

Sermon Supplement: October 14, 2007. Morning Worship Service
 Kihei Baptist Chapel, Kihei, Maui, Hawaii
 IN THE IMAGE OF GOD: KNOWING TRUTH – FROM THE TOP DOWN
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IN THE IMAGE OF GOD: KNOWING TRUTH FROM ABOVE
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DEFINITION: WHAT TRUTH IS NOT:

Truth is not what works and is relative.
 Truth is not what seems to conform to reality.
 Truth is not what is the essential elements of nature.
 Truth is not what is testable and definable.
 Truth is not what is intended in a good fashion.
 Truth is not what science understands at any moment.
 Truth is not what a sociological/legal group determines.
 Truth is not what is subjectively experiences.
 Truth is not what demons predict or impersonate.
 Truth is not what authoritative persons demand.

Truth is what conforms to reality, but it must be absolute and eternally the same. This must be true at all times, in all cultures and for everyone. It must be consistent and constant. It can neither change nor improve.

Because we are created in the image of God, we can both know and experience truth.

TRUTH IS HISTORICAL, II John 1,2,3,4:7-9

The word truth became a major subject in the Apostle John's writing. By the end of the first century, heresy had already infiltrated the church in the form of the Gnostics who held to the view that they alone had access to lofty spiritual knowledge, unavailable to the average people. They denied the deity of Jesus and taught that all things are evil and without redemption -- except for them. They alone processed truth. John wrote his gospel and three epistles to combat this error. He used the word truth a total of 47 times to argue against the "code words" (way, truth, light and life) of philosophical and theological mystical groups. It is most unfortunate that the very same errors are flourishing in the church today; namely, that some Christian leaders have extra-spiritual, extra-biblical information given only to them by the Holy Spirit and lesser believers must come to them for information for their lives.

TRUTH IS ABSOLUTE AND ETERNAL , James 1:17,18

The Apostle James defended the nature of truth by writing that by the will of God and the word of God man, as well as all creation, came into existence. This work resulted from God who is always constant, good and perfect and in whom there is no variableness – not even a hint of the possibility of being anything less than absolute and eternal truth. Something said to be true must be fixed, final and never in flux, or it is not truth.

TRUTH IS REVELATIONAL, Ephesians 1:15-23

Revelation is the action of God whereby He expresses the truth of His mind to man. He does this to give information, instruction, guidance, redemption, prophetic anticipation, etc. He now does this primarily through His written Word. Contradictions to His Word by teaching, preaching, or living may be said to be error simply because it is not in conformity with revelational information. The Apostle Paul used the resurrection as evidence of God's trustworthiness and man's faith.

TRUTH IS INSPIRATIONAL, II Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 10:16

Truth is given to us by revelation as guided by the Holy Spirit of God, even to the writing of this truth into text. Holy Spirit guided revelation, inspiration and writing makes Biblical truth trustworthy.

TRUTH IS SALVATIONAL, John 8:31,32

Truth relating to human behavior actually condemns. A criminal is not set free simply by telling the truth of an illegal action – actually, it is what brings judgment. Yet, Jesus taught that truth will have the power to redeem, forgive and establish a new and different life!

TRUTH IS PERSONAL , John 1:14,17; 4:22-24

Truth that is salvational must be more than information conforming to reality. Truth of that nature has no forgiving capacity. It must be information that conforms to a personal redeemer. The gospel is clearly a message that truth from God became an individual who also brought grace to combat the truth of sin. Truth about Jesus must become truth that is personalized by individuals. This truth is more than abstract information; it is practical and has the power to redeem.

APPLICATION: Hebrews 1:1-3

The foundational truth of Christianity is that God exists and has historically made Himself known, in various manner, to man. To know truth you must know God. To know God you must trust Christ!