

Session 2

Assurance

Today's uneasy world, filled with family troubles, financial worries, and severe weather, causes some of the stressfulness of life we deal with every day. We also live in a culture with a social network which needs to update every five minutes, if not, it seems as if the world would probably shut down. We live our lives on a daily basis of acceptance or assurance that we must belong to something or fill a void in our lives, but with what? Is it our beauty or looks? Is it our social network? Is it our friends? Is it our relationships? What assurances do we have or hold on to? What is really true?

We are going to challenge you to answer these questions, What is truth? And What is relativism?.

Truth is defined:

1. the true or actual state of a matter: He tried to find out the truth.
2. conformity with fact or reality; verity: the truth of a statement.
3. a verified or indisputable fact, proposition, principle, or the like: *mathematical truths*.
4. the state or character of being true.
5. actuality or actual existence.

Relativism is defined:

Relativism is the concept that points of view have no absolute truth or validity, having only relative, subjective value according to differences in perception and consideration. The term is often used to refer to the context of moral principle, where in a relativistic mode of thought, principles and ethics are regarded as applicable in only limited context.

Look at John 18:1-38, specifically 28-38. We see Jesus Christ standing before Pontus Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea. Pilate, ask Jesus a question "What is truth?" Please define Truth:

Let's look into Gods truth, the Bible, and pull out some key verses to better understand this subject.

Joshua 24:14

"Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

What did God say to Joshua about serving Him? What is sincerity and truth? What is meant by putting away the god of your fathers? What is fear and serving the LORD?

We see Exodus 20: 3-4, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, which there were more than that to Israel. God desires to have a personal relationship with each person, but most people have put their image of god , which is not the true God. What kind of object or person have you put the most energy into? How well do you serve it?

1 Kings 3: 5-7

Then Solomon said, “ You have shown great loving-kindness to Your servant David my father, according as he walked before You in **truth** and righteousness and uprightness of heart toward You; and You have reserved for him this great loving-kindness, that You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

Proverbs 12:16-18

He who speaks truth tells what is right, But a false witness, deceit.

Let’s examine ourselves about gossiping, how many times you have been engage in false stories or adding to the story. Is it easy to stand up for the truth and do the right thing? Yes or No. How hard is it not to gossip around your friends? In today’s culture, people are encouraged to lie with no consequences attached.

Proverbs 21:27-29

A false witness will perish, But the man who listens to the truth will speak forever.

Will you listen to Truth? Or be like Pontus Pilate question truth or come with your own meaning? Why is it hard to listen to the truth?

Isaiah 59:14-16

Yes, truth is lacking; And he who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey. Now the LORD saw, And it was displeasing in His sight that there was no justice.

Is your truth lacking? Do you believe in a redefined truth meaning?

John 4:23-25

God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

John 8:31-33

and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

John 8:44-46

You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies verse 45

But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.

verse 46

Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?

Do you not stand for truth or speak lies? How many times have you spoke gossip to other people about someone and you didn’t know or assumed it was true. How many do your friends speak lies to their parents?

How do you fight against it?

John 17:17

Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

John 17:19

For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

This verse describes how we should be set apart and have spiritual impart with ourselves to be more productive. By reading and studying the Bible, you will assist your improve your ability to know the real truth and increase your awareness of lies and gossip. We need to read the Bible on a daily basis, for example, reading a chapter a day in Proverbs and the Book of John. Reading the Bible daily enables you to obtain knowledge about God and how to live for Him on a daily basis.

Romans 1:17-19

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the **truth** in unrighteousness.

Through reading the Bible we realize that a person never learned to disobey or break the law. We naturally want to do the wrong thing and learn to do the right thing or obey when your parents tell you what to do. If you know or understand right and wrong, do you suppress the truth with a lie? You cannot continue in breaking the law and expect to get away with it, can you? For every choice you make, there is a consequence, be it good or bad. One day the wrong that you do will be revealed. What are you going to do or say when it is revealed? What assurance do you have of getting away from your disobedience? You will have a date with God, and how will you respond on that day? Excuses or blaming someone else for your disobedience will not allow you to be forgiven.

Romans 1:25

For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Let's take a closer look at our lives and ask this question: Have you exchanged the truth of God for a lie? Have you given your total attention to an object, person, money, or any other thing in place of the true God? Do the things that you know and the culture that you live in encourage you to believe the absolute Truth, or exchange that Truth for something else? Do you know what exchange means?

3 John 1:2-4

For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are walking in truth.

How are you walking in Truth? Have you exchanged the truth for a lie? What is sin?

Here's an example: You made a very bad choice and broke the law. You arrive at court with the plaintiff and the prosecutor who will represent the Devil. We see in Revelation 12:9-11, "Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night."

If the Devil accuses you all the wrong you have done by breaking God's law, or sinning, what kind of answer you will give to the judge? By the way, the judge is God the Father. Who will be your advocate or lawyer? Who will defend your disobedience?

Genesis 8:20-22

The LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.

Being a young person isn't easy especially in our world and culture today. We see almost no one takes responsibility for their actions. And some probably think they can get away with their total lack disobedience and justify their actions. Do you realize that every action done and word spoken will be revealed and consequences will be given? Are you ready for that? Let look at another verse

Ecclesiastes 9:3

This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that there is one fate for all men. Furthermore, the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil and insanity is in their hearts throughout their lives. Afterwards they go to the dead. After reading the first, how is your heart? Is it full of evil thoughts and intentions? Name a few. But, importantly talk with youth leader or your pastor about this?

Matthew 15:18-21

But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man.”

If we examine this verse, it looks like we need a spiritual heart transplant. It is a heart issue. Everything we know comes out from the heart. How is your heart? Would you allow anyone to view it, and if so would you be embarrassed? Please review all of the sins.

Jeremiah 17:8-10, specifically verse 9

“The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?

Have you ever questioned, why do you do things and the way you do them? We need to understand how bad the heart can get and expose your deceit. What is the heart? The physical heart is a muscle with valves, doors, and power source that chambers pumping blood. It is the control center of the body, which energizes the members of the all the way to the toes. On the spiritual side, the heart is spiritually wicked or sick with disease, which we call sin or disobedience of God’s Law. So, you need some heart surgery, but how?

Romans 8:6-8

because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,

We have looked over couple of Bible verses to discover that we have broken God’s Law and pay day is around the corner. Are you ready? Who will be your advocate or lawyer? We need to examine ourselves or understand our place before a Holy God. We still have time to discover the true assurance we have in the person Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” In John 14:6. I’ll paraphrase it, Jesus is the way. Jesus is the truth. Jesus is the life. He is the only way, the only truth, and the only life that we need to fill that void in our lives. Believe in the Truth in Jesus Christ.

To fill the void we need to do the A. B. C.’s.

A: Accept what Jesus Christ did on the cross

B: Believe in Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for your disobedience

C: Confess Jesus Christ to come into your life and forgive you for all of your sin

Please look up Hebrew 10: 19-25, this says,

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean*

from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

We know that the confidence is not in us. Who do we put our faith in? This needs to be a daily basis to allow more dependence on Jesus Christ and not in you. If you have made commitment repeat these verses each day and believe in them. Continue to seek Jesus Christ. Let us continue to the initiation part of the study.

Let us read these verses for our next part of Initiate process of Faith.

John 1:1 and 14 says, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 8:12

Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.

Matthew 11:30

For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.