

WHAT IS TRUTH?

JOHN 18:38



BAD DAY FOR PILATE TOO



- Pilate was not really different from the people in our world **today**
- History tells us that Pilate was intelligent, analytical, educated, ambitious, ruthless, and above all he knew how to survive in that political world...surprisingly similar to our society in many ways
- (v.28-31) He would not want to be bothered by a group of *religious fanatics*, especially a bunch of **hypocritical** Pharisees
- That is still the attitude of most people today (would you?)

WHAT IS TRUTH?

- He asked Jesus “what is truth?” (v.38). Pilate did not really expect an **answer**. He was saying that to **end a conversation**, not to begin one
- Sadly, many people today share Pilate’s point of view
- We live in an **uncertain** world, not just that people do not know what the truth is, they are not even certain if there is such a thing as **absolute** truth...
- Is there truth in this world? If so, how can we know?

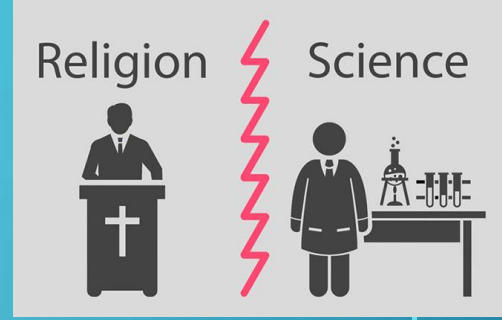


OUR CULTURE IS NOT HELPING



- Most people would rather pursue **comfort** or **security** in their everyday dealings, and care very little (if at all) about the truth
- Moreover, there are so many viewpoints in our culture today that they all may look **contradictory** at first glance. Most people never bother to **look deeper** to see what is actually happening
- Instead most people just adopt clichés such as “all religions are teaching us to be good” or “probably they are all right at some level” and do not bother to do anything about it.

CAN SCIENCE HELP?



- There is **nothing** fundamentally contradictory between the truth and scientific discoveries. (unlike religion vs. science)
- Science is the pursuit of knowledge; the discovery of the unknown. Therefore it is constantly growing and changing (ill: biology)
- Since scientific discoveries are **ongoing**, we cannot use something incomplete to judge the truth itself. We can test, assess, quantify, or evaluate if something is true or not, but science cannot pass judgment (or explain) of God or the Bible itself, since scientific discoveries are not complete. (ill: physics)

SEEKING THE TRUTH

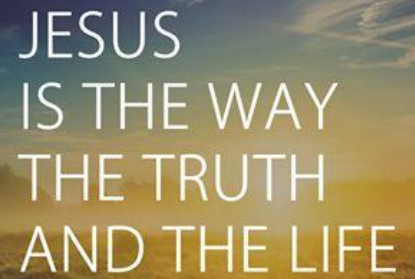
- Pilate did right by **asking** (Matt. 7:7) since asking is the beginning of searching. Sadly He stopped there
- Pilate was gathering information (v.33, 35, 37), but that was not enough. Gathering information and seeking are not the same
- Notice that he heard what Jesus said, but he was not really listening. He was only in the business of gathering information to **finish his task**—judging this man to be guilty or not
- Are you willing to receive the truth even if it contradicts your agenda?



SEARCHING
FOR TRUTH

SO WHAT IS TRUTH?

- John actually has much to say about the truth (25 times)
The word simply means something that is absolutely true.
- Jesus told Pilate (18:37) that he bears witness of the truth, since Jesus is the truth (14:6)
- Jesus also proclaims that God's word (17:17) and the Holy Spirit (14:17; 15:26; 16:13) is the truth.
- All the OT prophecies and all the miracles that Jesus has done testified that Jesus is the truth. Are you willing to believe that?



JESUS
IS THE WAY
THE TRUTH
AND THE LIFE

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Believe

BELIEVE IN THE TRUTH

- We can circumstantially verify the Bible or Jesus is true, but we cannot **prove** that Jesus is the truth, since it requires **absolute** knowledge.
- This is where **faith** comes in. Can you believe that Jesus is the truth? Can you rely on the word of God? Can you trust in the promises of God?
- The truth can set you **free** (8:32) if you believe it. The choice is yours today