

## Monday, June 22, 2009

What if you could not depend on anything to be true? Your alarm clock, in the morning . . . maybe it's not 6:30 as it says, but it's really 7:45! The morning news on your radio . . . maybe it's just someone making up lots of interesting stories. The mail in your mailbox . . . what if WE Energies arbitrarily charged you whatever they desire in this month's utility bill regardless of what the meter reader turns in as your actual usage. What if . . . the list could go on and on. Do you see how much you depend on truth every day without thinking about it? This week the "Anchor for Our Souls" is TRUTH, but I'm sure you'd agree Truth is only helpful if it's true!

This weekend I gave you this acronym about truth:

**T** = Time Tested truth. What are a few of these for you?

**R** = morally Right, accurate, integrity truth. Can you state a few of these truths in your life?

**U** = Understandable, Unchanging truth. What would those be?

**T** = Transferable culturally and generationally. What are some truths that work in every culture and every generation?

**H** = Honest, Honoring to God, Helpful. What would be two or three of these truths in your life?

It is essential on this Monday that you confirm your conviction. Is there absolute truth that fits the above criteria and is that type of truth the foundation of your life, yes or no?

## Tuesday, June 23, 2009

If everything which exists has a source, a beginning, then it is fair to ask "where does truth originate"? Is it your school textbooks, or TV, or the President, or university researchers, or . . . ? If truth is going to be totally reliable truth, it must originate from a totally reliable, perfect source, right? The only Source which fits that criteria is God, for only God is perfect, unchanging, holy, eternal, all knowing, etc.

Have you noticed Isaiah chapters 40-48 contain a continual barrage of clear statements from God regarding Himself and His being the source of TRUTH? It's a remarkable study if you've never worked through it . . . I recommend it! Consider Is. 44:24 *"This is what the LORD says – your Redeemer who formed you in the womb. I am the LORD who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by Myself."* OK, those are clear statements regarding the creation of the life and the world; true or false?

Consider Isaiah 45:18,19 *"This is what the LORD says – He who created the heavens, He is God . . . and He says, I am the LORD there is no other. I the LORD speak the TRUTH, I declare what is right."* More concise truth statements . . . God alone is Sovereign LORD God, there is no other . . . God speaks only TRUTH and the TRUTH originates with God . . . God declares what is morally right and by presumption, what is morally wrong. Are these true statements?

Notice please, I'm not asking if you choose to believe it, nor if you agree with it, I'm asking if what God has spoken is truth!? Truth is true whether you agree with it, understand it, or even know it or not! For a long time scientists proclaimed the world was flat, but God knew He had created it round and in orbit. Watch this: We discover truth, we don't create it! God originates truth and He gives us brains to discover it!! Sadly, our minds so easily distort God's truth . . . evolution, denial of life in the womb, etc. Neither laws nor public opinion define truth! God does! Is that true?

## Wednesday, June 24, 2009

If you're on the summer Scripture reading journey, today is 1 Peter 3. Notice *"in your hearts set apart 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. Do this with gentleness and respect."* (1 Peter 3:15) Link it with 2 Timothy 2:15 and 3:15,16!! Do you see these Scriptures challenge us to KNOW truth, LIVE truth and DEFEND truth . . . is God's truth alive in your life? Are you learning and defending?

Have you considered the longest Psalm in the Bible (119) is all about God's TRUTH? Each of the 176 verses is a call to respect, understand and live by God's truth using words like God's words, promises, statutes, decrees, commands, precepts, laws. Remember this? . . . *"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your word. I seek You with all my heart, do not let me stray from Your commands."* See if you can find those two verses in Psalm 119.

Now, contrast the strong statements of Psalm 119 with the bold challenges of Colossians 2:8 and Ephesians 4:14,15. Do you see the common theme today? KNOW the truth, LIVE truth and DEFEND truth! Where are you in this growth journey? How can you measure your hunger to know Truth by God's definition? What is the measurement of your effectiveness in living according to God's truth? Now, here's one you probably don't think too much about . . . DEFENSE of God's truth! Really now . . . look closely at your life. Where and how do you "defend" God's truth in your world?

Maybe a bigger question . . . where do you recognize the world's truth is drifting away from God's truth? I challenge you to list here some specific "world truths" which are contrary to God's truth:

What is feeding this distortion of truth?  
Why is it acceptable to much of American society?  
What is your family response?

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Today's summer Scripture reading is I Peter 4, notice the theme of suffering for God's truth! How do you see that in our world in 2009? In the first century, persecution of those who refused to deny truths associated with Jesus Christ was ferocious. Many were martyred!

Today consider Romans 1, one of the great chapters of the Bible regarding the importance of respecting and protecting truth. Notice Paul's powerful truth statements regarding Jesus' identity in vs. 1-4, and Paul's confirmation of his call to be a proclaimer of God's truth, the power of the Gospel. Romans 1:18-32 is one of the most powerful sections of God's Word regarding the process and result of truth suppression. Read it carefully, digest it well, for it's happening widespread in our day!! Note carefully 1:18-20. Now see if you can develop a diagram of the terrible progression and consequences of "truth denial" in vs. 21-32. Make your notes/diagram here:

What are your conclusions regarding this downward spiral? Do you see the key use of the word "exchange" and the phrase "God gave them over to . . ."? Note please "a depraved mind"! That's so similar to Genesis 6! What is God saying?

Note please Romans 2:2, 5, 6 . . . What do you understand God will do about this open denial of His truth?

Friday, June 26, 2009

Today's summer Scripture reading is I Peter 5, a powerful little chapter which should speak right to you. Men who have served, are serving, or someday may serve as Elders, take note.

Now, how do we protect TRUTH, God's Truth? I offer you the book of Proverbs and urge you to read the chapter each day which corresponds to the date on your calendar (today would be chapter 26). Note please, each statement is a challenge to thinking truthfully! Our minds will naturally drift to wrong thinking, we must keep them sharp by daily, frequently challenging them to right thinking.

Second . . . protect the purity source! Your respect for God, your growing understanding of God, your "fear of God" will awaken in you a desire to defend the integrity of God's truths. Your apathy toward God, your unfamiliarity with God, etc. will contribute to your disregard of God's truth!! Please note the passion with which John wrote I John 1.

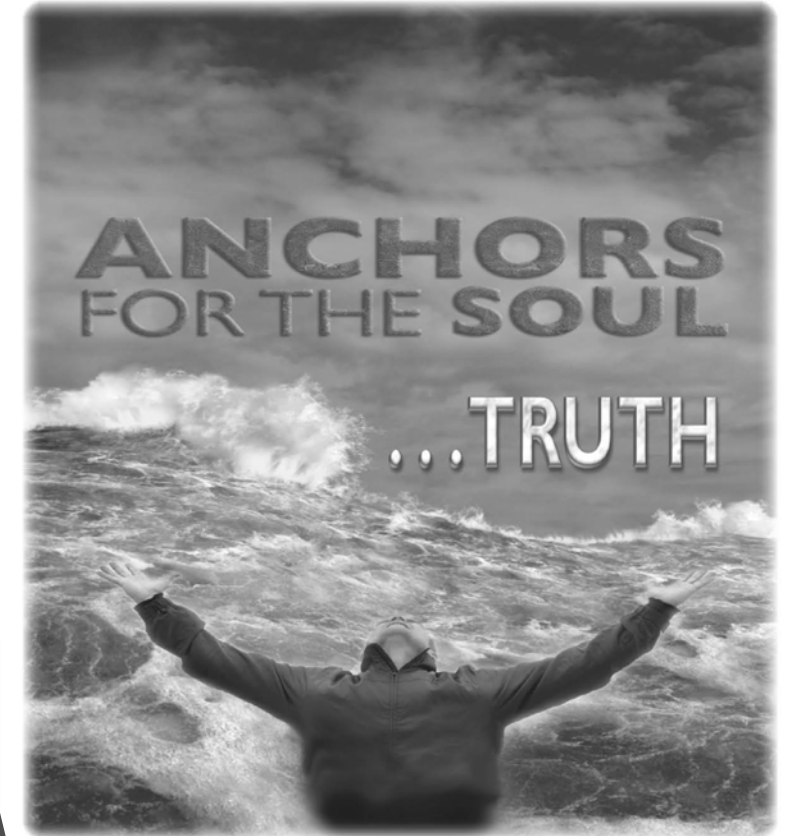
Truth is best validated when lived, right? Look closely at your life . . . where do you see yourself living in celebration of God's truth, and where are you "buying in" to the distortions of our society as America marginalizes God? Consider please the strong challenge of I John 1:5-2:6!! Are you one who claims a relationship with Christ but walks in the darkness? Know anyone like that? What is the Holy Spirit of God telling you about that type of "gray zone living"?

Three words ring out from West Point Military Academy (a place Dawn and I used to frequent when living in New Jersey) . . . "DUTY / HONOR / COUNTRY". They become the rally cry of Army Officers as they discipline themselves so every fiber of their being, every moment of their day they think, choose and live that which they sense is their duty as honorable Americans for the good of our nation! Now, apply that to today's discussion on defending truth. Psalm 78:1-7 is a great challenge regarding how effectively we are passing truth to the next generations!! Is it you?



Pastor Doug Anderson

June 22 - 26, 2009



Verse of the Week

*I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth." (I John 3:4)*



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