

CALL to PRAYER - Pray the church would be compassionate yet uncompromising - truth

Worldview 3 - John 18:36-38a - We live in a Moral World

Intro - Survey reports 38% of evangelicals say that religion is *opinion* & there is no *absolute truth*. What is truth?...that is the question many ask...some answer that there is no such thing. Mini-series on *Worldview*...only 21% of "*evangelicals*" has a Christian one. 1] *Created World*. 2] *Fallen World* 3] *Moral World* - a world that is governed & has established moral laws. Some of these truths are innate, some are observable in nature, & some are written down...but there is *a truth*, just like there is *a lie* that opposes *the truth*. Every Christian believes in absolutes & in absolute truth - good/evil...truth/lies...right/wrong. But we also believe there are areas freedom and preference. There is law, but there is also a law of *liberty*. Truth brings freedom but lies lead to bondage. Today we address the moral nature of our natural world. Created & Fallen....but still *Moral*

MORALS & TRUTH

1. Everybody is aware of the moral nature of our existence and that there is TRUTH
 - a. The "*knowledge of good and evil*" came with our FALL from innocence - Gen. 2:17
 - b. We are all born sinners but also born with an innate sense of good and evil
2. Conscience internal law feelings of guilt
 - a. Romans 2:14-15
 - b. A person's conscience can be corrupted and seared - 1 Tim. 4:2 (unconscionable acts)
3. Nature natural law observable law
 - a. Romans 1:18-19 Romans 1:26, 32 1 Cor. 11:14-15
 - b. Laws of nature & natures God
 - i. "*....truths to be self-evident....endowed by Creator...inalienable rights*"
4. Law special law written law Bible Romans 7:12
 - a. 10 commandments/Golden Rule written code of conduct given by our Holy Creator
 - b. Not everyone in history had God's *written law* (Deut. 4:8) ... but all have *interna/natural law*

WHERE DO MORALS & TRUTH COME FROM?

- The Holy & Righteous God is the standard & He is the One who sets the standard
 - God is the Lawgiver - Isaiah 33:22
 - The Triune God is the standard for transcendent truth. God of Truth - Ps. 31:5
 - Jesus is Truth - John 1:14 John 14:6 John 18:37
 - The Spirit of Truth - John 16:13
- Why is anything wrong?
 - Without God there is no ultimate authority for defining good/truth
 - Godless societies operate on the "*golden rule*" (pagan version) *If you have the gold then you get to make the rules.* The powerful force their opinion ... survival of fittest/meanest
- The only reason anything is wrong is because God says it is wrong
 - He stamped it on our conscience as Creator, imbedded in within nature and wrote it by spelling it out in Divine literature. (without God godlessness rules/makes rules)

REBELLION AND THE REDFINITION OF TRUTH

1. Satan's original lie was to twist God's truth/law Gen. 3:4-5
 - a. *"You will be 'god' defining your own good/eviland with no consequences to boot"*
2. To say *"There are no absolutes"* is to say there is no God
 - a. To say *"This is true for me but may not be true for you"* is to say, *"I am god and get to define my own right and wrong."* this is believing the devil's original lie
 - b. Proverbs 23:23
 - i. if you sell the truth, you will buy the lie
 - ii. those who tell lies are more apt to believe lies Prov. 17:4
3. Isaiah 5:20-21
 - a. Redefinition of the truth is rampant in our society
 - i. spin is our sin
 - ii. Choice/healthcare = murder love = sexual perversion man = woman justice = injustice
 - iii. Days of deception. Lies passed off as truth. Lies are today's language
 - b. This perversion brings destruction. It is not progressive it is destructive
 - i. Romans 1:18 Rom. 1:25, 28 2 Tim. 3:7 2 Thess. 2:10-12
 - ii. Truth sets one free. Lies bring bondage. John 8:32
 - iii. Lawlessness & lies bring loss of liberty (this is natural law & written law)
4. The church's role in society is to stand for truth and proclaim God's truth.
 - a. 1 Tim. 3:15 Eph. 6:14
 - i. we are light & salt and are to illuminate and preserve society Eph. 5:11
 - ii. This is loving Gal. 4:16 Eph. 4:15 Ps. 85:10
 - b. We point to Jesus who is The Truth Rev. 19:11
 - i. We proclaim His word which is truth John 17:17 Ps. 119:160 (Ps. 19:7-11)
 - c. We are ambassadors for these absolutes...as Jesus was - John 18:37 1 John 4:6

NOT EVERYTHING IS ABSOLUTE

- As Christians we believe in absolutes but also that not everything is an absolute
 - Areas of freedom of opinion Gen. 2:16-17
 - We are not as free as originally created... (because lawlessness brings loss of liberty)
 - but there are still many areas of freedom (God is so gracious to us sinners)
 - If God has not addressed it, then we are free to have varied opinions about it
- Tradition & Opinion are not in the arena of absolute truth
 - Food/drink/holidays/style/etc...are areas of liberty
 - Rom. 14:1 1 Cor. 10:29
 - We aren't to impose our opinions on people but we are to respect individual freedom
 - we must make a distinction between Divine precept & personal preference
- Embracing truth is embracing freedom
 - John 8:32, 36 2 Cor. 3:17 Gal. 5:1
 - You are never so free as when you believe the truth and He who is Truth
 - You are never so enslaved as when you believe the lie
 - So, do you embrace the truth or believe the lie?
 - John 18:37