**WAR OF THE WORLD VIEWS #27**

**"The Pursuit of Truth"**

**Introduction**

We will begin with something Jesus said to His disciples near the end of His earthly ministry…

**I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth... Jesus in John 16:12-13**

**A. A Sure Sign of Salvation**

1. Jesus has been with them over 3 years; He had taught them so many things; and here He says that He has many more things to say "but you cannot bear them now"; meaning you cannot take everything I want to say all at once. BUT when HE comes, the Spirit of truth, He will "guide you into all truth".

2. Of course we know that He was referring to the Holy Spirit who would be poured out upon them on the Day of Pentecost.

3. But I believe we might have missed some of the meaning here; I believe this verse teaches us that following Jesus is meant to be a *lifelong learning experience;* the Holy Spirit is the Guide; and His object is to lead us into "all truth".

4. Let me say it another way…

**The "Big Idea" of this Message**

**Nothing identifies the true followers of Jesus Christ more than their commitment to a lifelong pursuit of the truth.**

**I. In Pursuit of Truth**

**A. What Are People Pursuing?**

1. People pursue many passions: money, power, sex, pleasure. But truly born again believers have a different value system; they are in pursuit of truth.

**"When all is said and done, there is no pursuit more worthy than following the truth, wherever it may lead."**
**Josh McDowell, Evidence That Demands a Verdict**

2. We are in a war of worldviews; the bad news is that lying and falsehood are all around us; the good news is that that God has hard-wired human beings to seek for truth!

a. The search for truth is a mark of maturity…

**"Once we arrive at a certain time in our lives, discerning and finding the truth becomes the inevitable focus. Humanity's search for answers can only be found in the truth. It must be grounded in reality."**
**Josh McDowell**

3. When I consider the culture today, I am amazed at how much Americans are fascinated with fantasy:

- I don't go to the movies much; there's not much to see. But when I did go recently I found myself having to sit through 20 minutes of trailers (previews) of movies coming out: I was amazed at how much of the content was fantasy: more super-hero movies; science fiction; space invasions; and the never-ending movies that are nothing more than a series of explosions, car chases and gunfights; this is how Americans "escape" today. (The word "cinema" is from a French word that means "distraction". But I predict that eventually, our country will grow up!

**"In the childhood years, wonder can be obtained by dabbling in fantasy. But as the years pass, wonder is eroded in the face of reality and in recognition that life may not be lived in a fairy-tale world. A displacement is brought about by the ever increasing demand of the mind for what is true."**
**Ravi Zacharias**

4. God sends the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth; and true followers of Jesus are *lovers of truth*!

**B. Lovers of Truth**

1. People say “I love Jesus”. But Jesus said that He is the truth. (John 14:6) That means if I’m a lover of Jesus I must be a lover of truth.

**“To lovers of the truth, nothing can be put before God and hope in Him.”**
**Saint Basil**

2. The great English philosopher and physician John Locke wrote about how the purifying effect of the pursuit of the truth…..

**“To love truth for truth’s sake is the principal part of human perfection in this world, and the seed-pot of all other virtues.”**
**John Locke**
**(1632-1704)**

3. When we say, “I want to follow the Spirit…” we should always remember where the Spirit will lead us; Jesus said He will “guide us into all truth!

**“Truth is the very heart of the Christian faith…like a wise man who builds his house on the rock.”**
**Gary DeMar**

a. A truly Spirit-led life is a life lived in pursuit of the truth.
b. So where do we begin?

4. It may surprise you that the search for truth begins with the “fear of the Lord”. Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived said…

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.**
**Proverbs 1:7**

a. True knowledge or knowledge of the truth begins with the “fear of the Lord”, a term that means reverence, respect, and awe for the authority of God.

b. Later, he said…

**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.**
**Proverbs 9:10**

5. Knowledge is not the same thing as wisdom; a lot of people know a lot of things but have no wisdom in how to apply their knowledge! (Educated idiots). But the fear of the Lord gives us knowledge, "true truth", and wisdom to use it well.

6. Truth, knowledge and wisdom *begin* with the fear of the Lord and the authority of the Bible.

**"Our apologetic (defense of the Gospel) must presuppose the authority and truth of Christ's Word in Scripture, casting down all reasoning that exalts itself against God."**
**Greg Bahnsen**

7. Here's how the biblical worldview thinks:

- Everything the Bible says is true
- Nothing that contradicts the Bible can possibly be true
- But truth is not limited to what is in the Bible

8. The biblical worldview always begins with God, with the fear of the Lord; but that is only the *beginning* of knowledge, wisdom and truth

a. **2 + 2 = 4 Is a "truth";** a simple truth, easily proved; but it's not in the Bible.

b. Albert Einstein paved the way for the nuclear age when he discovered how to release atomic energy using a simple formula:

**E = mc2 (Energy equals mass times the speed of light squared)**

c. The formula for releasing atomic power is true; but it's obviously not in the Bible.

9. A 1st grader discovers the truth that 2 + 2 = 4; a genius discovers the truth that E = mc2; but if you have a biblical worldview you see God as the origin of truth…ALL truth…whether it's in the Bible or not.

10. I'm about to make your world bigger saying it this way…

## II. **All Truth is God's Truth**

### **A. God is the Source of All Truth**

1. The biblical worldview does not limit the pursuit of truth to strictly biblical truth!

2. All truth is God's truth; and this is not a new idea.

a. Way back in the 5th century, the great St. Augustine said this…

**"A person who is a true and good Christian should realize that truth belongs to his Lord, *wherever it is found*, gathering and acknowledging it even in pagan literature, but rejecting vain and superstitious vanities and deploring and avoiding those. who though they knew God did not glorify Him as God."**
**St. Augustine**

b. St. Augustine is saying that God does not limit the discovery of His truth to the born again!

**"All truth and understanding is a result of Divine light which is God Himself."**
**St. Augustine**

c. The biblical worldview never denies that non-Christian people can have some of the truth; but all the glory goes to God!

**"Nay, but let every good and true Christian understand that wherever truth may be found, it belongs to his Master."**
**St. Augustine**
**(350-430 A.D.)**

3. A 1000 years after St. Augustine, the great Reformer John Calvin said it this way…

**"All truth is from God; and consequently, if wicked men have said anything that is true and just, we ought not to reject it; for it has come from God."**
**John Calvin**

a. Testimony: The Holy Spirit has guided me into so much truth over the years that did not come from Christian minds; but I always give God the glory because all truth is God's truth!

**"Therefore, in reading profane authors, the admirable light of truth displayed in them should remind us, that the human mind, however much fallen and perverted from its original integrity, is still adorned and invested with admirable gifts from its Creator. If we reflect that *the Spirit of God is the only fountain of truth*, we will be careful, as we would avoid offering insult to him, not to reject or condemn truth wherever it appears."**
**John Calvin**

4. These famous fathers of the Christian faith had a biblical worldview that glorified God for all truth, *wherever it appeared.*

a. 400 years after Calvin, the great Dutch Reformed theologian Herman Bavinck said it this way…

**"God is the truth in its absolute fullness. He, therefore, is the primary, the original truth, *the source of all truth*, the truth in all truth. He is the ground of the truth – the ideal of all ethical being—of all the rules and laws, the light by which all things should be judged and on which they should be modeled. God is the source and origin of the knowledge of truth in all areas of life."**
**Herman Bavinck**

5. If we know this, that all truth is God's truth, we need never be afraid of truth, no matter who speaks it.

6. Jesus saves us; then He sends the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth.

**B. The Problem with Us Pentecostals**

1. I had a Pentecostal type encounter with the Holy Spirit in 1972. I do not apologize for being Pentecostal any more than I formerly apologized for being a Baptist.

2. A Pentecostal person might accuse the non-Pentecostal person of being hyper-intellectual; a non-Pentecostal might accuse the Pentecostal of being hyper-emotional or experience driven. In some cases, both are true.

3. But since I'm on the Pentecostal side of the aisle, let me offer some self-criticism; the problem with us Pentecostals is that we often DO neglect the need for solid theology and biblical foundations.

4. We do tend to see the Holy Spirit more as one who gives us gifts than as the One who guides us into all truth; in fact He does both!

5. We sometimes forget that God not only saves our souls but also our minds:

**"The gospel does, in truth, proclaim the redemption of reason. All truth is God's truth. Facts, as such, are sacred, and nothing is more un-Christian than to run away from them."**
**J.I. Packer**

a. Some truth is not really important:

**The truths that are not found in the Bible, (e.g. the date of your birth, the structure of protein molecules) are not necessary for salvation.**
**Keith Mathison, Ligonier Ministries**

b. But all truth is from God:

**"All truth is given by revelation, either general or special, and it must be received by reason. Reason is the God-given means for discovering the truth that God discloses, whether in His world or in His word. While God wants to reach the heart with truth, He does not bypass the mind."**
**Jonathan Edwards**

6. There are millions of books that contain amazing truth but remain unread out of ignorance, or laziness, or fear:

**Some Christians will not read "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" because it was written by a Mormon.**

a. How much more successful would Christian people be in the business world if they had some of the truths God has given through great business books—whether authored by believers or not?

## III. Conclusion

### A. Summing Up What We Have Said

1. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to "guide us into all truth".

**Nothing identifies the true followers of Jesus Christ more than their commitment to a lifelong pursuit of the truth.**

2. The biblical worldview is comprehensive! It means seeing the world and everything in it through the scriptures…

**"All truth is God's truth."**
**R.C. Sproul**

a. We must love the truth; seek the truth; we must be humble, knowing that we can never know it perfectly…

**If any man thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.**
**1 Corinthians 8:2**

b. John Piper gives 3 guidelines for measuring truth…

**"All truth exists to make God known and loved and shown. If it does not have those three effects it is not known rightly and should not be celebrated as a virtue."**
**John Piper**

b. We seek the truth knowing we can never know it all…

**"The pursuit of truth will set you free: even if you never catch up with it."**
**Clarence Darrow**

3. And finally, one last thing…most important…is to have the "apostolic purpose" of the Apostle Paul…

**My purpose is that you may be united in heart and united in love, so that you may have the full riches of complete understanding, to know the mystery of God, namely Christ; in Whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments."**
**Colossians 2:2-4**

a. In a way, the War of the Worldviews is a battle for truth! May God help us win that war.

**Closing Prayer**

**“O Lord, lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.”**
**Psalm 25:5**