

Today's Message: **THOUGHTS ON THE TRUTH OF GOD AND HIS WORD**
Psalm 119: 33- 48
Matthew A. Vander Wiele, Ed. D.

The notion of truth haunts us, ferreting out our shabby thinking, our lame excuses, our willful ignorance, and our unfair attacks on the views of others, both the living and the dead. Conversely, when our own ideas are misrepresented or our personal character falsely maligned, we object by appealing to something firm and hard that should settle the issue—the truth. In these cases, we sense that something is wrong—not with the truth itself, but with its inept handlers. – Douglas Groothuis

John 14:6 – “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.” All of man's questions of life are answered in this verse.

John 8:31-32 - So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Truth sought and found in the WORD – Logos – Jesus

“I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but if others come in their own names you will accept them. How can you believe in me when you seek approval from others?” – Jesus (John 5:44)

Jesus claimed that an unhealthy concern for approval or status could impede proper judgment, in this case a sober assessment of His own identity and the proper response to it – Douglas Groothuis

Jesus continues... *This is the verdict. Light has come into the world but people loved darkness instead of life because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light or fear that his deeds will be exposed. But those who live by the truth come into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God (John 3:19– 21, tniv).*

He (H - hey) pronounced “ah” could mean lo! Or behold! – Look up for your instruction!

YHWH

I. God's Truth is Understanding Who are you learning Truth from? Who is your teacher

*(Psalms 119: 33-40) Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain! **Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.** Confirm to your servant your promise, that you may be feared. Turn away the reproach that I dread, for your rules are good. Behold, I long for your precepts; **in your righteousness give me life!***

1. Submit to allowing God to teach you–
2. From your head to your “heel” – I will keep it to the end (heel) (Deut. 6:4-8)
3. Allow your whole heart to be taught by God's testimonies. – this is God's story not mine!

God's Truth is Understanding that reveals False and Worthless things

Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways. Confirm to your servant your promise, that you may be feared. Turn away the reproach that I dread, for your rules are good. Behold, I long for your precepts; **in your righteousness give me life!** (Psalms 119:37-40)

Why Truth Matters Most?

It is impossible to understand TRUTH when one refuses to look past themselves to the fact that TRUTH is not comfortable and reveals who we really are – and that is we are not right before a Holy God apart from Christ. “It is in your right-ness, give me life...” (verse 40)

Either/or NOT Both/and

(Romans 1:16-19) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Stop Looking at Worthless Things! Vs. 37

(Jeremiah 17:1-5) "The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron; with a point of diamond it is engraved on the tablet of their heart, and on the horns of their altars, while their children remember their altars and their Asherim, beside every green tree and on the high hills, on the mountains in the open country. Your wealth and all your treasures I will give for spoil as the price of your high places for sin throughout all your territory. You shall loosen your hand from your heritage that I gave to you, and I will make you serve your enemies in a land that you do not know, for in my anger a fire is kindled that shall burn forever." Thus says the Lord: Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord.

Curiosity must move to Studiousness

We are content to remain comfortable not courageous. We are content to be curious only. Curiosity may be no more than a lust for what one need not know (or should not know). Curiosity is not intrinsically good because it can lead to gossip and may be driven by ulterior motives such as: PRIDE, VANITY, RESTLESSNESS, and GOSSIP – wasted intellectual time and effort. Studiousness on the other hand, earnestly inquires after what ought to be known in ways fitting the subject matter. Studiousness sniffs out its own areas of ignorance and pursues knowledge prudently, patiently and humbly – this results in humility and allows for: Self-reflection, remembering, rest, confession, growth

Waw – peg or hook - strictly reserved for the hooks/ pegs that kept the curtains of the tabernacle in place. It is said that the shape of the letter *waw* reminds of a hook or peg.

II. God's Truth Reveals What is Not Truth – antithesis

*(Psalms 119: 41-48) Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord, you salvation according to your promise; then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me, for I trust in your word. And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, **for my hope is in your rules**. I will keep your law continually, forever and ever, and I shall walk in a wide place, **for I have sought your precepts**. I will also speak of your testimonies before kings and shall not be put to shame, for I find my delight in your commandments, **which I love**. I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.*

In order to give an apologetic to false and illogical newly offered realities in identity and society – we must constantly be looking back, remembering and being grounded in external absolute Truth. The word "truth" is a staple in our language and in every language. One cannot imagine a human language lacking the concept of truth. Such a language would never inform anyone of anything: it would lack any intellectual access to reality - Groothuis

What is the result of the inability to have an answer for "him who taunts me"?

A low view of Truth

A low view of The Father, The Son and The Spirit

A low view of God and His Word

A low view of humanity

A low view of Biblical Marriage and Biblical Gender

A low view of Sin

A low view for our need to be saved by Someone Else! Antithesis of Existentialism! –

(John 6:66-69) After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

(Psalms 119:43) "for I trust in your word. And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for my hope is in YOUR rules...."

We are not placing our faith in some blind leap!

The ultimate result is DEATH – Rationalistic man having given up the method of antithesis (if the sun is hot then it cannot also be cold) results in confusion and mental illness -

So he thinks, "I love her", or "the blossom is beautiful". But these are a quite jumble of words unless they stand in antithesis to the possibilities that he dislikes her or that the blossom is ugly. This means in practice that a man cannot totally reject the methodology of antithesis, however much his system leads him to it, unless he experiences the total alienation from himself brought about by some form of mental breakdown. - Schaeffer

Final Thoughts:

III. God's Truth Leads his creation to worship HIM.

*(Psalms 119: 46-47) I will also speak of your testimonies before kings and shall not be put to shame, for I find my delight in your commandments, **which I love.***

The Truth is God's Story – Jesus Christ

"I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes."

(I Corinthians 15:6) Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

Paul says go and see for yourself -

This is faith that is real and based on TRUTH and God's past testimonies and promises – This is a Truth that involves the whole man, including his reason and no belief into the future unknown void –Schaeffer

God and His Word is TRUTH to be KNOWN first and Experienced second...

The result – WORSHIP!

(Romans 14:11) It is written: 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'

(I Corinthians 8:7) Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

(Hebrews 1:3) He [Jesus] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

(Col. 1:16-17) For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

(Philippians 2:11) And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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[ONWARD CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022](#)

1. LADIES BIBLE STUDY—WEDNESDAYS—9:30am at Kathy Stump's house (12928 Whitehaven Lane, Fishers; 131st & Cumberland). Studying the book of Hebrews. Hebrews study guide \$10. See Laurie Abell (317-432-6851) or Kathy Stump (317-292-7632) for more details.

2. LIVESTREAM ON FACEBOOK LIVE—We will continue to livestream our service on Pastor Gary's Facebook Live and it will be available on our website (www.onwardchurch.org) and our YouTube channel (see below for link)

Gary's FACEBOOK LIVE link: <https://www.facebook.com/gary.stump.3>

Onward Church YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSHetYKQbsv3tYGbNtwgnQg>

3. YOUTH GROUP TONIGHT—6-8pm at Jon & Shannon Harris' (16369 Drayton Way, Fortville).

4. FEBRUARY 26-27 2022 ONWARD MARRIAGE RETREAT at Brown County Inn, 51 State Rd. 46, Nashville, IN. Call **812-988-2291** to reserve your room This is the only cost to you (Double Queen - \$100.00 plus tax; King - \$110.00 plus tax) – reserve under **ONWARD MARRIAGE RETREAT PROMO CODE 0270**

[2022 Onward Marriage Retreat Schedule](#)

Speaker: Matthew A. Vander Wiele, Ed. D.

Theme: Experiencing Sabbath Rest within your Marriage

[Saturday February 26th](#)

ROOM CHECK IN: 4:00 pm (you may be able to check in earlier)

SESSION 1: 2:00pm – 3:30ish

FREE TIME/DINNER 4:00pm – 7:30pm

SESSION 2: 7:30pm – 9:00ish

Free Time

[Sunday February 27th](#)

ROOM CHECKOUT: Before Session

SESSION 3: 9:30am – 11:00ish

AFTERNOON FREE TIME!

- Light refreshments and snacks will be served at all sessions!
- Booklets provided!
- Bring – Bible, Journal, Pen and SPOUSE!!
- Have Fun!

5. CULTURE, RACE AND THE CHURCH is an online, self-paced course by **Dr. Charles Ware** through Grace Relations and the College of Biblical Studies. Here is a link for more information or to register:

<https://gracerelations.cbshouston.edu/>

6. 2022 ONWARD TO JERUSALEM BIBLE STUDY TOUR—OCTOBER 18-29, 2022. Cost of the tour will be approximately \$3,800 per person (double occupancy). A deposit of \$500 will hold your spot. For more information, please write Pastor Gary at gary@garystump.org.

7. "BIBLE ANSWER MAN"—Beginning next week we will have a segment in the service where we answer your Bible questions. If you have a particular Bible question, write it on the back of your Prayer Card and we will try to answer them beginning next Sunday.