

What Is Truth?

What is truth? Truth doesn't really exist. Who is going to judge whether my experience of an incident is more valid than yours? No one can be trusted to be the judge of that.

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English Artist

Today's illogical opinion

Pontius Pilate

Yesterday's 'opinion'



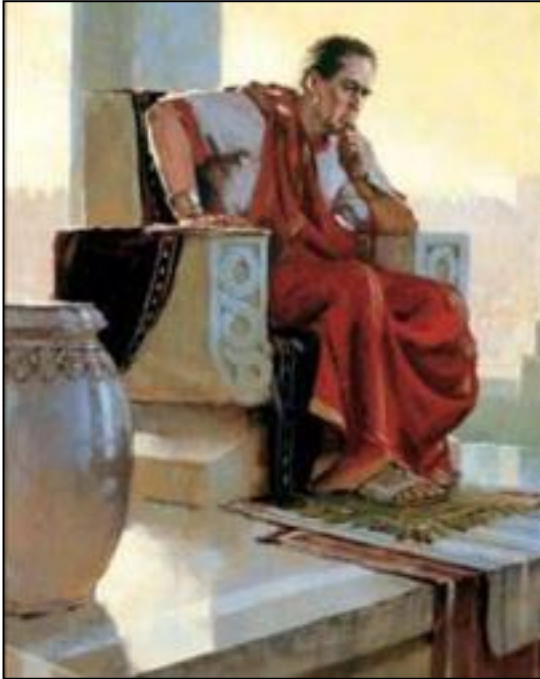
"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

"What is truth?" retorted Pilate.

John 18:36 - 38

Pontius Pilate the 'modern man'

'Truth' is whatever suits me and my interests.



No such thing as truth ?
What is true for you may
not be for me.

That's not true --- for example,
the effect of gravity is true for
both you and me !



And yet we get all worked up (rightly, truly) about “fake news” because it’s NOT TRUTH



Eg. a former mayor of New York - ‘I lied’ –
That’s some politicians for you.

Can you believe anything or any body ?

I said in my alarm, “All mankind are liars.”

Psalm 116:11

Where did it all go wrong ?

Jesus said ...

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

John 8:44



What happened next ?

And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." Genesis 2:16-17

Satan's
Tactic against truth
No. 1



sowing doubts about and twisting God's words

This sounds like an innocent question

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

Genesis 3:1

Tactic no. 1 continues...

sowing doubts about and twisting God's words
Satan has been using this one a long time.

For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

2 Corinthians 11:13 - 15



Satan's Tactic against Truth No. 2

the big lie – contradict God's word

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman.

Genesis 3:4

The Original Fake News



Tactic No. 3

confuse the communication

"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

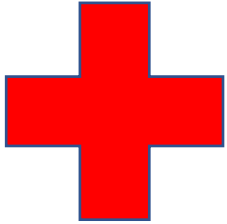
Genesis 3:5



What you heard wasn't what he meant
*Since truth involves good communication
this is one of the devil's favourite tactics*

Satan's Tactic against Truth No. 4

positive lie



BIG ON PROMISES

great on rhetoric

but **BAD**
on delivery...

sound familiar?



negative lie



Satan's scare Tactic No. 5

Another successful method in the world is to misrepresent God and His people.

Satan's attack on truth is aimed to break your relationship to God and each other



The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

1Timothy 4:1

At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Matthew 24:23 -24

So in order to find the truth we need :-

1. God's word – the Bible

1. What does it say about itself ?

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

Psalm 19: 7-8



1. God's word – the Bible

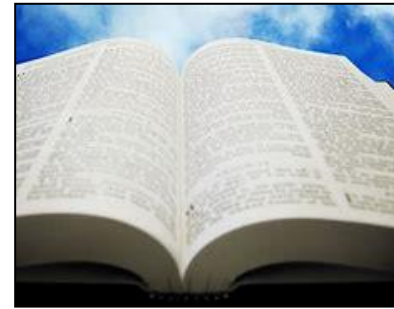
2. What does Jesus say about it ?



Sanctify them by Your truth.
Your word is truth.

John 17:17

1. God's word – the Bible



3. What does the Apostle Paul say ?

But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

2Timothy 3:14 -17

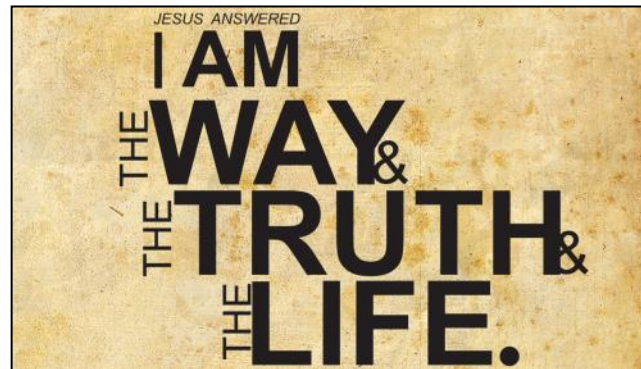
But how can I be sure it is true ?

There are many other competing voices.



Trust in Jesus and what he said

Jesus said it. I believe it. That settles it!



How can I be sure it is true ?

Have discoveries proved the Bible wrong ?

Eg. What about the round earth, dinosaurs etc.
etc?



There can be a big difference between human theories and interpretations and the reality.

And we also need :-

2. Discernment a gift & ability from the Holy Spirit

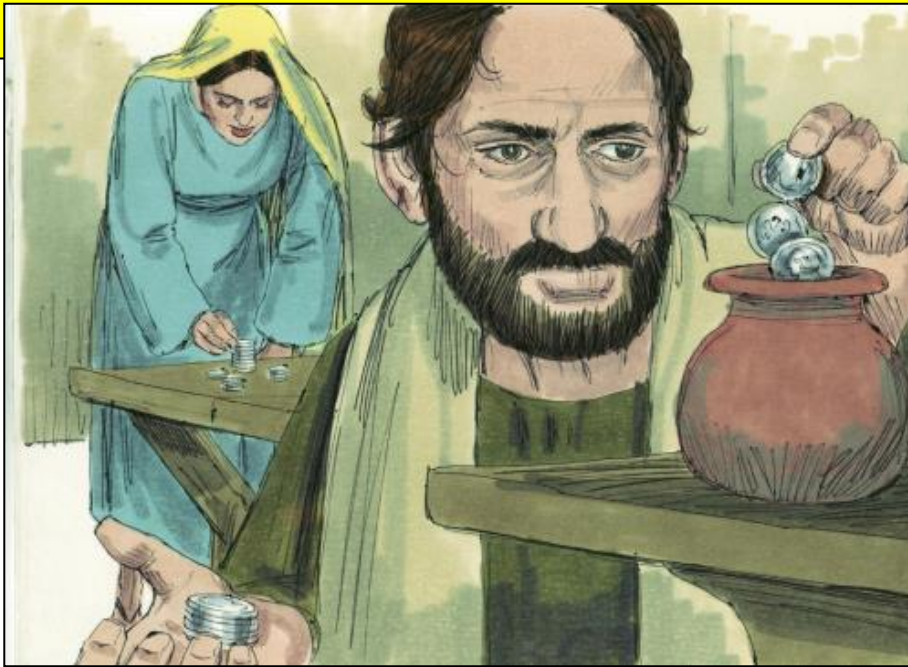
Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the distinguishing between spirits ... All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. 1Corinthians 12:7 - 11



How it worked in a N.T. example :-

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"

Acts 5:3



Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

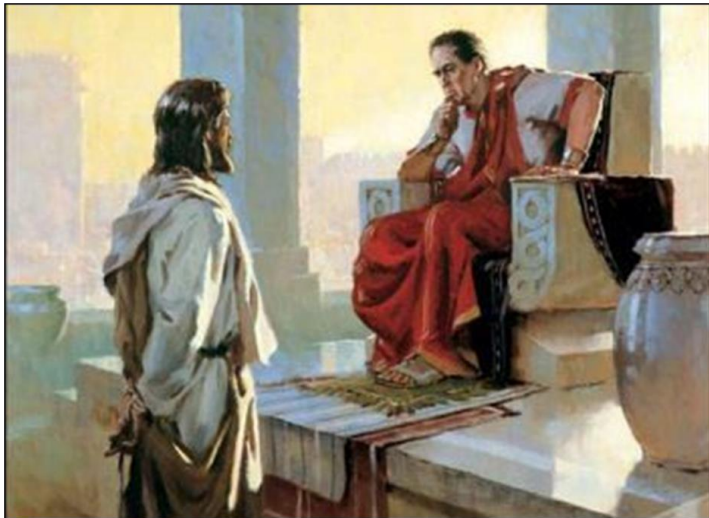
Matthew 10:16

And we also need :-

3. Jesus

– he is the truth –
the straight line to measure the rest

Remember Pilate's question and
the answer is **standing
in front of him.**



And finally we need :-

4. revelation from God

For the unbeliever



Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

2Corinthians 3:15 - 16

And for the believer

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

Matthew 16:15 - 17

An example of God's revelation at work:-

in the change in
the man born
blind...



We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

John 9:29 -33

What should I do ?

No.1 Believe the gospel truth about Jesus and what he has done, what he promises.



Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."
Acts 2:37 - 39

What should I do ?

No. 2 **Live the truth in honesty and integrity**



In what way is the truth like a stick of rock ?

Living the truth in honesty and integrity

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you **to live a life worthy** of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1 -3

to “live a life” worthy
translates the word
“Walk”



I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

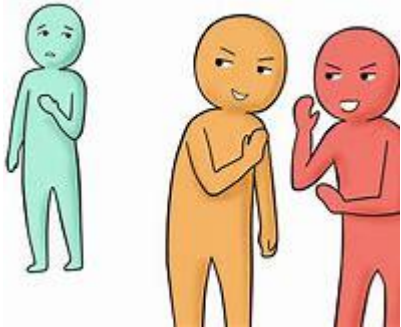
**We are called to be righteous in Jesus by faith in Him
and then His life will be revealed through us**

Warning of Danger !

Living the truth may get you into trouble !

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:10 - 12



What should I do ?

No. 3 Share it ... graciously



But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1Peter 3:15 - 16

Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. Ephesians 4:15

What should I do ?

No. 4 **Thank God for the truth he has spoken and revealed to us**

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

Matthew 7:24

When your building stands in life's storms –
praise the Lord !



Why is the truth so important ?

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

John 4:24



Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. **Praise the LORD**, my soul, and forget not all his benefits-- who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Psalm 103:1 - 5



Believe it
Live it
Share it
Praise the Lord

AMEN

(Isaiah 33:6)