

“Is Truth Dead?”

by Wayne Goff

I recently subscribed to **Time magazine** for one cent for a year, and after reading a few articles I think I may have overpaid! But I also think it's important to read both sides of issues — educationally, religiously, politically — so as to consider and make an intelligent, informed choice. This is what I expect my left-leaning friends to do, so I must practice what I preach.

The most recent edition of **Time** asked the question: “Is Truth Dead?” I haven't read the article yet, purposefully, but the title spurred some thoughts from the Bible.

First, not everyone agrees on what is truth. This is nothing new. Jesus and Pilate did not agree on the subject two thousand years ago (John 18:37-38). Mankind will never agree totally on the subject, and to that degree there will always be friction.

Second, truth must have an objective standard. We understand this in building a house. One must follow a blueprint, use a measuring device to determine proper sizes, and follow the laws of nature regarding foundations, gravity, plumbing, etc. Common sense tells us that an objective standard is essential in every aspect of life. Unfortunately, when it comes to morals and religion, many people veer away from common sense and believe they can accept any standard and practice it without consequence. Sadly, they are mistaken and even common sense tells you that disaster looms on the horizon with that view.

Third, religious truth is determined by God and the Bible is the revelation of God to man. Here is where the battle lines have been drawn. Man is born upright, but he seeks after many schemes (Ecclesiastes 7:29). He is not content to abide by God's standard, so he constantly seeks to change it! He rails against God, against the Bible, against religion, against the church, etc. — with the hope of overthrowing the Divine standard (see Psalm 2). Man will always fail in this effort because God is omnipotent and omniscient.

The honest seeker for truth will investigate seriously the claims of the Bible before casting off that Book as uninspired. Men like Josh McDowell and Lee Strobel set out to disprove the Bible and wound up believers! One must be willing to consider the evidence with an open mind and accept the consequences of his investigation. For me, the greatest internal proofs of Divine inspiration are the prophecies of the Bible and its prescientific knowledge.

Fourth, once accepting the Divine Authorship of the Bible, there is a wealth of value. Here are a few examples:

- *Consistent moral compass.* Jesus said, “*And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*” (Jn. 8:32). Free from the slavery of sin. Free from the worry of what is right or wrong. Free from the nearsightedness of man's wisdom.
- *Righteous lifestyle.* Again Jesus said, “*But he who **does** the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God*” (Jn. 3:21). There is nothing so good as one who lives the moral lifestyle of the Bible. It has promise of the life that now is, and of the one to come (1 Tim. 4:8).
- *Christ is your Leader.* For the honest truth seeker it is a wonderful thing to hear Jesus say: “*... You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice*” (Jn. 18:37). Jesus teaches us how to love God and our neighbors as ourselves. There is nothing like the love of God (1 Cor. 13)!
- *Peace of mind.* Jesus told His apostles that He would give them peace which comforts the heart, mind and soul. “*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world*” (Jn. 16:33). There is no upset like the constant barrage of the unsettled world! “*And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus*” (Phil. 4:7).

No my friends, truth is not dead, nor will it ever be. The God of Truth keeps it alive and well. Rest your minds on that!

321402