

Names of God from the Bible

21 – The Truth

When Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life”, He was deliberately using the eternal Name of God. Whilst we recognise “I AM” as eternal, we can overlook the fact that God is equally eternally The Truth.

Reading: John 14:1-14

The way our society, culture and worldly values have developed causes us to question what is reality, what is truth. In many ways that was the significance of Jesus’ statement. He was implying that He alone is the One True Reality.

Today worldly truth has become relative and personal. Few accept that there is such a thing as absolute truth or, indeed, objective truth. One of the challenges inherent in a democratic system is that ‘one person, one vote’ translates into one individual with one equally valid opinion. Whilst I accept democracy is probably the best worldly system available to us, we must never be deluded into thinking that it is perfect or even the best guide to human morality.

The Book of Judges in the Bible has this often-repeated refrain for the Hebrew people of their day: *“Everyone did as they saw fit”*. That was not a value that was to be adopted; rather, it was an indictment to be avoided. The sad fact is that the same attitude has infiltrated the church of Jesus Christ, so much so that Christians find it difficult to agree on moral issues, let alone the doctrines of the Scriptures.

No wonder people from outside the church looking on get confused and cannot understand the multiplicity of church denominations, streams and seemingly contradictory stands taken by them on the interpretation of Scripture and Christian conduct.

Jesus wasn’t suggesting truth, pointing to truth or granting us the ability to decide truth. Jesus categorically said, *“I am the Truth”*. His statement wasn’t up for debate. He was establishing a plumb-line. He was revealing the unalterable standard. Jesus went on to say that *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.”*

Later, when Jesus was put before Pilate and claimed to be a king, Jesus added, *“I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”* Whilst struggling with his conscience, Pilate responded, *“What is truth?”* This suggests that he didn’t recognise Truth when Truth was standing right in front of his face.

Many people are searching for God and want to know who He is. The first step is to consider Who is Jesus? That may be why the *Alpha* Course is so significant to so many people around the world, since the first question the *Alpha* Course discusses is “Who is Jesus?”

If we want to know the Truth we need to look at Jesus. We need to consider His claims, who He said He was. We need to consider what the people, who were eye-witnesses, said He was. We need to consider the record of His character. All the evidence points towards the fact that Jesus is The Truth. He is who He claimed to be – God in human form – the Saviour of the world. He came to die for our selfishness. However, He also arose from the dead, just as He said He would. (If He didn’t rise again, where is His body?)

Paul, the author of the letter to the Roman Christians said this: *“Let God be true and every man a*

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liar." I would rather trust God and His word than any word from a human being. Over the decades in Christian ministry, I have heard many things, many theories, and I always come back to what the Scripture actually says. As I say to all my hearers, if you think I've said something that does not appear to agree with the Scriptures, always go by what the Scriptures say – then you will not go astray.

We can trust The Bible – it is the Word of God. We can trust Jesus – He is the Word of God.

What does that name mean for us today

In a world that is struggling for meaning, values and a common foundation, we can turn to the Truth as found in Jesus Christ. We can hold on to the Holy Scriptures and use them as our security, comfort and compass.

Prayer

Father, thank You so much for giving Your Word to us. Thank You, Jesus, for revealing to us objective, universal, ultimate and eternal Truth. Amen.

Additional Readings

- Isaiah 45:18-24
- John 4:7-24
- John 16:12-15
- Romans 1:25

Questions

1. Why is it so important to know the Truth?
2. Do you believe all the Scriptures (The Bible) are true?
3. How does Jesus fulfil that name?