

Consequences of Ideas Lesson 2

Why did Jesus come to the world? Is this an important question? For this reason was I born and for this reason came I into the world to _____ John 18:33-38

I. Introduction

- a. While modern philosophers might struggle with a definition of truth, Noah Webster in his 1828 dictionary put it this way: *Conformity to fact or reality; exact accordance with that which is or has been or shall be, "we rely upon the truth of Scriptural prophecies"*.
- b. From the earliest days of the Greek philosophers, men have sought for a satisfactory answer to the question: **What is truth?** *John 18:38 Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? KJV*
- c. For the past 2500 years of human history men of renown, profound thinkers of every epoch have wrestled with theories of truth and reality, but **few** have approached their search from a Biblical point of view.
- d. Consequently, their ideas **miss** the mark as far as God is concerned. *Isa 44:20 He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, "Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?" NIV*

II. Truth From God's Perspective

- a. The ultimate answer to the question of truth must be that truth is that which corresponds to reality as **perceived by God**. Any other plumb line will ultimately fail the test of truth.
- b. One way to think about truth is that it is God's nature finding expression in His **creation**. God's nature is all-comprehensive so in some sense every fact and everything that is real expresses something about His nature.
- c. When we see this we understand that He is **all and in all**, the source, support and objective of all concrete being. This is not meant in the same way that pantheists think of it though. *1 Cor 15:28 that God may be all in all. KJV*
- d. Truth is not arbitrary or changing, but always expresses the **essence** of God Himself. It must also harmonize with itself
- e. Truth is primarily something to be realized and **done**, rather than something to be learned or known. I.E. Man is spiritually lost and needs a savior. This requires a positive response.
- f. Truth is not merely in utterance; nor is it only a belief; nor is it merely outward compliance. It is complete **congruence** in the whole being. *Ps 15:1-2 LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. KJV*
- g. The will to produce truth or, to do the known will of God is the **first** step for apprehending the truth. *John 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. KJV*
- h. Whatever God has spoken about must be considered to be truth because God is true. *Ps 31:5 Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth. KJV*
- i. As one studies the Word of God one finds that there are no **fundamental** questions that one can ask about our lives and relationships that God has not already addressed in His Word. *Prov 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. KJV* Compass slide
- j. As one discovers what God has said about each area to which He has spoken, one invariably is brought **face to face** with God Himself.
- k. Since that which is true points to the nature of God Himself any individual failure to believe, or to do or to speak the truth is a **violation** against the nature of God and is cause for judgment. *James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. KJV*
- l. The issue of truth is **essential** to our survival. Not acknowledging the truth and what God has said about it leaves one exposed to the risk of accepting error and living it rather than the truth. *Jer 2:13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. KJV*

III. Truth According to Jesus

- a. When Jesus said that He came to testify to the truth, the truth was on trial. The life of Jesus was truth personified. Whatever He spoke was the truth and He attested to that fact over **75 times**.
- b. Jesus used the double emphatic "**truly truly**" over 25 times in the Book of John alone.
- c. As the revealed truth of God, Jesus Christ truly **expressed** God; He accurately presents the true ideal of man; in Himself He summarizes how man should live before the face of God. *Phil 2:6-7 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: KJV*
- d. Christ as truth becomes the agent for unifying the disordered world. Hence, He is the **Truth**. *John 14:6 I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. KJV*
- e. As the Word of God, Jesus **sanctifies** His people through Himself and proves the faithfulness and veracity of God. *John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. KJV*

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- f. Jesus also reveals to us that the people of God must **worship** God in a way that is in complete consonance with the truth. *John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. KJV*
- g. It is the truth that sets us **free** from the error that binds us to a false sense of reality. *John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. KJV*
- h. It is the Holy Spirit that **reveals** the truth to believers. *John 16:13-14 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. KJV*

IV. People of The Truth Vs People of the Lie

- a. From Jesus' perspective, there are sides, those who are not for Christ will believe the lie and they will be **antichrist**. *John 8:43-44 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. KJV*
- b. In His statement Jesus is drawing a line in the sand. He is stating in unmistakable terms that there are **two sides** in this cosmic struggle and that the struggle is about TRUTH.

People of the Truth:	People of the Lie:
Frame what they believe from God's perspective, it is all about God : What He has said, what He means and what He says I ought to believe.	Denying God's perspective, frame what they believe from the Satanic perspective: it is all about me , what I think, what I want and what I believe.
They are of God John 8:47	Doubt God's Word Gen 3:1
Hear the voice of Jesus John 18:37	Do not love the truth 2 Thes 2:9-13
Have the spirit of truth 1John 4:6	Are the off-spring of the Devil John 8:44-46
Are set free from bondage John 8:32	Are in bondage to sin John 8:34
Receive the Word of God as truth John 17:17	Turn away from the truth and to fables 2 Tim 4:3-4
Do the truth John 3:21	Know the reality of God but reject it Romans 1:18
Worship God in truth John 4:23	Worship the creation rather than God Romans 1:25

- c. Every sin by every sinner can be traced back to the belief in a **lie**. That is why this battle is so huge and why it encompasses everything that we believe.
- d. We must be **conscious** of what it is that we believe and examine whether or not it is the truth. *2 Cor 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; KJV*
- e. Since the world in which we live is not following after the truth, what they believe and value must be seriously questioned and **examined** before being embraced by the believer.
- f. The truth claims of God are by definition logical and consistent and always harmonize with each other. When lived out as God **intended**, the truth of God will always set us free.
- g. The truth claims of the devil are inconsistent, conflicting and illogical. They lead to the most grievous evil and destruction and always lead to the **enslavement** of people.
- h. In order for man to live according to the lie he must reject **reality** and embrace that which is ultimately false. This is insanity.
- i. If you want to recognize the difference between the truth claims of God and those of the flesh, the world and the devil just simply look for **opposites**.

Unity: Marriage	Division
Diversity: What should not come together	Unification
Roles: Husband / wife	Rejection
Responsibility: for our actions	Blame
Authority: The word of God	Rebellion
Delegation: Areas of life for which Govt is proper	Tyranny
Freedom:	Bondage

V. Application

- a. Ideas have consequences and what we believe as true has spiritual, emotional, philosophical, ethical and cultural significance. Failure to discern truth from error will profoundly affect the life of an individual.
- b. If you want to know truth you must start from God's perspective.
- c. To what extent do you think about issues of our day from God's perspective?
- d. What do you need to do to ensure that you have not been deceived by the errors of men?
- e. What do you need to do to ensure that your ideas align with God's more consistently?