

## INTRODUCTION

The sinful way of the world is to lie about reality, about what is real, about what is, in order to live as if things were what they are not.

The world lies, saying that there is no God, or that there are many gods, or that you can't know for sure about God. The reality is that there is one true God, who made everything, and that His being can be known.

The world lies, saying that the universe as we know it came into being billions of years ago, and that life on earth has evolved over the course of hundreds of millions of years, and that the fossils found in the earth are tens of millions of years old. The reality is that the universe is only thousands of years old, and life as we know it was created by God essentially as it is today, not by a long process of evolution.

The world lies, saying that a person can be male or female or both or neither by his own feelings and his own choice. The reality is that a person is male or female from conception, as created by God, and nothing he feels or thinks or decides or does can change that.

The world lies, saying that an unborn baby is not really a human being, but is just a part of the mother's body, to be destroyed and discarded if inconvenient. The reality is that an unborn baby is fully a human being from the moment of conception, and thou shalt not kill him.

The world lies, saying either that all religion is false, because there is no God, or that all religions are valid ways of getting to God. The reality is that most religions are false, but one religion is true---the religion taught in the Bible, which is faith in Jesus Christ crucified, buried, and risen again.

The sinful way of the world is to lie about reality, about what is real, about what is, in order to live as if things were what they are not. But true religion, biblical Christianity, is based on reality, and is concerned with what really is.

This matter comes up in the context of the Bible's instructions regarding the church's care for widows. Because as present this congregation does not have anyone who is what the Bible calls "widows indeed," which is the primary subject of this passage of scripture, I am taking the opportunity to make much of this secondary subject, also.

So, learn about the congregation's duty toward widows indeed, and learn also about rejecting the world's lies about reality, in order to base our lives on what is real, and what is true about Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

## TEXT

1 Timothy 5:3, 5, 16

## BODY

### I. Understanding Who Is a Widow Indeed

#### A. Widow

1. a woman whose husband has died, and who has not remarried
2. the scholars tell us that the Greek word used here means “deprived” or “desolate” or “destitute”

#### B. A certain kind of widow

1. the expression - used three times
  - a) 1 Tim 5:3
  - b) 1 Tim 5:5
  - c) 1 Tim 5:16
2. the words
  - a) in our English Bibles:
    - (1) GEN, KJV indeed
    - (2) NKJV really
    - (3) ESV truly
    - (4) CSB genuinely
  - b) G3689 *ontos*
    - (1) this is a form of “to be” referring to what “is”
    - (2) this word means “really” or “indeed”
    - (3) it serves also to express “truly”
3. the concepts
  - a) being or reality; ontology
    - (1) e.g. this pulpit
  - b) truth or verity; epistemology
    - (1) e.g. what I say about this pulpit
4. use of this term in the Bible; see how our religion, our faith, is based on reality, and on the statements of truth that accurately reflect that reality
  - a) Mark 11:27-32 Then they came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to Him. 28 And they said to Him, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority to do these things?" 29 But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one question; then answer Me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things: 30 The baptism of John--was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me." 31 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?' 32 But if we say, 'From men' "--they feared the people, for all counted John to have been a prophet **indeed**.
  - b) Luke 23:44-47 Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. 45 Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. 46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.'" Having said this, He breathed His last. 47 So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "**Certainly** this was a righteous Man!"

- c) Luke 24:33-34 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, "The Lord is risen **indeed**, and has appeared to Simon!"
  - d) John 8:34-36 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free **indeed**."
  - e) 1 Corinthians 14:23-25 Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind? 24 But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. 25 And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is **truly** among you.
5. so, any woman whose husband has died, and who has not remarried, is rightly called a "widow," but, there are those for whom the reality of the situation is that they are not really desolate, destitute; because they have family and means of support
  6. there are others for whom the term "widow," meaning desolate or destitute is indeed the reality of their situation
    - a) 1 Tim 5:4 no children or grandchildren
    - b) 1 Tim 5:5 left alone; desolate G3443 *monoo*
- C. This short instruction does at least two things for us
1. makes us thankful for the ways in which a widow is not alone, is not deprived; she may still have
    - a) her own sisters and brothers
    - b) her own children and grandchildren
    - c) her place to live
    - d) some money or income
    - e) the ability to make her own living
  2. makes us compassionate toward the widow who does not have even these things

## II. The Congregation's Duty to Honor a Widow Indeed

- A. Esteem her instead of despising her
- B. Consider that honor is due such a woman
  1. it is not mere charity
  2. it is her due
- C. Take her into the number
  1. not occasional support, but regular support
  2. she doesn't have to come begging
- D. Relieve her; care for her; help her
- E. This is a duty of the whole congregation, to be administered by the deacons
- F. The congregation must distinguish between widows who have other means of support, and widows indeed, in order that the congregation's resources not be misdirected

### III. The Duty of a Widow Indeed

#### A. To trust in God

1. as also for every one
2. but whereas the rest pray that God will bless our labors, will provide our daily needs by helping us earn them, the widow indeed trusts that God will provide for her daily needs, even though she cannot earn them

#### B. To continue in supplications and prayers night and day

1. as also for every one
2. but whereas the rest pray as time allows, the widow indeed has much time in which to pray, and is to use it!

### CONCLUSION

The congregation of Jesus Christ must honor those widows who are widows indeed, those truly left alone. And such widows must devote themselves to constant prayer, trusting God for their daily needs.

The sinful way of the world is to lie about reality, about what is real, about what is, in order to live as if things were what they are not. But true religion, biblical Christianity, is based on reality, and is concerned with what really is. Specifically, we believe

- that the prophets in the Bible were prophets indeed
- that Jesus of Nazareth is a righteous man indeed
- that Jesus is risen from the dead indeed
- that those who believe in Jesus are free indeed
- that in the church of Jesus Christ, as we preach the prophetic word of the Bible, God is among us indeed

Roel - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 61:1-4

Stephen - Scripture Reading - 1 Kings 17:1-24

Thad - Congregational Prayer

Jeff - Benediction - Psalm 62:7-8

Audrey - Prelude

Allison - Trinity 677 "Nothing But the Blood of Jesus"

Allison - Trinity 415 "God, Be Merciful to Me"

Audrey - Trinity 488 "Lead On, O King Eternal"

indeed - Webster 1828: in reality; in truth; in fact

Calvin:

When he calls them “really widows,” he alludes to the Greek word, which is derived from a verb which signifies to be “deprived” or “destitute”

Poole:

give a respect to such as have lost their husbands, with a regard to that honourable estate of marriage in which they have been formerly, and do not only pay them a due respect, but afford them a maintenance, Act\_6:1.

...not only pious, but desolate, as the Greek word for a widow implies, according to its derivation

Gill:

giving gifts to the poor, or providing for their maintenance, is doing them honour; and that this is the sense here, appears by what follows in the context

Bengel:

the word indeed excludes those who have children or live luxuriously

Clarke:

persons truly destitute, being aged and helpless, and having neither children nor friends to take care of them, and who behave as becometh their destitute state.

Barnes:

the word employed here - χήρα chēra - which means properly one who is “bereaved,” (from the adjective χήρος chēros, “bereaved”)

Ellicott:

Not merely is she to be honoured by a simple exhibition of respect, but she is to be assisted and supported out of the alms of the faithful.

1 Timothy 5:5 Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.

1 Timothy 5:9 Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man,

1 Timothy 5:16 If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.

On Tuesday this week, Mrs. Gilliland sent the sisters an email quoting Psalm 61:2-4 and Psalm 62:8

1 Timothy 5:3

WYC Honoure thou widewis, that ben very widewis.

GEN Honour widows, which are widowes, in deede.

KJV Honour widows that are widows indeed.

NKJV Honor widows who are really widows.

ESV Honor widows who are truly widows.

G5503 *chera* widow

G3689 *ontos* really

RWP: actually, really

VWS: verily, truly