

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
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Sunday:
8:00 AM: WGCY
9:00 AM: Worship

Wednesday:
7:00 PM: Bible Study

[gibsoncitychurchof
Christ.com](http://gibsoncitychurchofchrist.com)

This Past Week:
Worship—35
Wednesday—17
Contribution—\$

For meditation:
Proverbs 29.11–12
What does Solomon think about counseling/therapy that encourages you to vent your frustrations? influence does an evil governor have on government?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

TRUTH

“Are you a king then?” asked Pilate. “I am, but not in the way you mean,” said Christ. “My kingdom is not of this world but is a kingdom of truth.” “What is truth?” replied Pilate (Jn. 18.37–38). “Roman law took many situations within its purview, but not the nature of eternal truth. Pilate knew his business, and to discuss the nature of truth formed no part of it” (F. F. Bruce).

Whether we realize it or not, our age has abandoned belief in absolute, unchanging truth. In interviews conducted in the 1990s, people were asked if there is such a thing as “absolute truth.” Answers included: “Truth is whatever you believe.” “There is no absolute truth.” “People who believe in absolute truth are dangerous.” “Truth is relative—what is right for one person isn’t necessarily right for another.” Only one respondent, a Bible believer, said absolute truth is found in Jesus Christ (Jeff Leffel, *The Death of Truth*, 31).

In the late 20th century, there arose a movement that rejected reason, the possibility of true truth and absolute morality. Known as “postmodernism” (a stupid term; there is nothing modern about it), the movement advocated *nihilism* (Lat. word for *nothing*), which postulates there is no ultimate authority in life, life is meaningless and without purpose, and what matters most is how you feel. Such thinking has permeated every aspect of our education, politics, business, etc., with devastating results. As the book of Judges shows, when there is no king in Israel, life becomes chaotic, inhumane, and unjust, which is exactly what’s happening to our society.

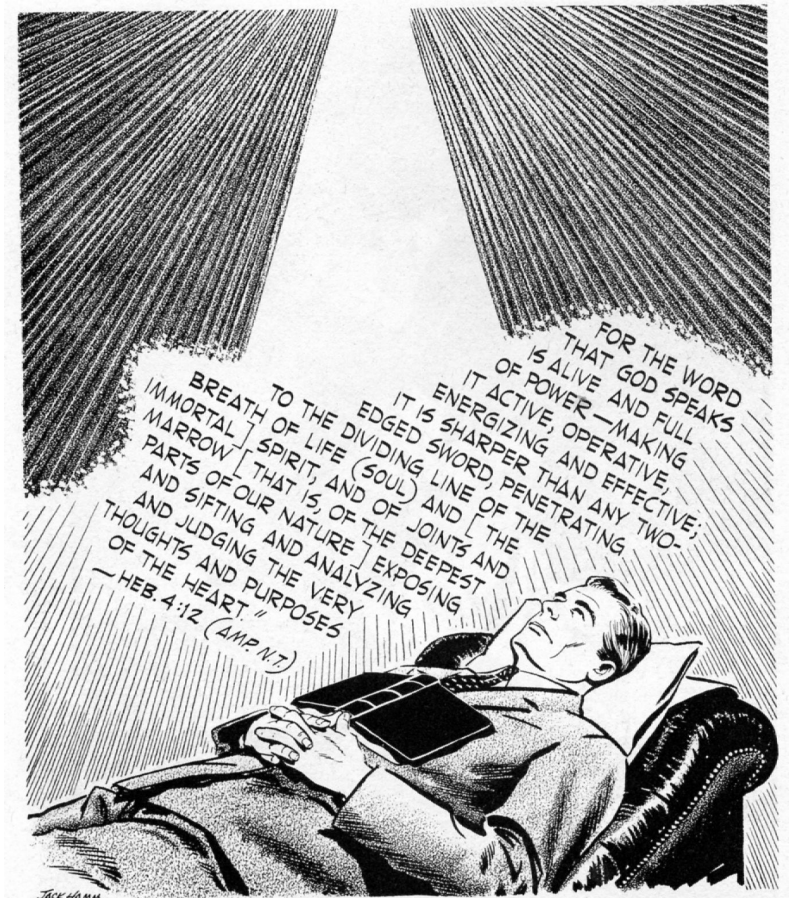
Pilate wasn’t seeking an answer to his question, but I’ll attempt an answer in the following three articles: *what is truth?* *what is knowledge?* and *what is opinion?* Stay tuned.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

CAPABLE OF INNER ANALYSIS



Sermon: 2 Peter 1.8–11

The consequences of Christian character

25 February 2024

How Jesus helped men crucify Him

When reading about the twenty-four hours prior to Christ's death on the cross, be watching for the ways in which He repeatedly bailed out His enemies. So inept were those involved in the effort to kill Him that they would have failed had Jesus not helped them out. Three notable examples come to mind, beginning with Christ's arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.

First, "Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders" (14.43). The presence of Judas made Christ's arrest especially bitter. We can stoically endure physical blows from a foe, but let a friend give us a kiss of betrayal and it breaks our heart. The question, though, is, how did Judas know Jesus was in Gethsemane? Luke 22.39 supplies the answer, "Coming out [of Jerusalem, Jesus] went to the Mount of Olives, as He was *accustomed*" ("as he was wont," KJV). There were a thousand places Christ could have gone where Judas would never have looked. But instead, He went to the one place Judas was sure to look, the Mount of Olives.

Second, before Caiaphas, Jesus wasn't required to testify against Himself; the burden of proof was on his accusers. But even though the fix was in, those the Jews lined up to lie about Christ were so bad, the Jewish case was falling apart. Caiaphas was desperate when he "arose and said to Him, 'Do you answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You? . . . I put You under oath by the Living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God'" (Matt. 26.62–63). Had Christ remained silent, the Jews would have had no case and may have been forced to release Him (at least, temporarily). But when Jesus answered, in essence, "I am" (26.64), Caiaphas had all he needed to justify seeking Christ's death.

Third, Pilate wanted to release Jesus; three times during his questioning he declared Christ innocent. He pled with Jesus to cooperate with him. "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" (Jn. 19.10). But Christ wouldn't give the governor what he sought, and Pilate consequently gave the order to crucify.

Christ's actions only make sense when we remember that He came to die and wouldn't allow anything (lack of a case, ineptness, easy escape, etc.) to keep that from happening.

kenny

The search for Sodom and Gomorrah, 1

"There are no shells on the [shore of the Dead Sea], no evidence of any life, no growth of weeds or water plants, for the waters are sterile and dead. The Dead Sea is a huge cauldron of chemicals because there is no outlet. It is a vast hole in the earth into which the Jordan and tributary streams pour every day nearly seven million tons of water mixed with sulphurous and nitrous matter. Unable to escape, and subjected to the tremendous heat of the Jordan Valley, this water evaporates, leaving behind enormous deposits of salts and other chemicals in the sea. In the sea-bed there are also hot springs about which little is known. Ordinary sea-water holds from four to six per cent, of solids in solution; Dead Sea water holds five times as much. It is impossible for a bather to sink in it and a non-swimmer out of his depth cannot drown as long as he keeps his head. When Titus came to the Jordan Valley in 70 A.D. he caused several slaves to be chained together and flung into the Dead Sea. But they evidently kept their heads, for they emerged alive.

"Any horror inspired by the Dead Sea is due to its appalling setting: the obscene banks of chemical slime, the grey landslides of salt, the smell of sulphur, the weird, twisted foothills stained and tortured like the deposit at the bottom of a crucible. The hills are not shaped like ordinary hills; they are more like the fantastic outlines of cooled metal. As one wanders along the desolate shores the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah, which one may, possibly, have thought of as a tragic allegory, becomes terrifyingly real. It is as though this frightful judgment on human sin has for ever blasted and unhallowed the shores of the Dead Sea.

"It was believed at one time that the ruins of those cities lie below the salt waters, but I understand that archaeologists are looking for them round the shores. It is all part of the macabre setting that a mountain of salt, which the Arabs have mined for centuries, should exist far to the south, a strange place where twisted white pillars were recognised by the Jews in the time of Josephus as the remains of Lot's wife."

H. V. Morton, *In the Steps of the Master*, 103

News about us

- Jordan's maternal grandmother died Thursday. Cody and Jordan are on their way to Texas for the funeral.
- Keep the rest of our walking wounded in prayer.