

THY KINGDOM COME #24
Developing A Biblical Worldview

I. Introduction

We are continuing our teaching on 'Developing a Biblical Worldview' by considering the question...

"What Is Truth?"

Our text tonight is taken from trial of Christ in the court of the Roman prefect Pontius Pilate. In the midst of the exchange, the Lord Jesus makes a most important, though often overlooked, statement about His purpose on earth...

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. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.

Ask us Christians, 'why was Jesus born? Why did Jesus come into the world?' Our usual first answer would be, 'to die for our sins', and that would be true. But here is another truth...Jesus says He was born and came into the world to 'bear witness to the truth'. And then he says, 'everyone who is of the truth would hear Him'. This sounds similar to something He said about Himself here...

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Jesus is all about truth. He came to bear witness to it. To speak it. To live it. But Pilate doesn't get all Jesus' talk about truth. He doesn't even know what it is

John 18:38

Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

Pilate couldn't see the Truth which was standing right in front of him! But He asks the question that has hounded humans throughout history.

II. What Is Truth? And What is the Answer From the Biblical Worldview?

A. A Much-Needed Message

Alisa Childers, “Live Your Truth and Other Lies”

We live in a time and place where many people don't even know what truth is. Some think truth is just a subjective preference or opinion...but the definition of truth is actually quite simple...

Alisa Childers

Truth is a thought, statement, or opinion that lines up with reality. That's it. If what we say, think, or believe or believe lines up with reality, it's truth. If it doesn't, it's not.

Alisa Childers

Truth is true for all people in all places and times. It's also something you can't invent, think up, or create. It is something you *discover*. It doesn't change, no matter how much people's beliefs about it do.

1. **Truth, in the biblical worldview, is objective, not subjective.**

Subjective truth is based on the personal perspective or preferences of a person—the *subject* determines what is true. In contrast, *objective* truth is not influenced by or based on a personal viewpoint—the object determines what is true.

a. Subjective truth on any given subject will vary from person to person because each person will determine truth for themselves; objective truth never varies because it is not influenced by individual people think.

b. The late Francis Schaeffer called objective truth 'true truth'.

Francis Schaeffer

We are the people who believe in true truth.

Rev. Al Mohler, Jr.

What he meant that when we talk about truth we don't merely claim it is *our* truth but that it is the truth, an objective truth, a truth grounded in reality, a truth unchanged and unchanging.

2. Examples:

a. $2 + 2 = 4$ is an objective truth because it lines up with reality; it is not subjective; it is not influenced by anyone's personal opinion or viewpoint.

b. On the other hand, if I say, 'Baseball is the greatest sport', I'm speaking a subjective truth; there is no objective truth on the subject.

c. I am just stating my opinion, my preference. It is subjective truth because it doesn't depend on anything outside of my own head. I can say, "This is *my* truth", but I would just be stating what I believe to be true about the greatest sport.

d. The biblical worldview is based on objective truth because it is based on the Word of God; it comes from outside of us; truth we do not invent or make up on our own; truth is something revealed to us, something we discover.

e. All other worldviews (and religions) are based on subjective truth, because they are based on the word of man; their 'truth' is subjective because it came from within themselves; there are so many of them because they are the result of individual opinion and preference. On the other hand...

Alisa Childers

Christianity is a belief system that stands or falls on objective truth.

3. The Christian faith and the biblical worldview are based on the Bible as objective truth revealed to us by God; Christianity is not based on subjective truth, not based on what we think about it. For example:

a. **Objective truth about the beginning:**

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

(The atheistic worldview of evolution is based on subjective truth)

b. Objective truth about gender:

Genesis 1:27-28

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

c. Objective truth about marriage.

d. Objective truth about the original condition after 6 day creation.

Genesis 1:31

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

e. The creation account in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2 conclude with a condition of 'goodness'.

4. So what went wrong with the world? What's wrong with the world today? Subjective opinions abound but God gives the simple answer in Genesis 3 with the fall of our first parents into sin. God's word tells us the truth...

B. The Conflict in the Garden Concerned With the Question: 'What Is Truth?'

1. God had given our first parents a revelation of objective truth: if you eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, if you depart from my truth to seek truth on your own, YOU WILL DIE!

2. Enter the devil, described as a serpent: Look at it carefully...

The first question raised in the Bible, "Has God really said...?"

Or "Is God's word really true?"

The first lie recorded in the Bible, "You shall not surely die!"

"God's word is not true."

The second lie came quickly: "You shall be as God, knowing good and evil"

"You will be able to determine what is true for yourselves."

3. Actually, we could say that the fall of mankind occurred over the great question, “What is truth?” All the ills of the human race can be traced back to the moment mankind made the shift from objective truth to subjective truth.

4. When men reject the objective truth given us in God’s word, and replace it with the subjective truth invented in their own minds, the chaos will continue.

5. Moral questions about good and evil, right and wrong, are no longer answered with objective truth from God’s word but become matters of personal opinion or how someone ‘feels’ about things.

Alisa Childers

More than ever before, people are looking to their own hearts, opinions, preferences, biases and presuppositions to guide them through life. In other words, we’ve learned to trust our feelings. But how is that working out for us? It is leading to all sorts of problems.

C. Relative Truth and Half-Truths

1. The current collapse of our education system has been brewing for years because it has replaced ‘absolute truth’ with the great lie of ‘relative truth’.

a. To say that something is absolutely true means that it is independently true for all people, even if they do not know it or recognize it to be true. The opposite of absolute (or objective) truth is...

Relative Truth

The concept that truth and moral values are relative to the persons or groups holding them. Relative truth says that truth for one person doesn't have to be the same truth for another person.

2. Back in the 1987, in his landmark book “The Closing of the American Mind”, Professor Allan Bloom predicted the problems we have today because of the young people’s prevalent belief in relative truth.

Allan Bloom, “The Closing of the American Mind”

“Every professor knows that every student knows, or thinks he knows, that all truth is relative. That’s the one thing you can count on in the modern American elite college student”.

a. Bloom was not a Christian, much less a prophet, but he got this right:

Allan Bloom, “The Closing of the American Mind”

The end result of education today is that there can be no more truth or goodness and no need or even ability to make tough choices. Where the purpose of higher education once was to enable the student to find truth, the modern university teaches that there is no truth, only ‘lifestyle’.

3. A hundred years ago, England’s great Christian philosopher G.K. Chesterton saw the early signs of how the Western nations were abandoning objective truth and gave this warning:

G.K. Chesterton (1874-1936)

We shall soon be in a world in which a man may be howled down for saying that two and two make four, in which people will persecute the heresy of calling a triangle a three-sided figure, and hang a man for maddening a mob with the news that grass is green.

a. He was more accurate than many of our modern-day prophets.

- Today we can’t call abortion for what it is—the murder of the unborn
- We can’t say same-sex marriage is perversion
- And our young people don’t know if they’re a boy or a girl

4. All these ills come upon because we have exchanged the truth for a lie, believing that the definition of truth comes from within ourselves.

“The 10 Commandments may apply to you but not to me.”

“I just don’t feel like it can be true that there is only one way to God”

Natasha Crain, “Faithfully Different”

In today’s secular culture, there is a lot of popular-level wisdom passing as self-evident truth that we should all just accept—statements like live your own

truth; you are enough; authenticity is everything; God just wants you to be happy; you shouldn't judge. These are claims about reality that sound good...but are they really good when we define good by the standard of God's Word?

5. When we take a look at this list we realize how many modern Americans are mistaking their subjective truth for true truth. Some are really 'half-truths'.

Alisa Childers

The biggest lies are the ones that sound most beautiful. They are made up of at least 50% truth. Sometimes they are almost totally true. But that small bit that spins the entire outcome is the most important part.

"Live your own truth"; "Follow your heart"; "Trust your feelings"

6. What sounds good may not be good; like when Christians say...

"I'm spiritual, not religious"

"I don't need to go to church-I am the church"

7. How can it be we hear more and more of this today coming from American Christians? Could it be something A.W. Tozer complained about back in the 1950's?

A.W. Tozer

Too much of contemporary Christianity is borrowed from the philosophies of the world and even other religions—phrases and mottos that look great on the surface but are not rooted in scripture or that mostly bolster one's self-image.

8. This has all come to pass in our day; a mixture of the biblical worldview and the secular worldview about the nature of truth. Something called...

D. Syncretism

1. Barna research keeps track of Christianity in America...

George Barna

What we are finding is that the worldview people possess is not a biblical worldview. You have 7 out of 10 Americans calling themselves Christians. Half of them believe they have a biblical worldview but only 6% do.

George Barna

Actually, 88% have a worldview called 'syncretism', which means they pick and choose ideas from many different philosophies of life; so they'll buy into a few Marxist ideas of life, they'll buy into some postmodern thoughts, they'll buy into some Eastern mystical ideas about how to live, and so forth.

George Barna

And they put all those together into a personal blend that then becomes their own unique worldview. It doesn't work very well because there are often contradictions within their own worldview. They don't seem to worry about it.

1. The fact that 88% of professing Christians have a syncretistic worldview explains many things!

- a. How can a Christian vote for a Socialist?
- b. How can a Christian support abortion?
- c. How can a Christian be a Communist?
- d. How can a Christian march in a Gay Pride parade?
- e. How can unmarried Christians unashamedly live together?

2. The answer is syncretism.

Ken Ham, "Divided Nation"

The dominant worldview in America today is syncretism; a little of this and a little of that, blended into a worldview that's custom-made by each person. With such a worldview there's no ultimate authority—"truth" is determined by whatever seems right to each person.

3. Many American Christians have walked away from God's definition of truth in favor of their own notions of truth; they attempt to retain some Christian ideas and principles but mix in the other philosophies to justify how they have chosen to live.

4. Christian culture in America has sunk so low that it's become unacceptable to address issues that once were 'no-brainers'.

- **Evolution**
- **The command to assemble with other believers**
- **Dating/Marrying a non-believer**
- **Modesty (including social platform posts)**

a. I admit that the definition of 'modesty' is always somewhat subjective!
As one said, "I can't define pornography, but I know it when I see it!"

5. Ken Ham sums it up in his new book, "Divided Nation":

Ken Ham

Worldview matters! How you see the world has consequences for what you do, what you value, and what you pass along to the next generation. A worldview that isn't firmly anchored to the truth of God's Word is ultimately going to shift and change with the ideas that prevail in our culture. Such a Christian can't be salt and light.

6. When Christians in particular and the church in general loses its capacity to answer the question "What is truth?", it becomes good for nothing.

Matthew 5:13

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

7. When Christians can't stand up for the truth they always end up...

E. We Are Now Living in a Culture of Lies

1. Lying has become a way of life in America; and the fish rots from the head down: remember the lies at the beginning of the pandemic?

President Joe Biden 12/14/21

“People vaccinated for COVID-19 do not spread the disease to anyone else.”

Dr. Anthony Fauci, 5/16/21

“When you get vaccinated, you not only protect your own health and that of the family but also you contribute to the community health by preventing the spread of the virus throughout the community,”

Dr. Anthony Fauci, 5/16/21

“In other words, you become a dead end to the virus. And when there are a lot of dead ends around, the virus is not going to go anywhere. And that’s when you get a point that you have a markedly diminished rate of infection in the community.”

a. More recently, last week, in the midst of the worst inflation in 40 years...

President Joe Biden 10/18/22

“The economy is strong as hell.”

b. Here was his response to criticism about high gas prices:

Joe Biden 10/20/22

Let’s debunk some myths here. My administration has not stopped or slowed U.S. oil production. Quite the opposite.

c. But compare these words with what he said when he was running...

Joe Biden (Campaigning in 2020)

Number one: No more subsidies for the fossil fuel industry. No more drilling on federal lands. No more drilling including offshore. No ability for the oil industry to continue to drill. Period. End.

Shut down Keystone pipeline on first day in office.

d. And how about the border, with 3 million illegals coming in?

VP Kamala Harris

“Our border is secure.”

Alejandro Mayorkas, Head of Homeland Security

“The border is closed. The border is secured.”

2. When we are led by liars we find ourselves under the judgment of God described in Isaiah 59:

Isaiah 59:12-13

**For our transgressions are multiplied before You, and our sins testify against us...
In transgressing and lying against the Lord, and departing from our God,
speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of
falsehood.**

Isaiah 59:14-15

**Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth is fallen in the
street, and equity cannot enter. So truth fails, and he who departs from evil
makes himself a prey.**

NLT And anyone that renounces evil is attacked.

5. We have entered into an hour where those who speak the truth will be attacked and hated (or cancelled); which is why the warfare has intensified:

George Orwell

**Truth is the new hate speech. The further a society drifts from truth the more it
will hate those that speak it.**

III. Review & Close

- **Jesus Christ came to bear witness of the truth**
- **Truth is a thought, state or opinion that lines up with reality**
- **In the biblical worldview, truth is objective, not subjective; is true for all people in all places and times. Truth is you can't invent, think up, or create. It is something you *discover*. It doesn't change, no matter how much people's beliefs about it do**

In a culture of lies, every Christian is called to courageously bear witness of the truth—and always remember..

Os Guinness

Truth is true even if nobody believes it and falsehood is false even if everybody believes it.

Closing Prayer

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