

Several months ago, I am embarrassed to say that I was scrolling through some ridiculous, mind-wasting article about a celebrity's birthday message to his wife. The magazine was celebrating the actor for making the pledge to he would help his wife to find "her truth." Now, I've heard the term "my truth" or "your truth" a lot lately in the media, but it was in this moment that the horrible and truly scary lie of it all hit me. Truth is truth. There can't be my truth and your truth or her truth. God is truth. We worship the God of truth while living amongst those that "suppress" the truth, just as Romans 1:18 said would be the case. We live in a world whose prince prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. And his message, his lies are alluring, convincing, and artfully, creatively packaged as truth. People today are hungering and thirsting for truth, but just as what happens when we eat or drink sugary foods without substance, they are finding themselves hungrier and thirstier as they fill themselves with the lies. And what are we, what am I, doing about it?

As I was tinkering around with this idea to share about God's truth, He confirmed it for me with one of the students that I tutor. She was asked to "explore at length" Jesus' phrase, "the truth will set you free" from the gospel of John and then make an argument that "supports, refutes, or qualifies" the statement. Now on the one hand, the assignment is appalling. It sort-of assumes that the students are so much more knowledgeable than Christ in that they can disagree with or "qualify" His statements. On the other hand, it convinced me that the Lord has something to teach me about truth—while hopefully planting seeds with my student!

Considering John 8:32 in its context (for the Devil does often use snippets of Scripture to make a convincing lie—we have Jesus’ temptation in the desert as evidence of that), we see that Jesus says in v. 31 that it’s abiding in His Word that makes us His disciples and that will cause us know the truth. Since we know from John 1 that Jesus is the Word and from John 14 that Jesus is truth, we therefore know that abiding in His Word is to abide in Him—and to know truth is to know Him—and it is He who sets us free. We can rest in Him! And yet not everyone liked what He was saying. Because truth is truth. Anything else—anything—is a lie. There is no middle ground.

All three persons of the Trinity are described as being truth or of truth. We know Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life...” Later in John, Jesus refers to the “Spirit of truth” who “will guide you into all truth.” In the Old Testament, there’s a reference to God the Father in Psalm 31:5 says, “Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth.”

When I look at Psalm 31:5 next to John 8:32, I see the beauty of our Lord’s perfect plan and power. He desires for us to commit ourselves to Him in faith—because He has ransomed us with Jesus. Jesus, who uttered those very words on the cross, “Into Your hand I commit my spirit,” is the payment for my sin so that I can commit my spirit to Him. And this truth, from the God of truth, sets me—sets us—totally and completely free.

And yet, it doesn’t stop there. It is incumbent upon me to actively pursue truth. Because if I am not filling my mind with truth, it is being filled with lies. It’s just that simple. It’s that dire. I keep thinking about that passage in Matthew 12 we read earlier this year. Jesus explains what happens when a demon leaves a man but returns to the “house” and “finds it unoccupied, swept,

and put in order” It leaves, gets its peers, “and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first...” Our minds must be occupied...and I see more than ever the urgency and necessity of filling my mind with the things of the Lord, the God of all truth.

This is reemphasized in Ephesians 6, that famous “armor of God” passage, where we are commanded to “gird our loins with truth.” My Study Bible explains that this verse depicts how it’s truth that “holds everything together”.

And Truth, this beautiful truth that sets us free and gives us rest can only be found in God’s Word. More and more I’m convinced that if we are not poring over it daily and prayerfully (rather than just resting on the laurels of our past knowledge or understanding), we are leaving ourselves wide open to the attacks of the devil...for it’s in that very same passage that God reminds us that “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12)

It’s God’s truth that helps us to see things clearly. This world is full of unrest. And it is at least in part due to the lies that are continually swirling around as “truth.” A few weeks ago, one of the president’s advisers resigned. In the course of twelve hours I saw three different news headlines come across my phone—all from reputable news sources—asserting three entirely different reasons for her resignation. Whatever your political opinion or background, you were being offered three totally different “truths” so that you could choose the one that most readily fits your line of thinking and use it to further solidify your viewpoint.

So, as everyone searches after her own individual “truth”, we see an increasing resistance to the real Truth, the real God. And yet, isn’t His Word more powerful than any two-edged sword? Look at what’s happened in the wake of Billy Graham’s death. God’s Word was shared, and there was a response. In this world that’s such a picture of what Romans 1 describes, there has been a lot of reflection. In Christian circles, there’s been reflection on the state of evangelism. I heard a prominent Christian author say he thinks evangelism is at an ebb in the America today. How convicting. What am I doing wrong? So much. First of all—I’m not speaking truth boldly. I sometimes think I don’t have an attractive enough way to share the truth. But isn’t that demonstrating such a lack of understanding for what the truth is? That was what was so beautiful about Billy Graham’s message—it rested solely in the power of God’s Word, the reality that “faith comes from hearing and hearing through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17) We don’t need to package it prettily or put a PR spin on it. God’s Word, His truth—plain and simple—is more than powerful enough. This world is sick; it’s dying on lies. The people around us are perishing on the deceptions of the devil. We have the antidote. We know the God of truth. Let’s pore over His Word, study it with all we’ve got, so that we can’t help but boldly share the cure.