

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	43
Attendance AM	87
Attendance PM	23
Wednesday PM	23

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Phil & Kim Tydings; Mary Sanders; Janis Bland; Norris Cole; Rhea Wallace; Frank Brock; C.D. Arnett; Krubo Joploh; Richard & Florine Thomas; Betty Blakely (Stones Springs); Ron Robbins; Frank Cook; Shai Eslick;

Traveling: Norris Cole, II; Richard Melson, Jr.; Valerie Melson & Ashley Thomas

Prayers: Carolyn Johnson

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy: Keira Grant (niece of Richard Melson) death of her daughter Karis

Birthdays: December — 5 Herman Farmer; 11—Nina Netheron, Kim Tydings; 15 Dana Grigsby, Richard Melson, DeWayne Eslick; 24 Mia Gilbert; 26 Theresa Wallace

Anniversaries: December— None

Ladies Reading Group: Zoom Class December 14 @ 6:00 PM Lesson 1—"Sisters, I Need You"

December 10	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Denzil Turner, III	Denzil Turner, III
Song Leader	Lyle Cole	Michael Blanks, Jr.
Lead Lord's Supper	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Server 1	James Grigsby	Frank Brock
Server 2	Ryan McGahee	Patrick Thomas
Scripture Reader	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Sermon	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. Melson
Prayer for Responses	Richard D. Melson	Richard D. Melson
Closing Prayer	Patrick Thomas	Patrick Thomas
Announcements	Patrick Cook	Patrick Cook
Greeter	John Bouse	John Bouse
Usher	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Usher		

A.S.A.P. = Always Say A Prayer

"Pray without ceasing"
1 Thessalonians 5:17

TO OUR VISITORS

Our goal in the church of Christ is to be the New Testament church, which you can read about in the Bible. We invite you to observe our worship assemblies, the doctrine that is taught and the structure of the church organization. Make a close comparison with your "church" and the church of the Bible -- **The Church of Christ**. We also invite you to join us as we strive to be the church of the Bible and restore New Testament Christianity.

Needmore Road church of Christ
2211 Needmore Road
Dayton, Ohio 45414-9998

Place
Stamp
Here

Visit our website at <https://www.needmoreroadcoc.com>



THE EDIFIER

Volume 04

December 10, 2023

Issue 50

THE NATURE OF TRUTH

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Meeting Location:
2211 Needmore Rd
Dayton, OH 45414

Schedule of Services

Sunday
Bible Study 9:30
Worship 10:30 A.M.
5:00 P.M.

1st Sunday No 5:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Study
7:00 P.M.

Preacher
Richard D. Melson
937-321-3973
dr.rdmelson@yahoo.com

Ministers
All Members

- Supporting**
- Christian Courier
 - Southwest School of Bible Studies: Austin, TX
 - Memphis School of Preaching
 - Greater Midwest Lectureship
 - Potter Children's Home
 - Midwestern School of Preaching
 - Central Carolina School of Preaching

One of the most profound questions ever posed to Jesus by mortal man was asked by Pontius Pilate, "What is truth?" (Jn. 18:38). While this question was likely asked by Pilate with a sarcastic tone it is nevertheless a question that continues to reverberate. By definition, truth in a general sense is "what is true in any matter under consideration as opposed to what is false." In reference to religion, the term denotes "what is true in things appertaining to God and the duties of man." (Thayer's Greek English Lexicon)

Nevertheless, in our society there are various views of truth especially "religious truth." Some suggest that truth can never fully be known. Others contend that truth is subjective. Subjective truth is a truth based on a person's perspective, feelings, or opinions. A third view of truth is that truth is relative. Relative truth might also be called situational truth. In other words, a thing is true based on or depending on something else. In this case, truth continually changes as it is related to people, customs, or culture.

The Bible clearly establishes that truth is absolute. In other words, a thing either is true or it is not true. There is no grey area; there is no middle ground. In logic this principle is referred to as the law of excluded middle. The law of excluded middle states that "every precisely stated statement is either true or false." Jesus said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (Jn. 17:17). If truth is subjective to one's personal perspective, feelings, or opinions, how one responds to God's word is determined by him. If truth is relative then how one responds to God's word may be determined on the culture, custom, or situation at any given time. In either case each person, group, or nation might have their own truth. In short, man would be free to determine truth for himself! God would be left out of the equation.

Such views of truth are wholly contradictory to Scripture! Paul wrote, For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar (Rom. 3:3-4).

In reproof to Job God demanded, Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous? (Job 40:7-8)

Man has neither the knowledge, wisdom, nor the right to "disannul" or make void the judgments or decrees of God! Yet, when man claims to have his own truth in contradiction to God's revealed absolute truth, he condemns God while trying to justify himself. Again, God's words to Job are instructive:

Words of Wisdom For Youth ... 1 Timothy 4:12

Going to get baptized in the Jordan River

A church group went on a tour of the "Holy Lands," to see the cities, sights and places where Jesus lived while on this earth. No doubt, the trip was a life-changing experience—the Bible stories really come alive when you've been there. But, the highlight of their trip is when they got baptized in the Jordan River. These church folks were baptized in the "Holy Lands," baptized where John was baptizing, baptized where Jesus was baptized. They had never felt more spiritual than they did at that moment. But, why did they do it?

The story of this event is curious to me. The Bible teaches that the purpose of baptism is for penitent believers to obtain "the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). It does not appear that this church group was baptizing "for the remission of sins." So, if it is a "Bible act" but not done for the "Bible reason," then why is it done at all? I'm sure it stirred their emotions unbelievably, but it also reduced a holy act instituted by God into a common, man-made, human-centered experience. God has warned us about profaning that which is holy (Ezek. 22:26) and needing Bible authority to do Bible things for Bible reasons (Col. 3:17). This is so important.?

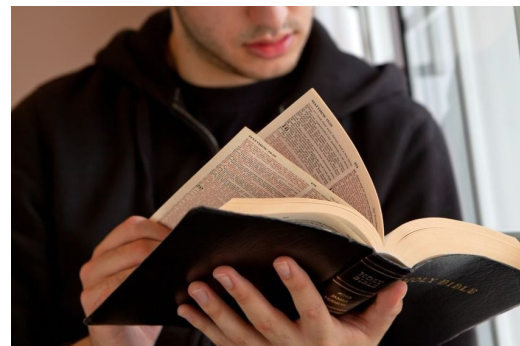
- David Sproule

It's a scientific theory? Really?

Ok, so I looked up a kids' definition for "scientific theory." Sometimes science definitions (for adults) can get so convoluted that you need a definition of the definition. Let's get it simple and easy for everyone – "a scientific hypothesis that survives experimental testing becomes a scientific theory." "Once the [hypothesis] phase has been carried out (at least to some degree) and there is some experimental evidence that supports the hypothesis then it will often begin to be...combined into a "theory.""

Fascinating! A scientific theory, according to the definition given to kids, requires (1) experimental testing and (2) some experimental evidence that supports the hypothesis. Think about this for a minute. Have you ever heard of the scientific "theory of evolution"? Yes? Ok, why is it called a theory? By definition, it had to be tested (how can you successfully test spontaneous generation of life or the Big Bang "theory"? and have some (yea, any) experimental evidence from those tests? Don't get fooled! Evolution is nothing more than a device of Satan to destroy faith. Put your faith in God! Not in science!

The Bible is not that hard to understand

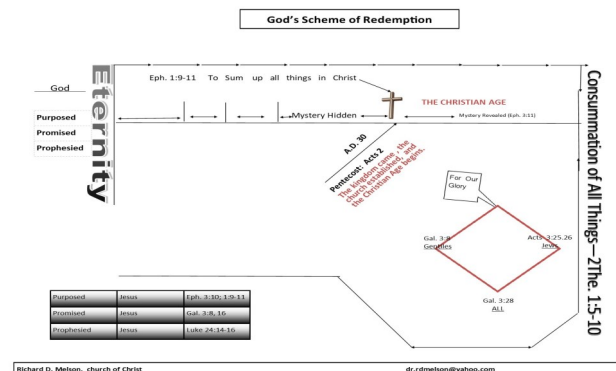


There are some folks who want to make the Bible out to be this overly complicated, mystically complex book that is highly difficult to understand. Are there "some things hard to understand" in it (cf. 2 Pet. 3:16)? Yes. Some. And the Bible acknowledges that. But note that it does not say, "Impossible to understand" or "You'll never understand."

When Satan asked Eve what God had said, Eve recited exactly what God had said (Gen. 3:1-3). It was not difficult or complex. It did not require higher education or years of study to know or understand. It was only after Satan twisted it (see 2 Peter 3:16 again) that Eve disobeyed it.

Friends, what the Bible says about morality is not hard to understand. What the Bible teaches about salvation is not hard to understand. What the Bible tells us to do in the worship and service of our God is not hard to understand. It's only when Satan makes us think that we are "God" (Gen. 3:5) and know better that things go awry! Truly, God's Word "gives understanding to the simple" (Psa. 119:130)..

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



Melson's Musings ...



Continued from page one

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge ? (Job 38:1-2)

Man seeking to determine truth from his own perspective or in relation to situations around him is on a slippery slope indeed. David worded it thusly, "Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not" (Psalm 17:5).

What are some examples of man seeking to justify himself by "his own truth"? When man affirms he can enter into or remain in an adulteress relationship he is living by his own truth (cf. Mt. 19:9). When man affirms that worshipping God with mechanical instruments or that salvation is by faith only without any act of obedience on the part of man he is seeking to justify himself by his own truth (cf. Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 7:12ff; Mt. 7:21).

Truth is absolute in nature, thus the divine warning: "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it" (Dt. 4:2). What God has said is truth (Jn. 17:17). Truth can be known (Jn 8:32; 1 Jn 2:21). When man determines truth by his own standards he changes the truth of God into a lie (Rom. 1:25). Man is responsible to do truth (Jn. 3:21) and will be judged accordingly (Dt. 18:18-19; Rom. 2:2, 8; Acts 17:31).

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Christianity is a Personal Matter

The work of Jesus was personal and every follower of him should so regard their service to God. We will never bring the world to Christ until I bring Christ into my life. An unconverted person can never bring a convert to Christ. I

will have no faith in the mission before me unless I have faith in the Master behind me. I will never expect the world to react to the word of God until I am activated by it. We cannot possibly make Christ anything to others until I make Him everything to me. I will never be able to see through my task until I am willing to see my task through. We will have more conversions when I have more conviction. We will never consider the lost until I stop considering the cost. We will stop trying to save money when I start trying to save souls. We will not have to pay the penalty of reaping when I am willing to pay the price. We will never enter into rest until I have done my best. Many people are convicted, but not converted to Christ. Many people try to turn to Christ, but do not turn away from sin. ~

- ☞ **Pantry Items:** We need to replenish the pantry. Boxed Meals (e.g. Hamburger Helper); Canned Meals (Ravioli etc.); Pop Tarts; Canned Soups; Cereal
- ☞ **Potter Children's Home:** Thanks to everyone who helped. David Hamilton arrived home safely.
- ☞ **New Wednesday Bible Study:** Adult class- *Principles of Old Testament Prophecy*—How to understand and interpret Old Testament Prophecy
- ☞ **Senior Lunch**— Will resume in April, 2024
- ☞ **The 2023 Bible Fair** was a great success! Thanks to the teachers who developed the fair; the children who put the display boards together and made presentations.



NEWS AND NOTES

- Visit these online resources: www.wvbs.org ; www.apologeticspress.org ; www.searchtv.org ; <http://gbntv.org/> ; <http://kibbystreetcoc.org/index.php/let> (Let The Bible Speak); <https://fun1071.fm>; soulofdayton.com (8:00 AM)
- View: In Search of the Lord's Way— Dish- Sunday 7:00 am Channel 239; DirecTV Channel 307; GBN 7 PM
- Check out Tullstar Archives at <http://media.Tullstar.org> for lessons from faithful brethren.

GOD'S PLAN FOR MAN'S SALVATION

"Sirs, What must I do to be saved?" Acts 16:30

- ◆ The Gospel Must Be Heard – John 6:44-45; Romans 10:17; John 8:32
- ◆ The Gospel Must Be Believed—John 8:24; Mark 16:16
- ◆ Sins Must Be Repented of – Luke 13:3,5; Acts 2:38
- ◆ Christ Must Be Confessed—Romans 10:10; Acts 8:37
- ◆ There Must Be Baptism (Immersion) for Remission (forgiveness) of Sins—Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21
- ◆ Christian Growth and Faithfulness—1 Peter 2:2; Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 3:18