

18:38

Pilate said to Him, "What is **truth**?"

And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, "**I find no guilt in Him.**"

TRUTH: Conformity to fact or reality; exact accordance with that which is, or has been, or shall be; veracity; purity from falsehood; practice of speaking truth; habitual disposition to speak truth; honesty; virtue.

Webster's 1828

Pilate, whether scoffing at a lack of truth in the culture he lived in or genuinely curious to know, seemed intrigued by this strange man who claimed to be a king yet did nothing to resist arrest—He even seemed to want the punishment the Jewish leaders were calling for. Would Pilate have responded the same way had he known the man standing before him was more than a man, that He was the *True Reality*?

How is it that Pilate could see the truth of Jesus' innocence when the Jewish leaders could not? Jesus wasn't so much guilty in the eyes of the Pharisees as He was a threat to their very existence.

The old mind will always resist the truth, which is like a sword of true love, holding no record of wrong. Thus those clinging to the old mind will feel deeply divided by that sword and will cry "heresy" to protect their investment in ideologies dependent on fear and control.

Ted Dekker, The 49th Mystic

Truth may be opposed, but never quite deposed.

Thomas Watson

Being so heavily invested in one interpretation of truth, a person couldn't see another.

Ted Dekker, The 49th Mystic

Give me more revelation so that I can live for you, for nothing is more pure and eternal than your truth.

Psalm 119:144 (TPT)

God is absolute truth. There is no falsehood in Him. There can be no falsehood in Him because He exists outside of our world of opposites. He is not light and dark—He is Light. He is not good and bad—He is Good. He is not true and false—He is True. That which is false is no threat to Him at all because, as light always overtakes the darkness, truth always overcomes that which is false.

'What is truth?' may be the cry of a seeking soul, or the sneer of a confirmed skeptic, or the shrug of indifference of the 'practical man.'

Alexander Maclaren

It is the personal responsibility of every self-professing Christian to discover truth for themselves and not simply rely on what they've been told. If we can as "what is truth?" we can certainly search for that truth.

Perhaps you think I've come to spread peace and calm over the earth—but my coming will bring conflict and division, not peace.

Matthew 10:34 (TPT)



THE INQUIRERS

1

SUPERFICIAL

Truth is that which he is too frivolous to discover or comprehend.

2

INATTENTIVE

He is too indolent to attain it.

3

PREJUDICED

He never sincerely denies or impartially examines, and takes the Bible in his hand to raise objections rather than to sit at the Master's feet and become wise unto salvation.

4

PROUD

Truth is too humbling for him to submit to.

5

SENSUAL

Truth is too holy for his lust, and he makes the Bible his enemy by his wickedness, and then hates it because it does not prophesy good.

6

SINCERE

He seeks to understand it, apply it to the purposes for which it is given, confesses it, defends it, and diffuses it.

William Jay

War was not and is not the endgame of Jesus' work on earth. Division is. Division of truth from falsehood. Though the Pharisees stood on the Law that had been given by God through Moses, their interpretation of it was no longer based on the identity of the One who gave it. Christ came to reveal the Truth—Himself—so that all could know Him and thus know the *True Reality*, separate from human ideologies. Jesus knew that His message wouldn't sit well with those mired in religion. Conflict was and is bound to arise between those who have awakened to the Truth and those who choose to remain in darkness.

Melancholy as it may appear, there are multitudes in every Christian land whose state of mind is just like that of Pilate. Hundreds, it may be feared among the upper classes, are continually excusing their own irreligion by the specious plea that, like the Roman Governor, they cannot find out "what is truth." They point to the endless controversies of Romanists and Protestants, of High Churchmen and Low Churchmen, of Churchmen and Dissenters and pretend to say that they do not understand who is right and who is wrong. Sheltered under this excuse, they pass through life without any decided religion and in this wretched, comfortless state too often die.

J.C. Ryle