
Sermon Notes

June 28, 2020

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

HIS Truth is Marching On

John 14:6, 17:17-19

Jesus' Radical Claim

- ❖ In John 14:6, Jesus sets Himself up as the exclusive source of all truth and the sole means through which anyone can come to God
 - the Bible's teaching that God's truthfulness is absolute and objective is radically at odds with a culture that sees truth as being entirely subjective
 - Jesus' claim flies in the face of religious pluralism
 - Jesus doesn't just **SPEAK** the truth, Jesus **IS** the truth
- ❖ Peter restates the exclusive claim Jesus makes about Himself in Acts 4:12, *there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*
- ❖ The only hope for "the American way" to survive is for God's people to hold tightly to the Bible's teaching about truth and justice
 - the issues our nation faces today are rooted in the deepest, darkest parts of the human heart
 - God's way is the only way
 - the gospel of Jesus Christ is the only hope for healing wounds and scars that divide and disfigure our nation

Nothing But the Truth

- ❖ All truth has its origin in God
 - Pilate's question: "What is truth?"
 - truth = reality, the way things actually are
- ❖ God is the author and source of all truth
 - truth does not come from within, truth comes from above
 - truth must be given to us by divine revelation
 - the Spirit of truth instructs God's people
 - John 15:26, 16:13
- ❖ God is the determiner of truth, the arbitrator of truth, the final judge of all that is true
 - the ultimate standard of truth is the nature of God: the being, will and glory of God
 - Psalm 31:5, Isaiah 65:16, Ephesians 4:21
 - if anything does not line up with the holiness and perfection of God it is not true
 - any religion that does not preach the Bible and only the Bible is not telling the truth
 - Jesus' indictment of the Pharisees (John 8:44)
 - doctrine divides between true and false

The Word of Truth

- ❖ God reveals truth to us through clearly defined words that have precise meanings

Sanctified in Truth

- specific propositions and definite claims
- the Word of God is fact driven, not feeling driven
- 2 Timothy 3:16
- ❖ God's truth does not compete with or contradict itself
 - a perfect tapestry into which every thread is perfectly interwoven
 - God does not reveal different paths of salvation to different people
- ❖ Truth transcends societies, cultures, centuries, continents, generations and genders
 - ALL people need to hear and obey God's truth
 - truth is always up to date, it is always relevant
 - Psalm 119:89, Isaiah 40:8, Luke 16:17
 - Spurgeon: "We should read the Bible with one hand and the newspaper with the other."
 - apart from God's Word, humanity remains in darkness and a state of spiritual blindness
 - the heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart
- ❖ Because God is the source of all truth, God has the power to assert claims and make demands on human beings
 - God calls us to be doers of His Word and not hearers only
 - salvation depends upon hearing and responding to the truth of Scripture (Romans 10:13-14, 17)

- ❖ gospel, Jesus prays a special prayer for you in Jn 17:17-19
 - sanctified = set apart by God for God's purposes
 - as we interact with and absorb more and more of God's Word, we become increasingly conformed to Christ
 - Jesus prays for you so that the witness you make of His truth will have an impact on the world
- ❖ There is no hope for our nation or our world outside of Jesus Christ
- ❖ When God leads you into an opportunity to share the truth, pray for the Spirit of truth to guide you knowing that Jesus is praying for you, right along with you

Personal Reflection

1. Do you believe that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life and that no one comes to the Father except through Him? Why or why not?
2. In a time when the Bible is often attacked as containing mythology and contradictions, how can you help fellow believers hold fast to its trustworthiness? How can you challenge unbelievers in this respect?
3. If someone were to tell you that they respect your religious beliefs but that those beliefs are not true for them, how would you respond?
4. Pilate asks the question, "What is truth?" How would you respond to someone if they asked you the same question?