

WAR OF THE WORLDVIEWS #26

“What is Truth?”

MATRIX VIDEO CLIP

The Matrix is not a Christian movie. It’s a science fiction story where the hero discovers that world he lives in is not real. Instead, the world he sees is a “matrix” that keeps his mind imprisoned in a lie. Morpheus, an older man, offers the young Neo a “red pill” that can open his eyes to the real world. He says “*All I’m offering is the truth...follow me.*”

I believe that becoming a Christian is a little like taking the red pill. We live our whole lives in a kind of spiritual blindness until we meet Jesus Christ and we are “born again”. In a sense, the Lord says to us, “All I’m offering is the truth...follow me!”

But that begs the question...

“What is Truth?”

This famous question is from Jesus’ trial before the Roman governor Pontius Pilate in John 18, where Jesus said...

“To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth.”

John 18:37

We all know that Jesus came into the world to die for our sins. But He also came into to the world *to bear witness to the truth*. To this Pilate asks...”What is truth?”

“What is truth?”

John 18:37-38

What a question! One that has fascinated the human race ever since the foundation of the world! So let’s take the “red pill” tonight and see how deep the rabbit hole goes.

I. What is Truth?

A. Definition

1. Truth is one of those words we never look in the dictionary because we all know what it is. And we know what it isn't!

2. But it's always good to look it up in the dictionary...

"truth"

(1) The body of real things, events, and facts

(2) The property of being in accord with fact or reality

(3) That which is in accordance with the facts

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary

a. Notice that truth is something that is in agreement with the facts.

b. Another Dictionary has this...

"truth"

1. the true or actual state of a matter

2. Conformity with fact or reality

3. a verified or indisputable fact, proposition, or principle

Dictionary.com

c. Notice that truth is that which is real; truth is not false because it conforms with *reality*; the truth is aligned with the facts

B. Why Revisit The Question?

1. We did an earlier study on this subject 6 months ago. So why are we doing another one? Good question.

2. Last week we looked at **"Understanding the Times, Knowing What To Do"**-taken from the description of the Tribe of Issachar....

3. We're doing another take on truth because our times demand it! Truth is under attack!

- People are lying under oath
- Politicians are lying
- The media is lying

a. There was a day Americans could trust the 5 o'clock news. The media reported the facts. But now we can no longer trust the news. Stories are slanted with spin and half-truths; people are quoted out of context; **it's gotten so bad the President has coined a phrase to describe it; he calls it "fake news"**. the news cannot be trusted.

b. I was born in 1944; and I can tell you there has never been a time in my lifetime where our country has been in a crisis of truth like we have today.

4. God is calling for a prophetic church like the sons of Issachar, a church that understands the times; that we're living in the days like when the Prophet Isaiah ministered in the midst of an idolatrous, backslidden Israel...

Justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. Truth is nowhere to be found...
Isaiah 59:14-15

- Justice is driven back; a Navy submariner goes to prison for innocently taking pictures aboard his ship but a former Secretary of State can commit multiple felonies and never even be indicted
- Righteousness "stands at a distance"; meaning God's people are silent
- "Truth has stumbled in the streets"; one translation says "truth has stumbled in the public squares"
- The 9th commandment is being trampled underfoot:

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."
Exodus 20:16

5. This has happened before:

a. Political corruption in France in the 1600's: when Christian philosopher, mathematician and theologian Blaise Pascal said...

"Truth is so obscure in these times, and falsehood so established, that unless we love the truth, we cannot know it."
Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)

b. George Orwell, author of classic books like "1984" and "Animal Farm", cried out for truth in England in the early 20th century...

“During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act.”

George Orwell

c. Orwell was not a Christian; but he knew that a culture of lies would require a revolution by those who would speak the truth, even if it gets you in trouble!

“The further a society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those that speak the truth.”

George Orwell

6. And this is where we come in. God is calling forth a prophetic church that can discern the times and know what we ought to do, even if we are hated for it! And here is why...

B. The Confrontational Nature of Truth

1. Truth, by its very nature, is confrontational. Why?

2. Truth is the red pill of reality that exposes that which is untrue. Man's sinful nature does not like being confronted with truth.

“Truth, in its first appearance, is often negative.”

Bob Mumford

a. Example: I remember a message one time where the Preacher asked us “Who was the 1st President of the United States?” To which we all replied, “George Washington”—what a shock to find he was not!

b. The truth is that the 1st President was a man named George Hanson; and then 7 other men served as President before Washington! I remember something rose up within me when I was confronted with a truth that contradicted everything I had always believed!

c. The Bible often offends us because it confronts us with truth that contradicts what we thought was the truth.

3. Most Christians know Jesus said, “You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free”; but actually taking a stand for truth in a culture of lies puts us in conflict with that culture, as President Garfield said...

“The truth will set you free, but first it will make you miserable.”

James A. Garfield

4. A great example is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Gospel means “Good news”. But before you can believe in the Good News of the Gospel, you have to believe the “Bad News” of the Gospel...that we are all SINNERS in need of a Savior!

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

a. Al Gore calls global warming an “inconvenient truth”-meaning that this is a truth that will make us uncomfortable. But global warming may not be true. God’s word is true! The fact that we are all sinners is the real “inconvenient truth”; and it gets worse....

But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

Galatians 3:22

b. The church is like Morpheus; Jesus gave us the job of telling people they are prisoners of sin; but if they’ll swallow the red pill, the “Gos-pill” (!), He will lead them into the truth.

C. Jesus is the Truth

1. Jesus makes an astounding statement in John 14...

I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but by me.

John 14:6

2. This is one of the most confrontational truths in the Bible; Jesus Christ presents Himself as the only way to God; that He not only *speaks* the truth but that He is the very *personification* of the truth and that no one can come to God except through Him.

a. Jesus said He came to bear witness to the truth. Pilate asks, “What is truth?” But the truth was standing right in front of him! Then it says Pilate walked away. What a picture of the world!

“Among the sages of that time there were many opinions concerning truth; and some had even supposed that it was a thing utterly out of the reach of men. Pilate perhaps might have asked the question in a mocking way; and his not staying to get an answer indicated that he either despaired of getting a satisfactory one, or that he was indifferent about it. This is the case with thousands: they appear desirous of knowing the truth, but have not patience to wait in a proper way to receive an answer to their question.”

Adam Clarke

b. It’s like in the Matrix, we offer the red pill of truth to the world; but many prefer the blue pill...

“You take the blue pill. The story ends. You wake up in your bed and believe whatever you want to believe.”

Morpheus

3. The Bible tells us that people “take the blue pill” because they choose to avoid the “red pill”.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

Romans 1:18

a. Here is a piece of truth rarely preached; sinners choose to “suppress the truth” to continue in their unrighteousness.

b. The truth is all around us; the Creation itself proves there is a God!

c. The Bible tells us the truth; that God will make enough of Himself known to the world so that turning Him down will be an act of personal choice.

d. The only way a soul can avoid the truth of God is to suppress the truth; those who refuse the Gospel will be without excuse on the Day of Judgment.

4. Get this straight. God will make the choice clear; Jesus is the truth or He isn’t.

“Neutrality is impossible. There is no middle ground partway between truth and error. Either it is true or it isn’t. In logic, this is known as the ‘law of non-

**contradiction'. Something cannot be A and not A at the same time.
Christianity cannot be true and not true at the same time."
Gary DeMar**

5. So what say you? Which pill will you take? As Jesus said...

**Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me
scatters.
Matthew 12:30**

III. Conclusion

A. Christianity is Truth

1. We are in a War of the Worldviews; we will win the war not because truth is on our side, but because we are on the side of truth.

2. We are a people of the truth; and that affects everything we see and do.

a. The great Christian author C.S. Lewis

**"I believe in Christianity as I believe the sun has risen, not only because I see
it, but because by it I see everything else."
C.S. Lewis**

3. God is calling His church to a biblical worldview...

**"C.S. Lewis realized that the Christian worldview is not some 'on again/off
again' belief system only for when people begin swapping ideas about religion
and metaphysics. He understood Christianity claims exclusivity and
supremacy over everything else. Christianity is, first and foremost, The Truth
that all other ideas and thoughts need to be strained through."
AmericanVision.com**

4. The war of the worldviews is a clash between 2 Kingdoms; we will win because we are a people of the truth. I close with a quote from Matthew Henry:

**"The foundation and power, the spirit and genius, of Christ's kingdom, is
truth, divine truth. When he said, I am the truth, he said, in effect, I am a
king. He conquers by the convincing evidence of truth; he rules by the**

commanding power of truth, and in his majesty rides prosperously, because of truth, Ps 45:4. It is with his truth that he shall judge the people, Ps 96:13.”

Matthew Henry

CLOSING PRAYER

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