



What is Real? Week 2 | What is Truth?

| KEY THOUGHTS

- Jesus spoke of a tangible, physical place where Christians will be with God for all eternity.
 - The book of the Revelation calls this the New Heavens and the New Earth, and all the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, speak of it.
 - **This is the heart of God, to be with His people forever.**
- **What Jesus says is either true, or it's untrue; it's not dependent on our opinion.**
- **Jesus doesn't just say the truth; He is the Truth. And when we know Him, we can know the truth.**
- The study of truth is sometimes called "apologetics," sometimes "defense of the faith." We study it so that...
 - Not-yet-believers might come to saving faith (evangelism); and
 - Christians might be nourished and encouraged to realize that it makes good sense to believe what God says (edification).
- **Truth is absolute, knowable, unchanging, and not concerned with whether or not you agree with it.**
- Two prevalent philosophies that argue against God's absolute truth:
 - *Pluralism* considers all competing views as equally true, no matter how they differ;
 - *Relativism* says truth is evolving and the Bible is no longer relevant.
 - Neither makes rational sense, and the truth of Jesus refutes them both.
- Jesus's claim to **be** truth opposes all man-made religions.
 - His kingdom is not of this world, but is eternal and unchanging;
 - Man's kingdoms are all about power and control, and the control is always shifting;
 - Jesus came to testify to the truth because it can be found nowhere else;
 - Pilate knew what the truth was (Truth was standing there right in front of him!) but rejected it, being unwilling to give up the illusion of control.
- **As children of our Father, we can't know all that He knows; but we can know His love, and believe what He says.**

| SCRIPTURE

¹ Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ² There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. **John 14:1-3 (NLT)**

⁴ And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵ "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is.

John 14:4-7a (NLT)

³⁶ Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world." ³⁷ Pilate said, "So you are a king?" Jesus responded, "You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true." ³⁸ "What is truth?" Pilate asked. Then he went out again to the people and told them, "He is not guilty of any crime.

John 18:36-38 (NLT)

Other passages discussed in the message:

Hebrews 1:1-3 (NLT)

Hebrew 11:6 (NLT)

2 Peter 3:3-5 (NLT)

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (NLT)

| PRACTICAL

- To know God is to surrender my self-direction and submit to what He says is true.
- Whether you're a believer wanting to strengthen your understanding, or outside the faith but searching for answers, here are two good books that address these issues:
 - *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel; and
 - *The Reason for God* by Tim Keller.
 - Both are available in the lobby.
- Read and meditate on chapters 14-17 in the Gospel of John to see what Jesus said about knowing God, experiencing a changed life, and living in authentic faith.

| REFLECT

- Don't let what you can't understand keep you from believing in what you can know.
- The Bible defines "sin" as choosing my own way rather than God's ways. That includes determining for myself what is true and what is not.
- When the Holy Spirit, in conjunction with the living and active word of God, opens our minds and hearts and enables us to believe that what Jesus says is true, a supernatural transformation takes place. That's when a spiritually dead person receives new life in Christ.
- When that happens, we can know the truth because we know Jesus, Who is the truth.

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