



THE GOD WHO IS TRUTHFUL

Psalm 119:153-160 |

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RELATED SCRIPTURES

Psalm 31:3-5 | John 1:14 + 14:6 | 2 Timothy 3:14-16

SUMMARY

Within every human heart ring the famous words of Pontius Pilate, who Frederick Buechner depicts in noir fashion as a beleaguered bureaucrat taking “a long drag on his cigarette and through narrowed eyes asking, **“What is truth?” (John 18:38)**. The Roman governor’s world-weary question is the perfect place to start our discussion of God as Truth-teller.

What is truth? How do you define such a thing in a world filled with choose-your-own-adventure truths? Truth in Scripture is a God defined reality. He is “the God of truth,” (Ps. 31:5; Isa. 65:16). He is “abundant” in truth, a veritable Niagara Falls of truth (Ex. 34:6). The words that he speaks? They have not only the ring of truth, but are the very definition of truth itself! (John 17:17). Not only does God speak the truth, his words are true in that they hit the mark and accomplish exactly what he intends (Isaiah 55:10-11).

So what is truth? Truth is whatever this Creator God who speaks says it is. We struggle with that definition, though. “That’s great,” we say, “but what if I don’t like what he says is true about the world, me, or even himself?” **Much like gravity, or the level Paul used in his illustration, we don’t get much say in the matter.**

But lest we think that our lack of say leads to some sort of divine tyranny, **we should remember** that when God wanted to show us what he’s truly like, he sent Jesus who “came full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). **God may be the One who tells us how it is, but he knows our frame**, he knows that we are dust and to dust we will return. God’s truth on its own is crushing weight because, truth be told, our sin deserves judgment and wrath. It’s a burden we have shouldered every day since our first breath, and something which we cannot throw off our backs in our own strength.

That is precisely why the Redemption is such good news! It’s why Jesus Christ comes with grace and truth in his hands (in this sense God truly does give with both hands). Instead of treating us the way our sins, our lack of truth-y-ness, deserve, he removes them from us as far as the East is from the West (Psalm 103).

GROUP QUESTIONS

- From the sermon, or your direct reading of Psalm 119:153-160, share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you about the God's wisdom.
- Psalm 31:3-5 shows us how to put our hope in God's truth and his promises. List out the things this psalmist is confident God will do and be. Why do you suppose he uses these images for God? What is he trying to instill in those who read this psalm?
- John 1:14 + John 14:6 tell us that Jesus is "full of grace and truth" and is in fact "the way, the truth and the life." These things are true, but what do they really mean for how you live every day?
- If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of these portions of Scripture, what is that thing?