

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

November 27, 2012

Issue No. 70 Mark Aites, Editor

Truth

"Better suffer for truth than prosper by falsehood." – Danish Proverb

"The language of truth is simple." – Seneca, *Ad Lucilium*, XLIX

"The man who speaks the truth is always at ease." – Persian Proverb

"A lie has speed, but truth has endurance." – Edgar J. Mohn

One of the most interesting discussions in our New Testaments is between our Lord and Pontius Pilate. "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?'" (John 18:37-38). Pilate's question sounds like it came from the 21st century.

Folks today struggle with the concept of truth. Webster defines it as, "The state of being the case: fact (2): the body of real things, events, and facts: actuality." Why is this a problem? Because there is a push in our society today to state that truth is not actual, but relative. In other words, what might be truth to one person may not be truth to another. The obvious problem in this is that there is no recognized standard of truth.

If you try to study the Bible with some folks today, you may well find the words of Pontius Pilate in that conversation. You might show them, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). And they look at you and say, "What is truth?" You then might tell them to turn to John 17:17 where Jesus reveals God's word is truth. And they respond, "That is not the truth that I know."

Suppose someone were to say in a class that $2 + 2 = 5$. Now immediately that just sounds wrong to us. But this is precisely what people are doing with the word of God. There is no recognized standard. There is no set of truths that they will recognize, because they embrace the notion that all truth is relative and left up to the individual.

If people used this same approach with our laws in our society, you would have pandemonium. A police officer pulls someone over for speeding and tells them that the speed limit is 55 m.p.h., and they say, "I don't like that number, and in my way of thinking it should be 70 m.p.h." If people totally disregarded the law, how can society function?

There is a truth, and if heaven is to be a reality for folks, they had better acknowledge it and live by it.