

The Resurrection of Christ and Moral Truth

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Introduction: The path of the Christian is very different than that of the world.

- A. Jesus often spoke of a word that the world scoffs at --- truth! (**Jn 8:32**)
 - 1. Faith in Jesus always comes from a mind that has learned to distinguish between truth and error.
 - 2. Having a mind that is willing to reason and test things is the first step to coming to know God. (**Lk 8:15**)
- B. Many people talk about the historical Jesus and may even acknowledge His resurrection but have no faith in the Son of God.
 - 1. Can one have a faith in God without having a reason to believe?
 - 2. Because we can know who Jesus is then we can know how to live!
(**1 Jn 1:1-6**)

I. How can we find the truth?

- A. Pilate honestly reflected the vain wisdom of this world when he asked: “What is truth?” (**Jn 18:37-38**)
 - 1. Pilate had come to believe there was no such thing as “truth.”
 - 2. He simply came to make his own reality to fit his needs. Jesus was a problem that needed to be solved. Truth would require too high of a price!
 - 3. That kind of a mindset has terrible consequences. Needless to say that Pilate washing his hands will not help him one bit at the judgment.
- B. When you eliminate God there is no basis for truth.
 - 1. What is morality? Philosophers can “successfully” prove that Adolph Hitler was just as “moral” of a man as Abraham Lincoln.
 - 2. God expects rulers to make moral laws and execute them. (**Rom 13:3-4**)
 - 3. When a country divorces itself from God then there will be no moral basis for their laws. What are the standards of the world?
 - 4. There are three basic “standards” of the morality of the world. (Note: when any of these are the goal you can lie, cheat, etc.. as long as you meet the goal!)
 - a. What will work? (Utilitarian practicality)
 - b. What do most people accept? (Majority rule)
 - c. Who has the strength to impose their will on everyone else? (Power Politics)

II. Why are we motivated to live a different life than the world?

- A. Because we first come to believe there is a God.
 - 1. We can know there is a God simply from the design of the creation. (**Rom 1:20**)
 - 2. We can know that God has acted and spoken to us by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (**Acts 2:32, 36**)
 - 3. When we come to know that Jesus is the Son of God then we can know the nature of the one true God and his will for our lives. (**Jn 8:31-32**)

4. We learn that we have a God who loves us and has acted on our behalf. He wants to redeem us and remake us. **(Jn 3:3-5; 10:10)**
- B. When we come to trust in Jesus then we submit to Him as our Lord. We live a life of repentance. **(Rom 6:17-23)**
 1. The Christian life is one where we discern good and evil and stand!
 2. The reason that more do not become Christians is because they do not want to change their lives! **(Jn 3:16-20)**
 3. This will bring a strong reaction from the world. This will be the basis for persecution.
- C. True Christianity will always be concerned with moral standards.
 1. Did Paul just talk to Felix about salvation and not address “lifestyles”? **(Acts 24:24-26)**
 2. Is it “unloving” to speak to unbelievers about these things? We make a serious mistake when we think it is unspiritual to speak up about moral issues. What are men saved from? **(Rom 1:16-17; 3:23)**
- D. There will be a judgment day. **(Jn 12:48; Mt 12:36-37; Lk 10:13-16)**
 1. A day of personal accountability before God should be an absolutely terrifying prospect for all men.
 2. The proof of the judgment day is the same proof of Jesus as the Son of God, the resurrection of Christ. **(Acts 17:30-31)**

III. Standing for the truth always involves a cost

- A. The truth is unpopular because many are unwilling to pay the price. Sadly, they pay an infinitely higher price later. **(Rom 14:12)**
 1. Here is where a faith in God can be such a blessing. When we know that this life is not all there is then we can have joy in suffering. **(1 Pt 1:3-7)**
 2. It is encouraging when we have companions in suffering. **(Heb 10:32-34)**
 3. Any Christian with a living faith will stand. But it is possible to cast such a faith away. **(Heb 10:35)**
- B. We must always be a people who unashamedly know the truth, live the truth and speak up and stand for the truth. **(3 Jn 1-4)**
 1. We need more than ever to stand up and be counted.
 2. There will be some in the church that will be ashamed of your stand.

Conclusion: Our Lord will never be ashamed of those who stand for Him!
(Lk 9:25-26)

Give Me The Truth
by Bill Crews

If you are my friend, if you are concerned about my soul, give me the truth. Do not flatter me. Do not praise my virtues while remaining silent about my vices. Do not fear that the truth will offend me. Do not treasure our friendship, our friendly relations, above my salvation. Do not think that by ignoring my sins you can help. Do not think that being blind to my sins will prove yourself charitable. However I may react to it whatever may be my attitude toward you after you have done it, give me the truth! For the truth, and only the truth, can make men free from the shackles of sin, strengthen me in the pathway of righteousness and lead me to the joys of heaven. If I am wavering, weak, lukewarm, indifferent, neglectful; if I have been overtaken in a trespass, if I have been drawn into the pleasures of the world; if I have left first love; if I have been led astray by error; or if I have done none of these, but simply need to grow in knowledge and be edified, give me the truth!