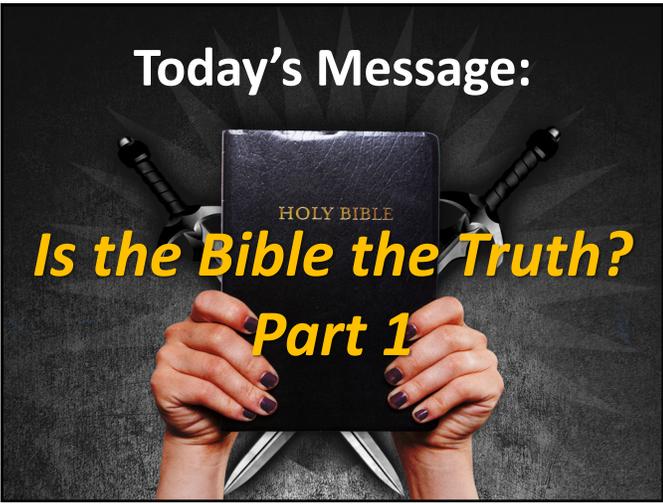


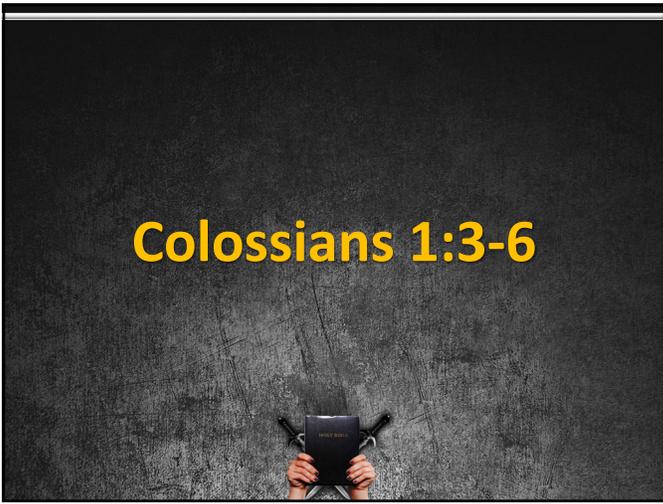
Today's Message:



Is the Bible the Truth?

Part 1

Colossians 1:3-6



“We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as *it has* also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as *it is* also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;”

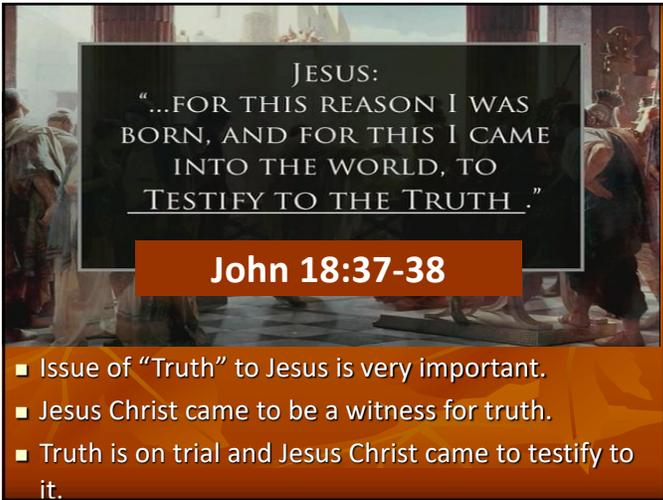
Colossians 1:3-6

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Colossians 1:3-6



JESUS:
“...FOR THIS REASON I WAS BORN, AND FOR THIS I CAME INTO THE WORLD, TO TESTIFY TO THE TRUTH.”

John 18:37-38

- Issue of “Truth” to Jesus is very important.
- Jesus Christ came to be a witness for truth.
- Truth is on trial and Jesus Christ came to testify to it.

“Meanwhile, truth is increasingly regarded as something felt, or relative (44%), rather than something known, or absolute (35%)—a shift reflected in other new religion surveys covered in Barna Trends 2018. For example, many Americans (56%), especially Millennials (64%), don’t feel that any one religious text has a monopoly on truth, but that they are all different expressions of the same spiritual message.”

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Our Culture’s Idea of Truth is Called “Relativism”

- Relativism is the philosophical position that all points of view are equally valid and that all truth is relative to the individual.

In other words, everyone decides for themselves what’s right or wrong!

A Relativist Believes:

- There is no right and wrong. Anyone’s truth is relative to himself.
- Everyone should be tolerant; No one should view another’s actions as morally wrong.
- There is no absolute truth or God.

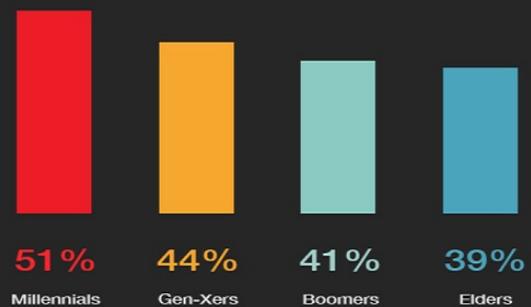
People who claim truth is Relative have some problems if they're consistent:

- Relativists can't accuse others of Wrongdoing.
- Relativists can't complain about the problem of evil.
- Relativists can't place blame or accept praise.
- Relativists can't make charges of unfairness or injustice.

Refuting Relativism

- If all truth is relative, then the statement "**All truth is relative**" would be absolutely true. If it is absolutely true, then not all things are relative and the statement that "All truth is relative" is false.
- If there are no absolute truths, then you cannot believe anything absolutely at all, including that there are no absolute truths. **Therefore, nothing could be really true for you - including relativism.**

Believe moral truth is relative.



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The Dangers of Relativism

(or everyone deciding for themselves what's right or wrong)



If Right and Wrong is a matter of Opinion:

- All virtues disappear like Courage, Honor, Compassion and Integrity.
- There is no true Justice. *"Injustice implies that justice exists, justice implies that moral laws exist and laws imply that a law-giver exists."*
- There can be no convictions to defend. *"If there is no truth that is 'more true' than any other 'truth,' then there is no truth worth defending. If there is no truth worth defending, there is no room for conviction."* – Josh McDowell, *The New Tolerance*

In the absence of absolute truth, power rules.

- Without a source of absolute truth, Nazism, Racism, or any movement could be imposed, and labeled true and acceptable.

"If there is no way to determine the truth about matters, then either someone or some body of people will dictate what truth is and force everyone else to follow that mandate. Oftentimes, they will go to great lengths to cloak their position and make it appear that approval for their stance comes from everywhere, even from above." – Robin Schumacher

Why We Need Authority

During the trials at Nuremberg, the Nazi defense attorneys argued that Hitler's soldiers who were on trial were only following the orders of their society and should therefore not be held accountable.



A judge countered that argument with the question, "But sir, is there not a law above our laws?"

"(for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;
for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their thoughts accusing or else excusing them*)"

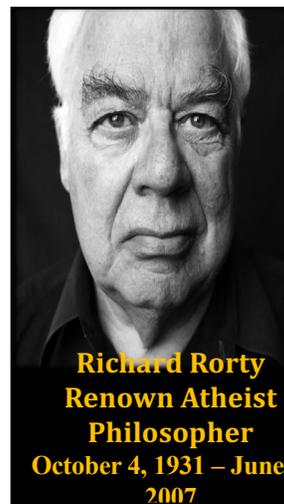
Romans 2:13-15

The further a people remove themselves from believing in a moral law-giver (God), the further they remove themselves from any kind of moral law or standard of truth to live by.

In other words, there must be a standard of truth (or a standard of right and wrong) which is universal and applies to all people, or people make up their own standard of truth!

"The death of truth in our society has created a moral decay in which 'every debate ends with the barroom question 'says who?' When we abandon the idea that one set of laws applies to every human being, all that remains is subjective, personal opinion."

Francis Beckwith and Greg Koukl



Richard Rorty
Renown Atheist
Philosopher
October 4, 1931 – June 8, 2007

In her book, *Finding Truth*, Nancy Pearcey states: "In a striking passage, Rorty admits that the very concept of objective truth is grounded in the Christian conviction that the universe was 'created by a person.' The idea of a truth beyond human subjectivity, he writes, 'is a remnant of the idea

Where can Ultimate Authority, Truth, and a Standard Come From?

- From Each Individual?
- From Culture/Society?
- From a Combined set of Cultures?
- From the Material Universe?
- From an Unchangeable, Sovereign Creator?

- **From Each Individual** – no, because different individuals can disagree; no way to solve disputes
- **From Culture** – no, because different cultures can disagree ; no way to solve disputes
- **From a Combined set of Cultures** – possible, although this has never happened in human history, plus they would be made by fallable humans so no confidence they are ultimately correct.
- **From the Material Universe** – no, because impersonal matter cannot impose obligation
- **From an Immutable, Sovereign Creator** – yes, because He created, understands, and sustains all things, and will never change

Summary

- The world needs a standard of Universal Truth in order to function properly. (In order to have virtue, and true freedom).
- The only real possible source of Universal Truth must come from outside the human realm.
- A Supreme Being must be the Ultimate Giver of Universal Truth which applies to all.

The Question is:

“Is the God of the Bible, that Supreme Being?”

To be Continued...