Truth was about four minutes old and the serpent saying, well, Let me let me tell you something different, right? But it is it is becoming crazy out there. I wasn't going to share this but it just happened to be on YouTube yesterday when we were scrolling through but have you guys been following anything with the United Methodist Church and that insanity?

WHAT CHANGED?

Well, let me enlighten you. Let me enlighten you. So, I'm not bashing on denominations. I'm not here to beat up on other churches but I am here to defend truth, okay? But in 2024, the United Methodist Church held its meeting and they decided to remove their longstanding language that homosexual practice was incompatible with Christian teaching. They used to have it in the rules

that homosexual practice was incompatible with Christian teaching and in 2024, they decided to remove that. At the same time, they also decided that it was okay that they would remove the restrictions concerning same-sex marriage and gay clergy and all that stuff and it is now in their laws, they believe it as the United Methodist church Obviously, people had problems with that, right? Not enough, it would seem. Because when that happened, many of their churches said, No. No. We can't do that because Bible and they decided to leave and they now have broken off and they have formed what they call the Global Methodist Church. Those are the churches that said they could no longer remain part of the United Methodist Church because they did not agree with that change but the thing is that you have to ask yourself, I mean, they've been following Scripture ever since they were at church and then all of a sudden, 2024, they decided to change the rules. So, let me ask you, what changed?

Did Scripture change? No. Or did the standard people were willing to accept change? See, the thing is that They had developed a ruler in their minds that they wanted to follow and this thing was getting in the way. Honestly, to this day, I don't know how they do it because they're still using this Bible and it has the same verses that we have. I guess they're just not reading those parts. I mean, I don't get it. I don't understand it. But the thing is that they literally did the thing that we were reading about in Romans. They have the standard. What's that? Yeah. Well, we're going to keep reading. So, good. Don't keep reading ahead but yeah, let's go back to Romans. We'll go back to verse 24 but we'll keep going, okay?

Romans 1:24–32 (ESV)

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a 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 dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. 29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Right? I mean, that's in my Bible It's in the Bible they're reading Like, how could you read this and like decide to make a decision like that and still say that we're meeting here in Jesus' name. I don't understand it the thing is like

Like It seems so simple that you wouldn't want to contradict God and what he says because I don't know if you guys have noticed. I've read the end of the book. God wins, right? God wins and I definitely want to be on his side when that happened and I would not be flying in the face of what he says to be true. Right? I definitely wouldn't take his truth and exchange it for a lie. And

then give approval to those who do the same. Like, I mean, that's crazy. It's absolutely crazy. I mean, with the guys didn't it's like it couldn't be more black and white.

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (ESV)

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

See, the thing is, is like, it would be really easy to point fingers at someone for doing this horrible thing, right? But guys, we do the same thing.

TURN THE RULER BACK TOWARD OURSELVES

We do it all the time. Maybe, we don't convene and rewrite church rules and stuff like that. But we do the same thing. I mean, we'll take things like greed.

Or gossip, right? Gossip is a fun one to talk about because I mean

Gossip is a fun one because everyone can sit there and point fingers at everyone else while literally gossiping about that person. Yeah. Okay? And it's like, look, you're in that list but you only read the part that applies to them. Like, what I mean? Gossip, pride, sexual sin, bitterness, forgiveness, it's all there the thing is, is that we will sit there and say, oh, how terrible of them to do this thing but God's like, look you're doing the same thing. You're over here talking about so and so. You have pride in your heart so thick that I can barely speak to you. Like you're doing the exact same thing. You're taking the truth that I've given you and you've exchanged it for a lie that is so subtle that you can't even see it. And I and I tell people like, what's the opposite of truth? A lie, right? And we are good liars. People, like we are so good at lying that we can lie even to ourselves.

Like, we know what we're thinking and we can make a lie that we will even believe. We know the truth but we'll somehow be able to lie to ourselves and then believe it. Like, that's good. That is good. Like, we can do it the thing is that we do this all the time. We are constantly changing our ruler. We'll see something that we want and we'll say, oh, it's not that bad. It's only one cuss word. It's not even one of the bad swears,? Oh, it's just one drink or two drinks or I'm not drunk. Drunk is the problem. It's the same thing. So, we'll just take these things and we'll just these rules and stretch them and stretch it until they go somewhere God's Word never intended. See, so we take these standards and we just basically create our own ruler and then until we say, "Yes, I like that. I like that. I like that. I'm doing pretty good, alright? Our goal is to create a ruler that when we put it against our body, we're like, I like what this is saying," right? And then, once we have that ruler, in comes the truth, and we're like, "Whoa. You can't have this is mine.

TRUTH WAS STANDING IN FRONT OF PILATE

And in doing that, you have taken the thing You have literally rejected God and you've worshiped the creation. This ruler, the standard that you created and you say, no. I don't want that. I don't want your truth because I like mine. Don't say we don't all do it. Alright? So, the thing is that we have a standard and you don't get to change it. God is the standard. You don't get to change God. God is God, right? And you are not. That's what makes God God. And here we are like we'll go back to Pilate. Pilate is literally standing in front of Jesus and he asked the question, what is truth? And the cool thing is, is like Truth in its purest form was standing right in front of him and he's asking as if he didn't know. Well, because he didn't. But it's like right there. Like Truth in perfection is standing right in front of Pilate and he says, what is truth? And then Jesus basically says

John 14:1–7. I've preached on this passage before.

John 14:1–7 (ESV)

1 Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4 And you know the way to where I am going. 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

So, Jesus literally describes himself as the way, the truth, and the life. Jesus is the truth, right? Jesus is the truth and Pilate sitting there saying, what is truth? Jesus is like, "Right here." Yeah. So if you ever have a question on something like, is this right? Do you guys remember that little thing? The "What Would Jesus Do?" Basically, that became a cute way to sell bracelets. But it brings up a really valid point. If you have a question on something, what would Jesus do? Jesus is the standard. How would Jesus handle this? What would he do? I should probably do that thing, right? Because if Jesus wouldn't do it, I shouldn't do it, right? Always remember that when you're on the fence about something.

"Is this a sin?" Picture Jesus doing it and that's your answer right there, okay? There you go. And we'll keep going.

THE CHURCH AND TRUTH

So let's talk about us because we're definitely getting close to time here. Who are we? We're Christians, right? But what are we sitting in? Church. We are the church. We—the people—are the church. The building is not the church. I get that. But we're the church and the thing is, guys, we go out into the world and we see all this happening, right? We read our Bibles or at least as much as we can, right? And we see all this happening. We know the truth and we see all this falseness and this bad measuring going on around us. What are we doing about it, right? And this is not a new problem. Paul talks to Timothy again in his letters.

1 Timothy 3:14–15 (ESV)

14 I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, 15 if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

So, guys, pay attention. This is what you're supposed to be doing. Alright?

A pillar and a buttress. You guys know what a pillar is? Every time I think of a pillar, I think of like a Roman column pillar, right? But what does a pillar do? This is essentially a pillar. It holds things up high so people can see them, right? A pillar is supposed to lift something high so that you can see it, okay? So, we are a pillar of the truth. Are you lifting up truth in this world that needs to see it?

Yeah, it's a rhetorical question, right? Are you lifting up this truth so that people can see it? And then it says, a pillar and a buttress. Now, we don't use this word very often. Does anyone know what a buttress is? When I was in high school, we were learning about like old architecture, Western Civ or something and there was this, they were describing the cathedrals and they said they were flying buttresses and I thought that was the most hilarious thing in the world that it had the word "butt" right there in my textbook, it was hilarious. But a buttress is a thing that supports like they would build these walls and then they would build another wall and then put a support between them to keep them standing, right? Basically, it's a rafter. Okay, let's think of it as a rafter. But our job is to lift the truth up and support it. Okay? We know the truth. It's written right here in plain English words that we can read with our eyeballs. We can apply it to our lives and when we see falsehood, we need to go out apply this truth to that thing and say, guys, this is true and when they say, "How do you know?" We need to be willing to defend this thing, right? That's your job. That's what Paul says anyway. And we don't get to invent the truth. We already talked about another church. We don't get to invent the truth. Our job is to lift up the truth and support the truth, right? Our job is to make sure that people see Jesus and know that he's as great as he really is.

THE REAL QUESTION

So, here's the thing. Did you want to start doing your thing? How's that for a transition? Well, it's not Jason Parker good, but it's alright. Here's the real question, okay? And Pilate asked it, what is truth? Okay? We know what truth is. I don't have to keep belaboring that part. We know what truth is. The real question and this is the one that we were kind of getting at.

Do I actually want it? It's easy to say yes. It's easy to say yes. It's easy to say yes until the truth starts affecting how many free evenings you have in a given week. Or when the truth starts affecting your wallet. When someone is asking for help. It's easy to say I want the truth until it comes into contradiction with the way that you want to live your life. So you have to ask yourself: what do I value more? Do I value this ruler that I have created for myself that makes me look good? Or do I value the ruler? Yeah. The standard at which we measure everything else. Right? Because, guys, in the end, that ruler is going to be laughed at. You're going to get to Jesus and you're going to have this ruler and be like, "Check it out," and He is just going to look at you, and

you're going to be like, "You're right." Like what else can you say? Except you're right, right? Because that's not going to stand up to anything.

That's not going to stand up to judgment. That's not going to hold up to anything. This is going to hold up, alright? This is the only thing that it says will endure forever, right? We like to look at things like the heavens and the earth, and we say that they'll never pass away. What does this say? Yeah, he says, heaven and earth will pass away. He's going to rend the skies like a scroll. Meaning, the sky will literally peel back and it will be no more. And you're like, what's that going to be like? Well, I hope I don't have to see it. I really don't because it's going to be crazy. Yeah, everything that you think you know is going to be gone unless it lines up with this. Because this is the only thing that's going to matter. So as Daryl plays a song and we sit here and we think and contemplate what is truly important. Ask yourself, is this the thing I want to measure my life with?

And if so, God, show me where I'm not lining up. I mean, be brutally honest because if you want to get brutally honest with God, he'll show you where you're messing up and you gotta be willing in that moment to say, alright, God. You can have my ruler. Do what You want with it, or throw it in the garbage for all I care because the only thing I want to measure my life with is what you said. And that's where we all need to be in this moment. So, as you're sitting there praying, asking yourself, God, what do you want me to think about and do in this moment? He'll tell you. And then do the only part that you can, okay? Because God does a lot of the work. He does a lot of the convicting. He does a lot of the fixing in our lives, but the obedience part is our part. When God shows you something, you need to be obedient and actually do it.

That's your part, alright? So, if God's telling you to do something right now, just do it. Just do it.

CLOSING CHARGE AND PRAYER

So, about two weeks ago, Brother Mike recommended a book for me. You guys like living in America? Raise your hand if you think this is the greatest place in the world. The book was about 100 Bible verses connected to the building of America. It was good. I'm going to finish reading and I'm going to put it on the shelf out there but basically, what it is, it's 100 short stories—100 times that during the creation of this country, men veered off the truth. They either were acting in a way that they shouldn't have been or whatever. They started measuring by a different standard other than what God's Word was and the stories are when people would take a verse, preach it to a crowd, and they would get right, right? And it was these key moments that you read about in our history lessons or in our nation's history where God's Word actually steered the creation of this great country. This is a Christian nation, guys. Like it or not, there's a world out there trying to take it away from us. Alright? And I'm not telling you to get all political and go crazy and start punching people but the fight for truth is here, okay? There is a whole mess of people in this country that are trying to change what truth is and they'll look you straight in the face and say, this is not a Christian nation. Separation of church and state, right? Blah, blah, blah, whatever. Meanwhile, they're trying to get you to lay your truth aside and they're trying to interject their truth on top of it and guys, God has blessed us with an amazing country. Amen. He has blessed us with an amazing Word that helped shape this country. God used people that were willing to stand

up and actually take the truth of what he says and put it on a pillar and then support it and say, "You know what? We can do that here." And we did it. So just think about that as you go out. I don't know what you're going to do with that. Just be thinking about that. God has done a lot of amazing stuff. He's pretty smart and He doesn't lie.

We as the church, our job is to make sure that people know that. So, go out there and do your job and have a great week and if you ordered one of them fancy community meals, I think they're over there and I'm not seeing anyone flag me down for any kind of announcement. So we'll pray and then we'll be dismissed. Gracious Heavenly Father, Lord, I thank you for you. I thank You for Your truth. I thank You for Your Word. Lord, thank You so much for being the thing that we can stand on and stand for. God, thank You. Thank You for fighting against all the lies and giving us a standard and thank You for showing us where our ruler doesn't measure up. Lord, we just love you and we thank You and we pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen. Love you guys. Have a good week.